



Policy on Minimum Standards for Acceptance of Voluntary Health Agency Members

Membership in the National Health Council by voluntary health agencies (VHAs) is contingent upon their meeting the Council's Standards of Excellence. These 41 standards were adopted by the NHC Board of Directors to ensure that VHA members maintain the highest levels of efficiency, accountability, transparency, and public stewardship. The standards cover the areas of governance, personnel policy, programs, fundraising, finance, accounting and reporting, and evaluation.

Prospective VHA members may be admitted to the National Health Council without meeting all of the Standards of Excellence, upon an affirmative vote by the Membership Committee and board of directors, provided that they make a commitment to achieve full compliance with the standards within one year of acceptance into membership.

However, in evaluating prospective VHA members, the National Health Council requires that the following minimum standards be met:

Standard 1: The organization's governance documents state that: a) its primary purpose is health-related and national in scope; b) there is a procedure for governing the organization; c) the organization conforms with applicable state and federal law regarding the filing of governance documents; d) the organization has been in operation for no less than three years; and e) relationships with any affiliated organizations using the same name and logo are codified in a written agreement.

Standard 3: The board has a minimum of eight members.

Standard 4: The organization's bylaws provide for rotation of board members.

Standard 6: Board members serve without compensation, except in those instances where the chief staff executive is a member of the governing body.

Standard 16: The organization employs a chief staff executive directly or through outsourced management.

Standard 17: The organization is engaged in any one or more of the following programs: research, professional education, public education and health promotion, health services, community services, advocacy, or social action.

Standard 18: The organization spends at least 65 percent of annual expenses for program services.

Standard 21: The organization receives at least 25 percent of its financial support from direct, voluntary public contributions or an otherwise substantial amount as determined by the National Health Council based upon the totality of the circumstances.

Standard 36: The organization does not enter into agreements with organizations or individuals to raise funds on a commission or percentage basis.



Standard 37: The organization ordinarily spends no more than 35 percent of its public support income on fundraising.

Standard 39: The organization has an audit of national office operations performed annually by an independent certified public accountant.

Revised 3/08