Program Entry & Commitment

Application: Agencies submit an application and fees to enter the program.

Orientation: The accreditation body provides orientation sessions, a standards manual, and self-assessment tools.

Assigned Support: Each agency is paired with a program liaison for quidance.

Self Assessment Phase

Gap Analysis:

Agencies compare current policies and practices against accreditation standards.

Policy Development:

Agencies draft or revise policies to align with standards, with access to model policies and templates.

Proof Collection:

Agencies gather documentation and records mock assessment or peer to demonstrate compliance.

Mentorship Option:

Agencies may request a mentorship before the official review.

Assessment Phase

Assessment Team Assignment: The accreditation body designates trained assessors.

On-Site/Virtual Review: Assessors examine policies, proofs of compliance, facilities, and conduct staff/community interviews.

Assessment Report: A written evaluation is submitted to the commission, highlighting compliance, strengths, and any deficiencies.

Commission Oversight and Decision

Process: The agency's leadership may appear before the commission. The commission deliberates on assessor findings and any public input. Accreditation is granted, deferred, or denied by majority vote.

Recognition: Accredited agencies are formally recognized by the commission at the Annual Training Symposium.

Post Accreditation Support

Annual Compliance Reports: Agencies submit ongoing proofs of compliance.

Technical Assistance:

Liaisons remain available for questions and updates.

Continuing Education:

Training sessions and updated standards are

Networking Opportunities:

Accredited agencies are connected through forums and conferences.

Reaccreditation Cycle

Cycle Length: Typically every 3-4 years.

New Assessment: Agencies undergo another full assessment to confirm continued compliance.

Commission Review: Just as with initial accreditation, the commission makes the final decision.