



NATIONAL
INCLUSION
PROJECT

ACCREDITATION

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

What is Accreditation?



The National Inclusion Project (NIP) offers a comprehensive Accreditation process for recreation programs interested in demonstrating, confirming and communicating their ability to provide high-quality inclusion for participants and families. With quality standards developed in partnership with the Center for Social Development and Education at Umass Boston (CSDE), the steps outlined below are a pathway for a program to become eligible to be accredited by NIP.

Who is NIP Accreditation For?



Accreditation is for any recreation program that serves children with and without disabilities; implements the Standards for Inclusive Recreation Programs with fidelity & success; and is committed to improvement, collaboration, & growth to enrich their inclusive practices.

Purpose and Value of NIP Accreditation



- Honors the efforts that inclusive recreation programs make on a daily basis to create an environment that welcomes all participants, regardless of ability level.
- Educates the program leadership of the key aspects of inclusion, helping them to establish guidelines and practices.
- Guides programs that already include participants with disabilities in enhancing their understanding of social inclusion.
- Identifies practices that will improve and expand their inclusive programming at all organizational levels.
- Serves to recognize and confirm that a program is intentionally and successfully serving individuals with and without disabilities.
- Becomes one of the programs marketing tools, giving families a powerful way to select the best quality programs for their children.



What areas does the NIP Accreditation process address?



Administration, Facilities & Resources, Staffing, Programming, & Evaluation

About the National Inclusion Project



Established in 2003, NIP partners with community organizations and recreational programs across the country, providing them with the training, tools, and support they need to ensure children w/disabilities are included in ALL of their activities.

Have
questions?

919-314-5540
accreditation@inclusionproject.org
inclusionproject.org/accreditation

Contact
Us!



ACCREDITATION

PROCESS

Assess Your Program



Program reviews the standards and criteria and steps to Accreditation, fills out an interest form online and NIP contacts them to complete an initial program assessment. The goal is to assess program readiness to pursue Accreditation.

Complete Workshop



Participate in a virtual in-depth Accreditation workshop, which explains the requirements for Accreditation and how the process works.

Submit Documentation



Prepare and submit written documentation and evidence for each standard, as outlined in Accreditation manual & process guidelines

Host and Participate in Site Visit



Prepare for & host an in-person or virtual site visit. Create a schedule/agenda for the site visit. Ensure that staff understand the purpose of the visit and convey to them that they should operate as they do every day. The individual who participated in the Accreditation workshop should be prepared to facilitate the visit, participate in visitor interviews, & provide relevant information/documentation as needed throughout the process.

Review and Decision



When all application materials and site visitations are complete, an Accreditation review committee will consider all documentation and observation data. If the committee has any questions or concerns, they will contact the host and/or the visitor for clarification. Once the review is complete, NIP will notify the site of the Accreditation decision. Once Accreditation is earned, the designation of being a National Inclusion Project Accredited Program lasts 3 years.

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