



TIPS WHEN CONSIDERING A CONSULTANT FOR YOUR COA ACCREDITATION

COA's Contextual Accreditation is designed to ensure that organizations of every size and stage of development can successfully navigate the process. We recognize, however, that accreditation consulting is a common practice in the field. ***COA does not endorse or certify consultants.*** If you choose to retain a consultant, we strongly recommend that you:

1. Remain fully involved in all aspects of the accreditation process.
2. Clearly define applicable costs, timeframes, responsibilities and outcomes.
3. Ask for references and carefully check them!
4. Select a consultant who:
 - Worked for a COA accredited agency in a supervisory capacity.
 - Is knowledgeable about *current* COA standards and processes.
 - Is an active COA Peer Reviewer or Team Leader.
 - Has experience with an agency of similar size, structure and services.