



National Standards for Community Supervision Frequently Asked Questions

Why are national Standards needed now? The Standards provide a consistent, evidence-informed framework for the field to improve outcomes for justice-involved individuals and enhance public safety. They reduce variability across jurisdictions and align practice with what research shows works.

How will these Standards make communities safer? The Standards emphasize risk-based supervision, effective interventions, procedural justice, and collaboration with community partners. Together, these approaches reduce recidivism, improve compliance, and direct resources to where they have the greatest impact on public safety.

Will agencies receive guidance and technical assistance during implementation? As needed, agencies are encouraged to identify subject matter experts, self-assessment tools, training resources, and support for clarification throughout the implementation process. Soon, you will find a list of qualified, **APPA-approved** vendors that agencies can hire to assist with the Standards.

Will additional training be needed? Initial and booster training is a core component of the Standards and ensures staff understand both the “what” and the “why” behind policy changes. Training requirements are designed to be realistic and role-appropriate. Each agency should determine the level of internal and external training required. APPA will offer ongoing instruction, including webinars and intensive sessions at its training institutes.

Are agencies required to adopt every Standard exactly as written? Agencies may adopt all Standards or focus on specific ones. They retain flexibility in how they meet the Standards, based on size, jurisdiction, populations served, and local laws. The Standards set expectations and outcomes, not a one-size-fits-all model.

Will smaller or rural agencies be held to the same expectations as large systems? Yes, in principle, expectations are the same for all agencies, with proportionality in implementation. The adoption of the Standards recognizes differences in capacity and resources; therefore, the Standards are designed to be scalable and adaptable.

How do the Standards account for local laws and court practices? The Standards are intended to complement—not conflict with—state statutes, judicial authority, and local policies. Agencies are expected to align their compliance efforts with existing legal frameworks.

How do the Standards address staff buy-in and organizational culture? Successful implementation of the Standards depends on inclusive change management and clear communication with staff at all levels. Equity is embedded throughout the Standards, with guidance on unbiased decision-making, culturally responsive practices, and data use to identify and address disparities.

What is the long-term vision for these Standards? The long-term goal is to transition compliance with the Standards into a formal accreditation process. The Standards are a nationally recognized benchmark for excellence in community supervision—one that evolves with research, reflects practitioner experience, and consistently delivers better outcomes for individuals and communities.

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