



CET Accreditation Information

An Overview of CET Accreditation Levels 1 and 2

The Standards and Accreditation Department, in consultation with the Standards Review Committee and other stakeholders, have spent the past year reviewing and revising the Creating Excellence Together (CET) / Striving for Quality (SFQ) Standards.

Our goals were to reduce redundancy, eliminate indicators that could not be reasonably measured, ensure important indicators were added, and ensure the standards remained relevant and of a high quality.

A decision was also made to amend the title of our CET/SFQ standards by dropping the SFQ portion and calling them CET Accreditation Levels 1 and 2. This change moves the Creating Excellence Together Standards closer to the original intent of when they were first introduced in 1998, which was making CET full accreditation. Furthermore, this change was necessary because additions to the standards come from many sources, not just from the SFQ standards.

Despite the change in titles, the Accreditation process will not change. Service providers will go through CET Accreditation Level 1 to meet the minimum standards for services to persons with disabilities; however, organizations wishing to achieve a higher level of excellence can apply to go through Levels 1 and 2 (formerly CET/SFQ) concurrently.

Continuous Quality Improvement and Outcome Evaluation

A major addition to CET Accreditation Level 1 is a new standard that is titled, **“The service provider facilitates continuous quality improvement and outcome evaluation.”**

Basically, this addition has been in response to other initiatives in the field to hold service providers accountable for:

1. establishing and maintaining a data collection system that is capable of supporting outcome monitoring, evaluation, and quality improvement efforts;
2. developing and/or reviewing programs, services, and/or work plans to identify outcomes or goals, to measure their success indicators or the evidence used to evaluate outcomes or goals, etc.;
3. describing the organization’s outcome goals, stipulating the training needed, and defining the various components involved;
4. and training staff to ensure they know how to monitor and measure outcomes and use the organization’s data collection system.

Piloting CET Accreditation Levels 1 and 2

Two organizations piloted the revised CET Accreditation Levels 1 and 2 standards in February 2009 and both organizations met both levels of Accreditation and have been awarded the Commission on Accreditation Certificates. On completion of the site survey and reporting, the organizations and surveyors gave us feedback that we will be able to use as a guideline to future revisions and were able to use to make immediate changes to the surveyor tools.

Implementing CET Accreditation Levels 1 and 2 – in Stages

Stage 1 of the implementation began in April 2009 and involved disseminating information about the CET Accreditation Levels 1 and 2 Standards via a printed information circulars and information sheets (which were also posted to the ACDS website) and conversations with service providers. Stage 1 also permitted service providers to choose which version of the Standards to use for their CET site surveys.

In September and October 2009, the Accreditation department held Stakeholder Information Sessions to highlight the changes between the former 2005 Standards and the new 2008 Standards, and conducted Outcome Evaluation Training as an orientation to new Standard 43 on continuous quality improvement and outcome evaluation.

Stage 2 began on October 1, 2009 with the full implementation of the CET Accreditation Level 1 Standards. To ensure organizations are prepared for the new standards, the Standards and Accreditation Coordinator will assist with pre-survey preparation, on-site support, and follow up support as needed.

Stage 3 will offer CET Accreditation Levels 1 and 2 concurrently to organizations that request this higher level of excellence or that would have applied for the former CET/SFQ Site Survey.

If you want more information about CET, please contact

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