

## About WASPC:

The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs was founded in 1963. The Association is the only one of its kind combining representatives from local, state, tribal and federal law enforcement agencies. The Association is recognized in statute, RCW 36.28A.010, as a combination of units of local government.

The Association offers a number of programs, projects and services to its members. These programs, projects and services of the Association support the Association's mission: to lead collaboration among law enforcement executives to enhance public safety.

## About the Accreditation Program:

In 1976 the Association was directed by the Washington State Legislature to develop standards and goals for Washington State Law Enforcement. The Association has maintained an operational accreditation program since that time.

The current accreditation program was created in 2007 and is overseen by the WASPC Accreditation Committee, Accreditation Commission, and Board of Directors. The Committee is responsible for maintaining accreditation standards. The Commission is responsible for reviewing accreditation on-site reports and making recommendations to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is responsible for conferring accreditation.

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# WASPC

Washington Association of  
Sheriffs & Police Chiefs

Law  
Enforcement  
Agency  
Accreditation

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## Law Enforcement Agency Accreditation

### Purpose of Accreditation:

The purpose of law enforcement agency accreditation is to professionalize the law enforcement industry by providing a review process for agencies to be certified as operating under industry best practices and standards.

### Benefits of Accreditation:

- To increase public confidence in the agency
- To increase credibility
- To provide a systemized agency self assessment
- To broaden perspectives
- To intensify administrative and operational effectiveness
- To ensure recruitment, selection, and promotion processes are fair and equitable
- To strengthen understanding of agency policies and procedures by agency personnel
- To improve agency morale and pride
- To decrease susceptibility to litigation and costly civil court settlements
- To potentially reduce liability insurance costs
- To provide state and local recognition of professional competence

### The Accreditation Process:

The Accreditation process occurs in eight phases: Interest and Contract; File Maintenance; Self-Assessment; On-Site Assessment and Evaluation; Accreditation Commission Review; Executive Board Review; Award; and Re-Accreditation.

### Accreditation Standards:

The purpose of the WASPC Accreditation Program is to recognize agencies operating under industry best practices and standards. There are 132 accreditation standards covering nineteen major law enforcement areas:

1. Goals and Objectives
2. Role and Authority
3. Use of Force
4. Management, Staffing, Organization and Utilization of Personnel
5. Records Management
6. Information Technology
7. Unusual Occurrences
8. Health and Safety
9. Fiscal Management
10. Recruitment and Selection
11. Training
12. Performance Evaluation
13. Code of Conduct
14. Internal Affairs
15. Patrol Function
16. Traffic Function
17. Investigative Function
18. Evidence and Property Control Function
19. Prisoner Security

### Commonly Asked Questions:

#### What is the cost?

WASPC strives to provide a valuable and affordable accreditation program. There are two costs associated with the program: an application fee of \$100; and staff costs of conducting the on-site assessment, billable at \$50/hour.

Funding assistance may be available through the Association of WA Cities, WA Cities Insurance Authority, and WA Counties Risk Pool.

#### How labor intensive is the program?

The Accreditation process is challenging and requires a complete agency commitment to be successful. Every agency has a pace to achieve accreditation and the time it takes for an agency to become accredited is different from agency to agency. One agency that "lives accreditation" may complete the accreditation process in less than a year, while another agency may take several months or years, especially if infrastructure changes are needed.

#### Can I review the standards before committing to a contract?

Absolutely! The WASPC Accreditation Standards are open to the public on the WASPC website, [www.waspc.org](http://www.waspc.org).

#### How many agencies are accredited through WASPC?

The number of accredited agencies changes regularly. For a current roster of accredited agencies please visit the Accreditation page of the WASPC website, [www.waspc.org](http://www.waspc.org).

