

Frequently Asked Questions

Why develop a state model of accreditation?

In an effort to provide afterschool providers in New York State with a **viable and affordable option** to national accreditation, Network for Youth Success has taken the lead in developing a New York State Afterschool Program Accreditation Model. An active workgroup comprised of direct service practitioners, program directors, trainers, evaluation specialists, policy experts and agency leaders has been established to inform the design and implementation of the model.

How does this work intersect with the national system?

Network for Youth Success is actively engaged in conversations with the Council on Accreditation, the agency responsible for administering the national system around ways to support our respective models and collectively promote the value of accreditation to the field. Providers in New York State will be at a **greater advantage** than their peers in other states in that they will have multiple pathways to accreditation and can determine which model will best meet their needs.

What are the principles that guide the development of the model?

- **The New York State Afterschool Accreditation model must be rooted in a set of accreditation standards that reflect the collective wisdom of the field.** Representing a higher tier of quality than the New York State School-Age Child Care Regulations, our accreditation standards will build on the collective knowledge of the field and include research-proven, innovative and promising practices in afterschool programming.
- **The New York State Afterschool Accreditation model must be responsive to the afterschool landscape in New York State.** The accreditation standards and accompanying observation tool, while serving as the final assessment upon which an endorser will recommend accreditation, will allow for programs to utilize existing self-assessment processes (i.e. NYSAN QSA, YPQA, SACERS, etc.)
- **The New York State Afterschool Accreditation model must be recognized by the child care regulatory system of the state.** Network for Youth Success has been invited to serve on the state's quality rating and improvement system (Quality Stars New York) design team to ensure alignment and integration with their framework.
- **The New York State Afterschool Accreditation model must be accessible and affordable to all afterschool programs.** Our design team is working to ensure that the accreditation process is streamlined and easy to navigate—while remaining rigorous and relevant. It is anticipated that the accreditation price points will be between \$1400 - \$1800 (per the size and scope of the program) with a customized accreditation package for multi site organizations and / or programs serving in excess of 250 children.

What is the current status of the model?

The accreditation workgroup is on the process of finalizing state accreditation standards, a self-study framework, an endorser observation tool and documentation checklists.

What are the next steps?

The next step in the process is to develop and deliver training content to both accreditation coaches and endorsers through a series of trainings to be offered in the late summer / early fall. We have also begun to promote the model and recruit programs that might be interested in participating in the field test.

Who is eligible to participate in the field test?

All programs that serve school-age children (ages 5 to 12) in New York State are eligible to participate in the field test (our model will be expanded in the future to include programs that serve older youth). This includes both registered and legally exempt programs; private and public school age child care programs, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, Advantage After-School Programs, Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA's, 4H, Parks and Recreation Departments and programs in public housing. Our goal is to recruit up to fifteen regionally and programmatically diverse programs to participate.

How long will accreditation remain in effect?

If awarded, accreditation will remain in effect for three years, pending completion of an annual activity report. An abbreviated accreditation renewal process is available to interested programs beyond the three-year accreditation period.

What is the time line for the field test?

1. Launch web based orientation: September 2009
2. Make application and self-study materials available: October 2009
3. Programs submit completed application and self-study materials: Jan – Feb 2010
4. Perform accreditation endorsement visits: March – April 2010
5. Evaluate process: April – May 2010
6. Launch statewide: Fall 2010

How can I become involved in the process?

We welcome your participation in the process. Here are some ways to get involved!

- ✓ Encourage programs that you work with to participate in the field test
- ✓ Become an accreditation coach
- ✓ Become an accreditation endorser
- ✓ Help get the word out and promote the value of accreditation

Please contact Network for Youth Success at 518.694.0660 for more information.