

**National Background Check Program
State of Connecticut**

Program Abstract

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) requests federal funding for National and state background checks for Direct Access Employees of Long Term Care (LTC) Facilities. The funds will be used to improve Connecticut's oversight system in LTC facilities such as nursing homes, ICFs/IMR, home health, assisted living and adult day care. The goal of this project is to broaden the categories of direct care workers and the sites of care delivery for which background checks are required in Connecticut. The ultimate goal is to provide a safer environment for recipients of long-term care by preventing abuse, neglect, and misappropriation of property wherever possible. DPH seeks to reach this goal by implementing activities in partnership with its Medicaid Agency and the Department of Public Safety (DPS). DPH will convene the state agencies to coordinate all program efforts. DPS has recently added a "rap-back" feature to its fingerprint check system, which is a requirement of this grant. This feature alerts agencies to new convictions, occurring after the date of the original review.

The specific objectives of this project are:

- 1) Expand the current Connecticut background check program to include many more LTC providers licensed by DPH and two programs under DSS oversight (adult day care and personal care attendants).
- 2) Enhance quality of life for LTC residents by preventing abuse, neglect and misappropriation of property to the extent possible through background checks.
- 3) Enhance quality of resident care through the staff hiring process.