

**National Background Check Program**  
**District of Columbia**  
**Department of Health**

*Program Abstract*

The District of Columbia's "*Health-Care Facility Unlicensed Personnel Criminal Background Check Amendment Act of 2002*", effective April 13, 2002, stipulates that no facility shall employ or use the contract services of an unlicensed person if has been convicted of a criminal offense as listed within seven years prior to a criminal background check conducted pursuant to these rules and that each facility shall obtain a criminal background check, and shall either obtain or conduct a check of the District of Columbia Nurse Aide Abuse Registry, before employing or using the contract services of an unlicensed person.

To comply with the law of the District, the Department of Health's Health Regulation and Licensing Administration (HRLA) has oversight over the licensing and medical professionals and facilities that care for patients in need of long term services. HRLA has begun the process of criminal background check with negotiations with the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) as the principal to process fingerprints with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Although HRLA inspects LTCs annually and review records of criminal background, the goal is to process all CBCs within one District agency.

The District's one-hundred and sixty facilities, caring for forty-three hundred persons, would be issued standard procedures for processing new and existing employees. HRLA would develop its database of personnel by facility, ensure Live Scan fingerprinting by MPD, establish an appeal process for applicants who challenge results and share information with CMS and providers to curtail "provider hopping."

The Department of Health is requesting Federal funds over the three-year period, September 2010 through September 2013, in support its efforts to safeguard LTCs from persons with convicted criminal offenses.