National Background Check Program
State of Alaska

Program Abstract

Grant funding will support the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), Division of Public Health's Section of Certification and Licensing's Background Check Program's efforts to enhance its current fingerprint-based criminal history records investigation and fitness determination program. The BCP strives to create efficiencies to ensure the program provides centralized background check support services for all programs subject to the licensing and certification authority of DHSS.

The overall goals of this program remain constant and are:

1) Further improve statutes and regulations that include the monitoring and enforcement of health and safety requirements for all DHSS licensed and certified long-term care programs and other programs serving Alaska's vulnerable;
2) Extend the background checks and fitness determinations to all staff serving vulnerable populations;
3) Further develop, expand and implement electronic fingerprint collection and transmittal systems, to include agencies outside the Department;
4) Develop and provide comprehensive reports to both oversight agencies and entities, reflecting program statistics and measurements;
5) Improve the overall safety and security of vulnerable individuals in state licensed and certified long-term care facilities and other programs.

The key activities and descriptors of how the grant funding will be used include:

- Streamlining uniform definitions and descriptions of disqualifying information applicable to all licensed and certified programs under the authority of the Department;
- Continuing the development of the background check information technology infrastructure to improve current services and meet future needs;
- Redesigning and streamlining a receptive appeal process for barrier notifications and final determination revocations to include a process for provisional authorization revocation;
- Supplementing the existing state and federal criminal history information with other available disqualifying information and research the viability of an employee misconduct registry;
- Redesigning and streamlining overall intake processes, with electronic online options;
- Improve, expand, and enhance electronic fingerprint collection and submission.