Council on Social Work Education

Board of Accreditation
Department of Social Work Accreditation

Navigating ADEI and Accreditation Site Visits

Required Action: This is required information for all site visitors to review and follow. **Please complete the acknowledgement at the end of this document.**

Purpose: To clarify the appropriate role of site visitors during accreditation site visits in contexts where discussion of Antiracism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ADEI) may be limited by state or other legislation. For more detailed information, please review this presentation.

During the Site Visit

While conducting accreditation site visits, site visitors meet with institutional and program representatives to review areas identified in the Letter of Instruction issued by the CSWE Board of Accreditation.

Site visitors must not offer advice, guidance, or interpretation regarding any federal or state policies or legislation, even if directly asked by program or intuitional representatives. This includes:

- laws that restrict discussion or implementation of ADEI initiatives
- requests for help navigating such laws or their implications
- questions about compliance strategies or legal risk

Site visitors are not acting in a consultative or advisory capacity and must refrain from providing input on legal and policy issues.

Documenting the Site Visit

If a program is unable to address a specific accreditation standard related to ADEI due to legal constraints, in the site visit report the site visitor should:

- report only what was or was not discussed/observed
- do not speculate or explain "why" the program did or did not meet a requirement
- do not reference specific laws or legislation

For example, in a site visitor report:

Instead of, "The program could not demonstrate ADEI efforts due to state legislation."

Site visitors could write:

- "The program did not discuss activities/efforts related to this standard."
  OR
- "The program discussed X, Y, Z activities/efforts"

Let the Program Provide Context

In the program's response to the site visit report, it is the program's responsibility to:

- respond to site visit findings
- explain any legal factors affecting their ability to meet standards
- demonstrate how they are addressing the standards within their institutional or legal framework

The accreditation process allows programs to fully explain their circumstances in their formal response to the site visit report.

Summary: Navigating ADEI on Site Visits

Site Visitors DO:	**Site Visitors DO NOT:**
Discuss, observe, and document what the program presented	Offer guidance on legal or legislative matters
Refrain from providing input on legal or policy-related requirements	Reference state or federal laws in your report
Allow the program to explain its own context	Interpret or explain why a standard wasn't met if related to state or other laws
Focus on accreditation standards and evidence provided	Engage in policy-related dialogue or debate

Questions

For questions about the site visitor role or how to handle conversations related to ADEI during a site visit, please contact the program's accreditation specialist prior to the site visit.

Acknowledgement

I have reviewed **Navigating ADEI During Accreditation Site Visits** in full and agree to follow this guidance when representing CSWE in a site visitor role. Acknowledge here.