

**National Background Check Program**  
**State of Florida**

*Project Abstract*

Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) is seeking the opportunity to enhance employee background screening for long-term care providers by streamlining processes, dividing criminal history reports to allow providers to obtain the state portion of the report, reducing duplicative screenings, collaborating with other state agencies with overlapping responsibilities, improving communication between data systems and implementing a rap-back program that will provide immediate notification of employee screening status changes to providers as well as potentially reduce the need to conduct costly rescreening of employees.

The Agency, in collaboration with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement will create efficiencies in the transfer of criminal history information between agencies and implement a rap-back (retained prints) program for long-term care providers. Through system enhancements, the Agency plans to create interfaces with several databases including the Florida Department of Health's Practitioner Licensing database and the federal Medicare Exclusion database to replace manual reviews. The second phase of system enhancements will include the ability to maintain retained fingerprint information and automatic notifications in employment status based on information received through the rap-back program. An existing secure website used by providers to obtain screening results will be expanded to include a module for managing employee information. Indicating that an employee was hired or is no longer employed allows the proper notification to the provider of any employee eligibility status changes. This system will also be used to manage the appropriate annual fees paid to cover the cost of retaining prints.

The Agency is also seeking to improve communication among state agencies that have overlapping responsibilities. Such overlapping duties can result in multiple screenings of the same long-term care provider staff. For example, a provider offering a wide-array of services may be required to comply with background screening requirements for multiple licenses, and varying state programs including Medicaid. Coordinating with other state agencies and sharing information and resources would greatly benefit the health care provider community, the state regulatory programs, and the citizens of Florida by reducing multiple screenings and ultimately saving staff time and money.