

CSISTM

**Certified Social Impact Supporter –
(CSIS)TM**

CSISTM Accreditation Guide

The Business Development Association Accreditation Center

Certified Social Impact Supporter (CSIS™) Guidebook

General Introduction

What is the CSIS Institutional Accreditation?

The Certified Social Impact Supporter (CSIS™) is an institutional accreditation granted by the Business Development Association (BDA) to organizations that play a recognized role in advancing the societal impact of business development. This includes any organization—whether nonprofit, community-led, hybrid, or institutional—that leads or supports community-based initiatives contributing to business capacity-building, professional inclusion, or economic empowerment at the grassroots level.

Unlike other BDA accreditations that focus on training programs or institutional infrastructure, CSIS™ is purely focused on external impact: how organizations promote business development values and access through initiatives that touch underserved populations, youth, microenterprises, or local networks.

Why BDA Created CSIS™

The BDA BoCK™ emphasizes not only professional competencies but also ethical responsibility and inclusive access. CSIS™ was launched to acknowledge organizations that actively champion these values in real-world settings—whether through micro-business support, female entrepreneurship mentoring, reintegration programs, youth upskilling, or knowledge democratization efforts.

By offering visibility and recognition, the CSIS™ accreditation connects grassroots change-makers to a global framework and honors their role in the collective evolution of the business development field.

Difference from Other BDA Accreditations

CSIS™ does not measure internal curriculum, operational strategy, or employee learning models. It is not for trainers or educators. It measures the social footprint and relevance of an organization's outreach work—in alignment with the BoCK™ values but delivered through public-serving initiatives.

Who Qualifies as a Certified Social Impact Supporter?

Typical applicants include:

- NGOs empowering local entrepreneurs or women in business
- Foundations running business education campaigns

- Nonprofits offering market access support to startups
- Incubators helping marginalized or rural business founders
- Social enterprises running pro bono consulting or community pitch competitions

Their initiatives often include:

- Community-led innovation days or pop-ups
- Mentorship cycles for excluded professionals
- Workshops promoting ethical entrepreneurship
- Campaigns advocating sustainable business models

Benefits of CSIS™ Accreditation

For the Organization

- International validation of social development work
- Enhanced positioning when seeking CSR partnerships or donor funding
- Affiliation with a respected global competency framework

For the Community

- Increased legitimacy and trust in your services
- New networks and visibility that increase impact reach

For Donors and Partners

- Assurance of ethical alignment and capacity
- Transparency in evaluating contribution to global goals

For Public Profile

- Use of the CSIS™ emblem on websites and reports
- Promotion via BDA's impact highlights and social channels
- Eligibility for future BDA-hosted impact showcases or awards

Eligibility Criteria

To qualify for CSIS™ accreditation, an organization must:

- Be legally registered as a nonprofit, foundation, social enterprise, or civic entity
- Have at least two years of active operations
- Demonstrate at least two completed or ongoing community-level business development initiatives within the past 18 months
- Show how these initiatives align with one or more BoCK™ value.

Evaluation Framework

Evaluation Domain	Description	Max Score
Community Relevance	Focus on underserved or excluded populations	25
Impact Structure & Planning	Goal setting, design logic, and resource management	20
Innovation & Scalability	Use of novel, adaptive, or scalable practices	15
Longevity & Consistency	Continuity and integration into broader development goals	15
BoCK™ Value Alignment	Reflection of ethical, professional, or inclusive BD dimensions	15
Integrity & Inclusiveness	Inclusion, fairness, and cultural adaptability	10
Total		100

Minimum Required Score: 75 points

Application Process

1. Submit the CSIS™ Application from BDA Store
2. Upload supporting documents (e.g., initiative summaries, media coverage, stakeholder feedback)
3. BDA Impact Panel conducts review
4. Clarification phase (if needed)
5. Receive final decision within 5–7 working days

Accreditation Outcomes

- **Accredited CSIS™ Organization** – Fully meets all criteria
- **Conditional CSIS™ Status** – Granted pending additional documentation
- **Declined Application** – Eligible to reapply after 3 months

Successful organizations receive:

- Digital Certificate and CSIS™ Seal
- Profile listed on BDA Global Impact Map
- Optional short feature in BDA's Annual Social Impact Digest

Post-Accreditation Responsibilities

- Submit a 1-page annual activity update
- Continue at least 2 active impact initiative each year
- Engage in one BDA social impact dialogue or forum
- Maintain logo and recognition ethics per BDA's usage guide

Fees and Validity

- One-time Accreditation Fee: Free
- Validity Duration: 12 Months

- Renewal Fee: Free (based on continued activity)

CSIS™ Logo Usage

Approved Use:

- Donor reports and annual impact summaries
- Program awareness campaigns
- Organization's official communications

Not Approved For:

- Commercial endorsements
- Private business ventures
- Unrelated affiliate activities

Common Questions

Can academic institutions apply?

Only if applying under a civic arm with a community development mandate.

Are initiatives evaluated individually or collectively?

Collectively—based on the cumulative social impact demonstrated.

Does CSIS™ give access to funding?

No. It increases visibility and credibility but is not a grant program.

For support: www.bda-global.org/certifications/certified-social-impact-supporter-csis/



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