

# Four Good Reasons

## Why You Should Become a Nationally Accredited Senior Center

### 1 Improve your organization

NCOA's National Institute of Senior Centers (NISC) offers the nation's only National Senior Center Accreditation Program.

To advance the quality of senior centers nationwide, we developed nine standards of excellence for senior center operations. Accreditation provides official recognition that a senior center meets these standards, which serve as a guide to enhance your operations today—and position your center for the future.

### 2 Connect to the community

During the self-assessment process, staff, participants, board members, aging service agency representatives, and the community come together to look at the senior center and compare it to the standards that have been established by NISC.

Together, the center and the community identify strengths and areas that need improvement and develop a strategy. Many centers report that this has led to funding opportunities, new collaborative partners, and an increase in programs or participation.

### 3 Develop a plan for the future

Throughout the process, centers assess how well they measure up to the national senior center standards. They invite the community to participate in the evaluation, while collecting all their important policies and procedures in one notebook. Then, trained reviewers visit and acknowledge what a center is doing well and how it could improve. This becomes a road map to the future.

### 4 Enhance your center's image

Accreditation creates an opportunity to establish your senior center's position as a leader in positive aging. You can use this national recognition strategically to heighten awareness of the importance of your center and showcase your excellence to funders, participants, families, and other key people in your community.

Collectively, accreditation raises the bar for all of us. It legitimizes senior centers as professionally managed, relevant, and vital resources for older adults.



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# Get accredited today!

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Visit us online at [www.NCOA.org/NISC](http://www.NCOA.org/NISC) or call 1-800-373-4906

Launched in 1998, accreditation is the official recognition that a senior center is meeting its mission in a nationally accepted, professional fashion. For more information on NISC accreditation, call 1-800-373-4906 or email [nisc.coordinator@ncoa.org](mailto:nisc.coordinator@ncoa.org).

**“The most rewarding benefit of accreditation is the process and an action plan for achieving a bright future.”**

Christine Beatty  
Madison, WI

**“It portrays the senior center in a positive light in terms of being a viable, fundable, and qualified provider of services within the community.”**

Dr. A. Eugene Smiley  
NISC past-chair

**“I love being able to say that we are nationally accredited and first in the state. Our organization’s accountability and quality of services was proven.”**

Pat Branson  
Executive Director  
Senior Citizens of Kodiak, Inc.

## Benefits of NISC Accreditation

- Results in national recognition as an accredited senior center
- Heightens awareness of senior center activities to funders, community persons, participants, and families
- Improves and strengthens overall senior center operations
- Organizes a center through the collection of all their important policies and procedures in one notebook
- Highlights best practices
- Provides a road map for improvements through the Peer Review Process
- Enhances your senior center’s image as a national leader in the aging field
- Is endorsed by NCOA, which has more than 50 years of nonprofit experience with advocacy for the elderly

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