

WHO WE ARE

The Council on Accreditation (COA) is a not-for-profit independent accreditor of the full continuum of community-based human service organizations in the United States and Canada. Today, more than 1,800 organizations serving more than 7 million vulnerable individuals, children and families are members of COA's "Community of Excellence."

COA accreditation is supported by over 25 national and international organizations, a cadre of over 1,000 volunteers and an international board of trustees.

COA is the national accreditor of after school programs including after school programs located on military installations worldwide.

“Our COA After School Accreditation is a great asset for our program. It allows access to increased funding streams, such as our state funding that reimburses nationally accredited programs at a higher rate, and our grant applications which are given priority consideration.”

— **Michelle Crumly**, Coordinator for Quality Programming & Improvement
MU-College of Education Adventure Club



» For more information about COA's after school recognition and standards please visit our website at www.COAafterschool.org

If you would like additional information about COA accreditation, please visit us at www.coanet.org and www.coastandards.org

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CREDIBILITY • INTEGRITY • ACHIEVEMENT



COA
After School
RECOGNITION

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM RECOGNITION

COA's accreditation standards and three distinct, yet interrelated, recognition processes were specifically developed for programs of every size and capacity to assist them in supporting their continuous quality improvement and long-term sustainability.

COA Registration

www.coafterschool.org/registration.php

COA Certification

www.coafterschool.org/certification.php

COA Accreditation

www.coafterschool.org/accreditation.php

Programs that have been providing after school care for at least six months may participate in any of these three stand-alone options which are incremental in terms of evidence required and are designed to give every program an opportunity to participate in the growing national movement to recognize high-performing after school programs.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM ACCREDITATION PROCESS

Programs may access the after school standards online at www.coafterschool.org. There you will also find complimentary forms, tools and training resources to assist you in preparing for, and progressing through, the accreditation process.

The after school program accreditation process includes:

- » A comprehensive self evaluation against nationally developed and recognized best practice standards.
- » A COA Coordinator who is your liaison, problem-solver and coach.

VALUE OF COA'S AFTER SCHOOL ACCREDITATION

- » Places your program in a strong competitive position by providing an independent review and national validation of your program's quality services.
- » Developed based on generally accepted standards of best practice with an emphasis on outcomes.
- » Strengthens your program's ability to access funding such as grants, tiered reimbursements and quality rating improvement systems (QRS/QRIS).
- » Ensures compliance with regulatory training requirements, improves staff retention and accountability, builds infrastructure and performance improvement systems, and institutionalizes knowledge.
- » Advances quality in after school programming resulting in the well-being and safety of children and youth.
- » Focuses on the after school program's role in, and relationship to, building individual, family and community strengths.
- » Recognizes and values the importance of positive relationships as well as strong administrative systems in order to maximize program quality.
- » Access to discounts and benefits for accredited after school programs.

- » An intake call with your Coordinator who reviews the process and timeline of the self study leading to the site visit.
- » A site visit by specially trained volunteer Endorsers.
- » A review and determination of accreditation by a volunteer panel of trained Commissioners, including senior after school professionals.
- » A final accreditation report that contains a complete set of ratings for all applicable standards as well as your program's strengths and opportunities for improvement.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT COA AFTER SCHOOL ACCREDITATION

“The COA Accreditation process was the best thing we have ever done... Learning and growing through the accreditation process is well worth the journey.”

— **Aynn Riback**, Director
Las Vegas Valley Water District School's Out! Program, NV

“Having my child participate in a COA accredited after school program allows me to be more comfortable that she is safe and secure.”

— **Christy Waldo**, parent
Whiteman Air Force Base Before and After School Program, MO

“Going through COA's accreditation process [took] our after school program to an even higher level of quality.”

— **Karen Fink**, School Age Coordinator
St. Paul Christian Child Care Center, PA

“COA accreditation ensures the highest quality services and programming is available and provided to the children and families in our care.”

— **Debby Plante**, School Age Coordinator
Whiteman Air Force Base Before and After School Program, MO

“COA's accreditation process provided me with the opportunity to evaluate the quality of our program and reassess areas of potential growth.”

— **Rhiannon DiMaggio**, Director
NSA Annapolis Youth Center, MD

