

CMS NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

New FFR Template

When submitting Quarterly Reports, please note that there is a new SF425 Federal Financial Report Template. The template is available on the [BGCheckInfo](#) website.

FBI Fee Increase

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) completed its review of fees charged for fingerprint-based and name-based Criminal History record Information (CHRI) checks. The FBI concluded from its review that the current fingerprint fee "does not recover the costs of providing the service." A revised fee schedule was formally published in the *Federal Register*. The fee increase from \$12.00 to \$13.25 for fingerprint-based checks, will take effect on January 1, 2019. More information can be found on the [NBCP website](#).

RHODE ISLAND OPENS NEW CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER

The Attorney General Peter F. Kilmartin's office released a [press release](#) on July 23, 2018 announcing the new Attorney General Julius C. Michaelson Customer Service Center at 4 Howard Avenue in the Pastore Complex in Cranston, Rhode Island. The Attorney General's new facility will house the Bureau of Criminal Identification (BCI), Consumer Protection Unit (CPU), and Diversion Unit. The need for State and/or national criminal background check continues to rise due to increased security measures in both the private and public sectors. The overwhelming majority of these background checks are performed by the Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General, which were previously in downtown Providence. The limited parking and office space could not accommodate the increasing number of people seeking background checks over the past few years.

The new facility will alleviate congestion in the Attorney General's main office, where the BCI window can serve an average of 300 to 350 customers per day. Just last year, the BCI Unit performed approximately 75,000 State background checks and more than 24,000 national background checks. All in-person State and national background checks performed by the Attorney General's have been available at the new Customer Service Center since Monday, July 23, 2018. Background check services will no longer be provided at the Attorney General's downtown Providence location. The Customer Service Center will be open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



Attorney General Peter F. Kilmartin officially opens the Attorney General Julius C. Michaelson Customer Service Center at a ribbon cutting ceremony.

MISSOURI NURSING HOME PARTNERSHIP WITH HIGH SCHOOL

[McKnight's Long Term Care News](#) reported that a Missouri nursing home has partnered with a local high school and now has a "record level" hire of new certified nurse assistants (CNA). Students at Farmington High School take CNA training classwork at the school and then must do 100 hours of hands-on clinical work during the semester. Farmington Presbyterian Manor in Farmington, MO hired 12 students out of a class of 26 this past spring. This was also a result of lowering the hiring age limit to 17 and having significant availability.

Talisha Brooks, assistant director of health services and supervisor of the clinical side of the program said, "We needed staff; we needed help. So we were able to get that threshold lowered because we had all of these potential CNAs we weren't able to hire until they were 18 years old. Every long-term care community is needing more nurses. The [teens] can go anywhere and that's why I think we have an edge with these students. They know us, they've served their clinical hours here, they know our residents, and they've fallen in love with them."

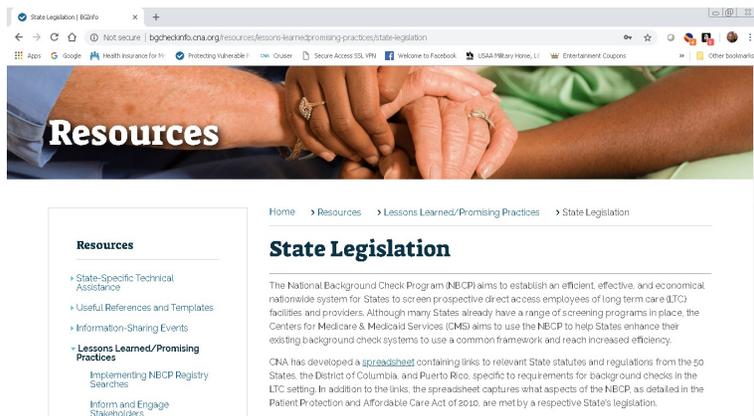


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CNA has replaced the static PDF legislative summary documents from 2012 with a list of [State web pages](#) linking to related background check legislation and statutory authority specific to long term care, as well as background check program pages. In addition, several pages and content have been updated. Check it out!



Did you know? The NBCP is a resource library of tools and information available to both active and grantee States. For more information, email stateliasion@cna.org.

ASSISTED LIVING REGULATION CHANGES IN 2018

[McKnight's Long Term Care News](#) reported that 29 States made changes to assisted living regulations from June 2017 to June 2018. The National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL) published a report regarding the regulation changes, highlighting that 12 more States made changes to their regulations than from 2016 to 2017. NCAL Senior Policy Director Lilly Hummel expects that States will continue to make changes and the potential changes will "range from a complete review of the licensure requirements to targeted regulatory updates to implementation of new legislation, as well as changes to Medicaid requirements for participating assisted living communities."

The most common changes made this past year to State regulations were requiring expanded background checks and additional training. States also updated regulations for residents' rights. For instance, California passed legislation enacting "the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Long-Term Care Facility Residents' [Bill of Rights](#) that prohibits assisted living communities from denying admission based on someone's actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or human immunodeficiency virus status." The NCAL report also includes State requirements for assisted living licensure or certification with information on 20 categories such as admission and discharge policies, scope of care, and more.

QUARTERLY REPORTS DUE OCTOBER 31, 2018

Reports for the quarter ending September 30, 2018, are due by close of business on **October 31, 2018**. Please be sure to use the new Cost Report that includes your State's name. The report templates are available on the [NBCP BGCheckInfo](#) website. Requests for extensions should be submitted to your CMS project officer at least **two weeks** before the due date.

Reminder!
Graduating States must complete [grant closeout](#) in addition to final quarterly reports.

The Forum will resume its calls in November 2018 to help address emerging issues and questions faced by current, graduated, and non-grantee States. Forum calls will now be held every other month. States are encouraged to submit discussion topics prior to the call. The calls also include updates from CMS and CNA representatives.

The annual Association of Health Facility Survey Agencies (AHFSA) Conference was held in Tigard, Oregon, September 23-26, 2018. The Forum's NBCP Track included presentations from new and graduated grantee States. Topics discussed included best practices, performance monitoring and reporting, training providers, and background check screening and survey process. Planning for the 2019 NBCP Track has already begun. Please reach out to Melanie Madore at Melanie.Madore@health.mo.gov or Meghan Shears at Meghan.s.shears@wv.gov if you have any ideas or suggestions for next year's sessions.

For more information on Forum activities visit the [Forum's page](#) on the AHFSA website and send an email to backgroundcheckforum@gmail.com to join the Forum and receive information about activities.

UPCOMING AHFSA MEETINGS:
AHFSA Annual Conference,
August 4 - 7, 2019, New Orleans, LA

CMS and Office of Acquisition and Grants Management have a process that must be followed for closeout of the National Background Check Program grant. For more information, see the [NBCP Website](#).

