AIRS Accreditation is a cooperative effort between an I&R agency and AIRS to establish a strong, professional foundation on which the agency can build and grow.

The purpose of the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems (AIRS) Accreditation process is to determine the extent to which applicant Information and Referral (I&R) organizations comply with expected practices within the field as defined by the AIRS Standards for Professional Information and Referral.

Accreditation is a process that includes: a Remote Database Review to ensure that the resource database meets minimum requirements, a Consultation Component during which the I&R service completes and submits required documentation in consultation with a liaison assigned by AIRS; and the On-Site Review during which a review team is able to see the agency in operation and verify that its practices are consistent with the accreditation criteria. Prior to the site visit, the call handling component of the agency’s service is evaluated through a Secret Shopper process.

AIRS Accreditation provides:
- Objective evidence of achievement in the areas of service quality and effectiveness, community involvement and organizational stability
- Demonstrated commitment on the part of your leadership to meeting the highest standards in the field
- Enhanced credibility in the eyes of the public and other stakeholders
- A stronger position in what is emerging as a competitive field (some funders are requiring national accreditation)
- Expanded access to new markets, government funding and foundation grants
- Improved protection against legal challenges
- International recognition by your peers in the I&R sector

Who can become AIRS Accredited?:
Many organizations in the United States and Canada have successfully attained AIRS Accreditation. It is important to note that some of these agencies are relatively small with less than 5 full-time staff. Organizational size is not a barrier!

Whether an I&R program is national or local in scope, comprehensive or specialized in nature, or offered in non-profit, for-profit or government settings, AIRS Accreditation is the best way to demonstrate the overall quality and effectiveness of an I&R service.

The cost of AIRS Accreditation is:
$6,000 USD for members and $9,000 for non-members, which includes all of the costs of a site visit by two reviewers.

For more information:
visit [www.airs.org/accreditation](http://www.airs.org/accreditation)
email [info@airs.org](mailto:info@airs.org)
phone 703-218-AIRS x. 215

There is an Accreditation Support Community on the AIRS Networker at [http://airsnetworker.airs.org](http://airsnetworker.airs.org)