

# THE NADD COMPETENCY-BASED CLINICAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is estimated that more than a million people in the US have a dual diagnosis of Intellectual or Development Disability (IDD) and Mental Illness (IDD/MI). These individuals have complex needs and present clinical challenges to professionals, programs, and systems. Clinicians face the challenge of diagnosing mental illness and providing appropriate mental health treatment for persons who have IDD/MI.

### **NADD Competency-Based Clinical Certification Program**

NADD, an association for persons with developmental disabilities and mental health needs, developed the NADD Competency-Based Clinical Certification Program to improve the quality and effectiveness of services provided to individuals with a dual diagnosis through the development of competency-based professional standards and through promoting ongoing professional development.

### **Advantages of Clinical Certification by NADD**

Clinical certification through the NADD Competency-Based Certification Program validates and provides assurance to people receiving services, professional colleagues, employers, and third-party payers that a clinician has met the standards established by NADD for providing services to individuals with ID/MI. Certification attests to the clinician's competency in providing these services. In addition to the prestige this Certification provides, it may benefit the clinician through greater employment opportunities, job security, and promotions. The certification is portable; clinicians moving to a different region bring their certifications with them and do not have to demonstrate or re-document their competence simply because they have moved.

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## Competency Areas

The clinician seeking certification will be required to demonstrate mastery of the following five competency areas:

- Positive Behavior Supports and Effective Environment
- Psychotherapy
- Psychopharmacology
- Assessment of Medical Conditions
- Assessment

## Pre-Requisites for Certification: Training, Experience, References

To be considered for certification, clinicians must have one of the following licenses in the USA or Canada (equivalent accepted): state/province license, i.e. Ph.D., Psy.D., or Ed.D. Psychologist; state/province license, BCBA, or governing body recognition as an Applied Behavior Analyst; State/province license as a Physician, M.D., D.O., MBBS, or equivalent; state/province license as a Master's level: Mental Health Counselor; Marriage & Family Counselor; Addictions Counselor; state/province license as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker; state/province license as a Physician's Assistant, Advanced Practice RN, or Nurse Practitioner (or clinical equivalent); or other similar credentialing; equivalent determination resides with the NADD Competency-Based Certification Program. Professionals with a Master's level in a related field or RNs are eligible with additional experience and a through explanation of the experience base.

The applicant must have 5 years experience in support of persons with intellectual disabilities and mental health issues. This can include internships and externships. For applicants with a Master's degree in a related field and for RNs, 7 years is required.

In addition to providing copies of the applicant's curriculum vitae and professional license, the applicant must submit reference letters from three people able to provide a reference about the applicant's clinical skills, knowledge and values and experience with persons who have a dual diagnosis.

## Work Sample

Once the application has been reviewed and the applicant has been found to meet the prerequisites, the applicant will receive instructions to submit one work sample of a case that demonstrates clinical work with an individual who has a dual diagnosis. The work sample should be no more than five pages in length and should include formulation of problem, structure of therapy or intervention, landmark events or salient issues that arose during the course of treatment and how these were addressed within treatment, reflection on issues within therapy or ethical concerns, and

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how the clinical approach was informed by an understanding of intellectual disability or dual diagnosis.

### **Interview**

The final component of the certification process is an interview, which may occur in person, at a NADD conference, via web-based video conferencing, or by telephone. The applicant shall be presented with a case vignette approximately 24-48 hours before the interview, about which he or she shall be asked to verbally offer their thoughts and reflections (i.e., provide a case formulation and treatment plan). The interview shall also include resolution of any questions raised during other parts of the application process.

### **Credential**

Clinicians who receive NADD clinical certification will be entitled to use "NADD-CC" as a credential.

### **Cost**

The cost of the NADD Competency-Based Certification is \$375.00. A non-refundable application/exam fee of \$375.00 must accompany the application package. The NADD Competency-Based Certification is good for two years. The renewal cost is \$100.00. There is a continuing education requirement of 10 hours every 2 years in areas related to Mental Wellness and Mental Health for persons with IDD.