



AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION

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To Whom It May Concern:

The American Correctional Association (ACA) recently completed an analysis regarding the overall costs of conducting accreditation audits in today's economy. It has been over a decade since a study of this type has been conducted.

The analysis focused on three areas: fuel, airfare and hotel expenses. For example, in 1998 the approximate cost for an average domestic round trip airline ticket was \$280.00 compared to an average cost of over \$500.00 today, plus additional baggage fees. Fuel cost approximately \$1.07 for a gallon compared to much higher prices today. A moderately priced hotel room was around \$69.00 in 1998 and averages \$135.00 today. Over the past decade during these economic changes, ACA has only made minor changes to the accreditation fees.

Effective January 1, 2009 accreditation fees will be adjusted. The cost to an agency will be \$3000 per day, plus \$1500 for each auditor on the audit team regardless of the size or type of facility. The fees represent the total cost for a three year accreditation. Travel to the conference will still be an option that can be included in the contract.

While some agencies may experience an increase in accreditation fees, many will benefit from the new fee schedule. For example, on many occasions agencies could schedule two facilities during the course of one week. Agencies that are able to use this approach will see an immediate savings with the new structure. Additionally, agencies will remain eligible for discounts on the professional fee based on the number of facilities being accredited within the parent agency.

Facilities that have signed contracts that extend beyond the effective date for the new fee schedule will be honored. However, agencies will have the option of restructuring their contract and selecting the new fees if it is to their advantage. All new contracts executed after the effective date will fall under the new fee schedule.

Thank you for your support of the American Correctional Association and the accreditation process. We look forward to continuing our partnership with you and providing you with the upmost professional service.

Sincerely,

James A. Gondles, Jr.
Executive Director