



April 22, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

The Standards for Excellence Institute is an initiative dedicated to promoting the highest standards of ethics and accountability in nonprofit governance, management, and operations. As an operating division of Maryland Nonprofits, we serve nonprofits throughout the nation.

The Standards for Excellence Institute uses as its foundation the Standards for Excellence program, which includes a set of nonprofit best practices, divided into these categories:

- Mission, Strategy, and Evaluation
- Leadership: Board, Staff, and Volunteers
- Legal Compliance and Ethics
- Finance and Operations
- Resource Development
- Public Awareness, Engagement, and Advocacy

These best practices are documented in a code of conduct for nonprofits called the *Standards for Excellence: An Ethics and Accountability Code for the Nonprofit Sector* (the Standards for Excellence code).

The Standards for Excellence Institute attests that Prevent Blindness Ohio has earned accreditation under the *Standards for Excellence: An Ethics and Accountability Code for the Nonprofit Sector*.

Being accredited demonstrates that Prevent Blindness Ohio has met all the rigorous requirements that are included in the standards. Prevent Blindness Ohio went through a three-part application process, including a review by Standards of Excellence Institute staff, a second review from an experienced team of peer reviewers, and a final review by the national Standards for Excellence Council, which comprises professionals with extensive nonprofit experience, and specialized expertise in areas such as legal, finance, or human resources.

If you have any questions about the Standards for Excellence Institute, or the accreditation process, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Coates Madsen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Amy" and "Coates" on the first line and "Madsen" on the second line.

Amy Coates Madsen
Standards for Excellence Institute, Director
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