



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: November 5, 2019

MEDIA CONTACT:

John Farmer de la Torre
Director of Communications
mobile: 417.425.2587

Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, Inc., Achieves National Accreditation

Springfield, MO, November 4, 2019 – Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri (CCSOMO) has achieved national accreditation through the New York-based Council on Accreditation (COA). CCSOMO is currently celebrating 10 years of helping the vulnerable in 39 of Missouri's southernmost counties. It took CCSOMO 36 months to achieve this blue-ribbon accreditation. Organizations pursue accreditation to demonstrate the implementation of best practice standards in the field of human services.

COA evaluated all aspects of CCSOMO's programs, services, management, and administration. COA accreditation is an objective, independent, and reliable validation of an agency's performance. The COA accreditation process involves a detailed review and analysis of an organization's administration, management, and service delivery functions against international standards of best practice. The standards driving accreditation ensure that services are well-coordinated, culturally competent, evidence-based, outcomes-oriented, and provided by a skilled and supported workforce. COA accreditation demonstrates accountability in the management of resources, sets standardized best practice thresholds for service and administration, and increases organizational capacity and accountability by creating a framework for ongoing quality improvement.

Based on their findings, COA's Accreditation Commission voted that CCSOMO had immediately and successfully met all fundamental practice standards and criteria for accreditation.

An endorsement of COA and the value of its accreditation process is reflected in it being named by the U.S. State Department as the sole national independent accrediting body under the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption to accredit intercountry adoption service providers. In addition, COA is the only national accreditor designated by the U.S. Department of Defense to develop accreditation standards and procedures for human service programs provided to military personnel and their families.

Founded in 1977, COA is an independent, not-for-profit accreditor of the full continuum of community-based behavioral health care and social service organizations in the United States and Canada. Over 2,000 organizations – voluntary, public, and proprietary; local and statewide; large

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and small – have either successfully achieved COA accreditation or are currently engaged in the process. Presently, COA has a total of 47 service standards that are applicable to over 125 different types of programs. To learn more about COA, please visit www.COAnet.org.

CCSOMO provides the following services: Developmentally Disabled Service Coordination (in Cape Girardeau and Scott counties only); Disaster Case Management and Disaster Home Repair/Rebuilding; Homeless and Homelessness Prevention Services; Home Repair and Rebuilding for Low-Income Clients, Seniors, Veterans, and the Developmentally Disabled; Housing and Financial Counseling (HUD certified); LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home and AfterCare Program; Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services (Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies Program); Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF); and Construction On-The-Job Training and Apprenticeship.

CCSOMO's clients will further benefit with enhanced implementation of COA's Performance and Quality Improvement (PQI) standards. These PQI standards use data to identify areas needing improvement and to guide ongoing implementation of plans to achieve performance targets, program goals, client satisfaction, and positive client outcomes.

COA also announced today that CCSOMO's wholly-owned subsidiary, Consumer Credit Counseling Service of the Ozarks, Inc., was re-accredited.

For release [9:00 a.m., CST, November 5, 2019]

Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri is a faith-based 501(c)(3) agency whose mission is to provide quality, compassionate social services that meet local needs. CCSOMO provides a wide variety of programs throughout the 39 southernmost counties of Missouri. CCSOMO has been providing services to adults, children, and families, of all faiths since 2009. To learn more, visit ccsomo.org

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Commented [JL1]: Is the program called Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies? If so the pregnancy.... Is the description.

Commented [JFdIT2R1]: Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies is the program name. It is also known by its grant name, Alternatives to Abortion; and adjectively, as Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services.

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