

What the experts say about accreditation

"Independent third-party accreditation aligns with AARP's mission to enhance the quality of life for all people as they age. CARF is an independent nonprofit standard-setting organization that helps to identify quality care from children's services to those for older adults."

Elinor Ginzler
Senior Vice President, Livable Communities Strategies
AARP

"The process that organizations go through for accreditation leads many to improve the operating efficiencies and quality of their services."

Amy A. Hayman
Managing Director
Cain Brothers

"Residents of senior living communities have a vested interest in the financial health of their communities. In today's environment, financial transparency is vital. We at Sims view CARF-CCAC accreditation as a key credit strength."

Aaron Rulnick
Executive Vice President
Herbert J. Sims & Co. Inc.

About CARF International

Founded in 1966 as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, CARF International is an independent, non-profit accreditor of health and human service providers in the areas of aging services, behavioral health, child and youth services, DMEPOS, employment and community services, medical rehabilitation, and opioid treatment programs. The CARF family of organizations includes CARF-CCAC and CARF Canada.

In 1985, a group of visionaries created the Continuing Care Accreditation Commission (CCAC) to help ensure that the nation's retirement living communities fulfill their promise of quality lifetime care to older persons. CCAC, which was acquired by CARF International in 2003, is the nation's only accrediting body for continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs) and other types of continuums of care.

The CCAC acquisition included the Financial Advisory Panel (FAP), a group of leading finance experts that conducts financial analyses within the aging services industry and provides input on the development of financial standards.

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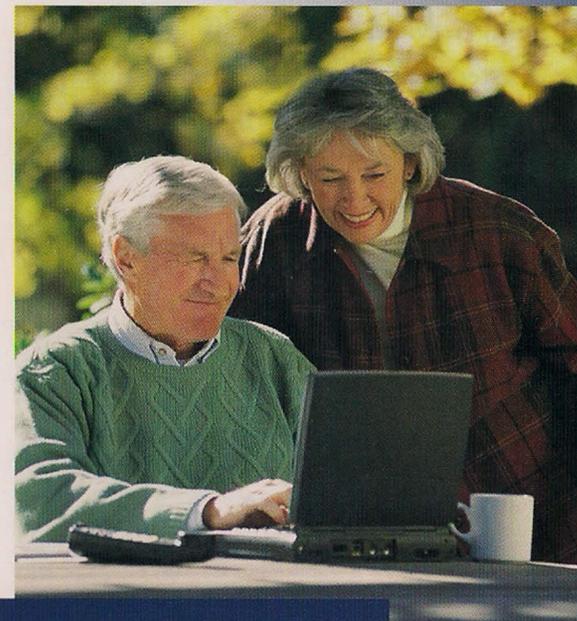
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The Mark of Quality for Aging Services



Setting the standard for quality

As people age, their needs change. Consumers, their families, and providers want assurance that aging services are of the highest possible caliber. Access to reliable, quality services is important and accreditation helps make this happen.

To achieve accreditation, providers must demonstrate ongoing innovation and continued conformance to quality standards. This means they must be committed to improvement in their business practices and the services they provide to older adults. CARF standards are developed with the input of providers, consumers, payers, and other experts in the aging services field from around the world.

By meeting the rigorous standards, providers demonstrate their dedication to enhancing the lives of their consumers.

The continuum of care accredited by CARF includes:

- Adult Day Services
- Aging Services Network
- Assisted Living
- Person-Centered Long-Term Care Community
- Home and Community Services
- Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRCs)
- Dementia Specialty Program
- Stroke Specialty Program

Program descriptions for all aging services areas of accreditation are available on the CARF website at www.carf.org/aging.

Why accreditation is important

The accreditation process benefits both providers and consumers. Valuable benefits include:

A standard for comparison—Looking for the accreditation seal is a concrete way for consumers to evaluate the many available aging services options. Organizations become accredited by delivering positive results, and the accreditation seal is confirmation of that achievement.

Sound business practices—Accreditation standards serve as an excellent foundation for good business practices and can better position an organization today and for the future. The standards guide an organization in implementing strategies for performance improvement and developing comprehensive policies and procedures.

Accountability—Accreditation demonstrates that a provider is accountable to referral agencies, funding sources, and the community, and is evidence to federal, state, provincial, and local governments of the value of the programs and services. Some insurers also consider CARF-accredited organizations a lower risk and offer insurance premium discounts.

A sign of quality—Becoming accredited means an organization has a commitment to continuous self-evaluation and self-improvement guided by an independent third-party accreditation organization. The accreditation process also emphasizes the involvement of consumers as active participants in planning, selecting, evaluating, and improving the services provided.

“Would we do it again? Absolutely. Would we recommend the process to others? Without a doubt. Have we experienced an overall positive impact? Immeasurable.”

Grace Sweatman
Chief Executive Officer
Christie Gardens
Toronto, Canada

To learn more

Please visit our website at www.carf.org for:

- Additional information about the accreditation process.
- A search tool to locate accredited aging services providers, including CCRCs.
- Free resources and publications.
- Copies of our newsletters and options to subscribe.
- A calendar of upcoming educational events and registration information.

