

## Membership Criteria

Member agencies of the California Alliance of Child and Family Services:

- ▲ Are child and family serving organizations with programs and services in the areas of child welfare and foster care, children's mental health, juvenile justice and special education.
- ▲ Have, as a primary organization, a not-for-profit, public benefit corporation designated by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization.
- ▲ Are accredited by a national accrediting body in all services and program areas represented by the Alliance. *New members are granted Provisional membership until accreditation is completed and the agency moves into full Member status.*
- ▲ Support leadership staff participation on the Alliance board of directors or on business and program committees.
- ▲ Remain current in their dues responsibility.

## Accreditation

All members of the California Alliance have been accredited by an Alliance recognized national accrediting body including either the Council on Accreditation (COA), the Joint Commission or CARF.

Accreditation is a total evaluation of an agency's operating systems. Review teams include executives and specialized staff of similar organizations from around the nation who are guided by standards in the areas of governing body, finances, personnel, safety and the specific program(s).

The accreditation standards are based on sound theory and practice, and focus on the systems and procedures that are the essential elements of a healthy organization dedicated to the best interest of children and families. Accreditation provides a valuable tool for executives seeking to improve both mature agencies and develop younger agencies, to elevate their programs to the benefit of children, youth and families they serve.

The California Alliance is proud of the reputation for quality earned by our members over the years. Accreditation is an important part of building and enhancing member practice and reputation.

# Application Process for Membership

## 1. Complete and submit the enclosed Application, Code of Ethics and Dues Assessment.

- After you have completed the application, code of ethics and dues assessment, submit the completed documents with a \$200 non-refundable application fee to:

California Alliance of Child and Family Services: New Member  
2201 K Street  
Sacramento, California 95816

## 2. Membership Committee reviews application.

- Your completed documentation is reviewed by the Director of Marketing and Membership Services. The Director may contact you to discuss the Alliance, your agency and accreditation.
- Your agency may wish to request and submit letters of support for your agency's membership in the Alliance from current Alliance member agencies with which you or your agency currently have relationships.

## 3. Alliance staff Presents Application to the Membership Committee.

- The Membership Director presents your application and support materials to the Membership Committee and makes a recommendation regarding your agency's membership.
- The Membership Committee may request further information from the agency prior to making a decision.

## 4. Membership Committee makes decision; recommendation to Board.

- The Membership Committee presents the recommendation to the Alliance Board of Directors for approval.
- The Membership Director notifies you of the Alliance's acceptance of your agency as a Regular Member (if your organization is already accredited) or as a Provisional Member.
- As a Provisional Member, your agency has nearly all the rights, privileges and obligations of a fully accredited Member. Until your agency is a fully accredited member, however, you may not vote in matters affecting the general membership, and you may not hold elected office as a Committee chair, on the Board of Directors or on a business/advisory committee.

## 5. Begin agency's dues payment.

- ▲ Once your agency has been accepted as a Member or Provisional Member, of the California Alliance you will be responsible for assessing the level of dues your agency will pay and for payment of dues.
- ▲ Dues are invoiced monthly and are based upon your agency's annual expenditures in service and program areas covered by Alliance advocacy activities.

## 6. Complete the accreditation process.

- ▲ If your agency has been accepted as a Provisional Member, the Alliance will assist you in identifying and obtaining accreditation of your agency by an approved national accrediting body (i.e., COA, the Joint Commission or CARF).
- ▲ The Alliance will track your agency's progress toward completion of the accreditation process.
- ▲ Once fully accredited, your agency will be accepted as a full member of the California Alliance.