

Webinar Wednesday Q&A
What the Numbers Show: Safeguarding Research & Abuse Prevention Strategies in 2022
June 8, 2022

Q: What are a few examples of YSOs?

A: Consider YSOs (youth-serving organizations) to be similar to YMCAs, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, after-school programs, mentoring programs, etc.

For those of you who may not primarily serve youth in your programs, many of these YSO benchmarking trends can still be applicable to elevating safeguarding practices in your vulnerable adult-serving programs, though they may be implemented somewhat differently.

Q: Is there a cost for accreditation? What is the length of time to complete?

A: You can find out more information on Accreditation through Praesidium's dedicated website: <https://www.praesidiumaccreditation.com/>. There is a cost associated with pursuing Accreditation (fees vary based on a number of factors), and the model outlines typically a one-year timeline for achieving Accreditation, though several organizations may achieve it earlier than that.

Through that dedicated website, you also have the ability to download Praesidium's public Standards for Accreditation.

*If you are interested in learning more about the Accreditation process and would like to connect with a Praesidium team member, please contact ccrawford@fadica.org.

Q: How do Boards of Directors fit in with all of this?

A: The Board has a critical role in managing and supporting an organization's abuse prevention or safeguarding efforts, as they often make decisions on budgeting and necessary resources, policy development and approval, and larger organizational responses to crises or incidents of abuse. The Safety Equation operation, Administrative Practices, outlines best practices for Board members to be knowledgeable and engaged in these efforts.

Q: Historically, our organization was very Catholic focused but now it's more broadly spiritually focused (we still have mostly Catholic churches donating). Which accreditation guidebook would be best?

A: Consumer-serving. The Religious standards are for specific religious orders. Consumer-serving standards encompass all industries, faith-based or secular.

(<https://www.praesidiumaccreditation.com/consumerstandards/>)

Q: We learned that Client or Consumer Participation (i.e., the knowledge/awareness of safeguarding measures by clients or persons who receive services from an organization) scored the lowest among administrative operations. Do you have any practical tips or recommendations for organizations that want to widely share safeguarding protocols with their clients/beneficiaries of service?

- **What if clients are short-term, there is high turnover among beneficiaries, or the organization has limited tracking or enrollment?**
- **What if an organization serves vulnerable adults, where a caregiver, parent, or guardian is not a factor in sharing information?**

A: Consider:

- Including information in intake/admission/registration materials
- Devoted brochures or one-pagers, highlighting policies and procedures, as well as a contact name and number (who individuals can call) if they have concerns
- Individualized, personal information offered to client – “Here is some information about how you can keep yourself safe when you’re working with us”
- Posters/fliers that are consistently posted within facilities and program spaces
- Utilizing your organization’s website: Having a designated safeguarding page or abuse prevention page, where clients or those seeking services will see it