

Benchmarks Code of Ethics

As a member of Benchmarks, we adhere to the highest standards of integrity and ethical practice. Specifically, this is demonstrated through honest, truthful, and responsible transactions, partnerships, and relationships with individuals, communities, providers, businesses, donors, and government entities.¹ This is also demonstrated through our continued efforts to succeed in performance and meet standards of national accrediting bodies. Our Code of Ethics is practical in application with a foundational basis in the ethical standard requirements of various accreditation bodies. This code of ethics is broken into four (4) core principles.

As a member of Benchmarks, we affirm the following statements of ethical practice:

Operations

The member operates an organization in an open and transparent manner in accordance with applicable legal requirements and uses assets exclusively and effectively to serve the purpose for which the organization was created.

The member agency represents its services and intentions honestly and openly. Members will only serve those families, children, and adults for whom the member's services are appropriate and will plan carefully and realistically with and for each individual served.

Conflict of Interest

The member has adopted and enforces a conflict of interest policy consistent with state and federal laws and regulations to prevent abuse and disclose potential duality/conflicts of interest.

The member accurately represents their organization in all partnerships and relationships within their community.

Financing and Fundraising

The member organization manages all fiscal resources through sound stewardship and business practices with the oversight of the organization's governing body and management.

Fundraising efforts conducted by members are carried out ethically and in a fiscally responsible manner.

Members will comply with all state and federal laws and regulations related to generally accepted accounting principles and annual auditing requirements.

Professional Code of Conduct

Member agencies will advocate for families, children, and adults to bring about positive change, develop resources, and strengthen family life.

Members will maintain confidentiality in all matters concerning the people they serve with regard to laws and regulations as defined in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

Members will serve children, families, and adults without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, ancestry, national origin, disability, sexual orientation or any other protected status as defined by law.

Members will protect the people they serve from abuse, maltreatment, experimentation, economic exploitation, malnutrition, and unsafe environments, and provide the best care possible.

Member agencies will not exploit the plight of the people they serve for financial gain of their organizations.

Adopted by:

Member Agency Name

CEO/President Signature

Date

¹ Council on Accreditation, Standards of Ethical Practice, copyright 2006.