

National Background Check Program

State of Ohio

Rap Back Expansion to Support Home and Community Based Providers' Background Checks

Program Abstract

Program Goals. This CMS funding opportunity number (CMS-1A1-12-003) aligns with broader Ohio initiatives to assure the safety and quality of home and community-based services (HCBS) that are critical to the health of Ohioans. The grant will assist Ohio to identify efficient, effective and economical procedures for conducting background checks on vital healthcare workforce.

Ohio aims to achieve the following four goals:

- Improve the safety and quality of direct care services received by Ohioans;
- Implement new statutory requirements to ensure uniformity and consistency of background checks on HCBS providers;
- Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of background checks by offering “Rap Back” to reduce administrative burden and cost to participating providers;
- Provide timely notice to the State (in the case of independent providers) and agency providers (in the case of agency employees) regarding post-hiring disqualifying criminal convictions of HCBS providers and direct access employees.

Use of Funds and Budget Allocation. Ohio proposes a comprehensive three-year project, starting January 1, 2013, in the amount of \$2,854,006 (totaling a \$723,585 state match and \$2,130,421 federal funding request) to:

- Build upon the current Rap Back system and pilot test it for direct patient access workers in HCBS and expand capacity to other long term care providers statewide;
- Provide training and technical support for rapid deployment of the Rap Back technology; create a web-based resource to provide improved access to national/state registries, pertinent statute/regulations from multiple regulatory authorities, technical resources, and users guides for background check requirements and Rap Back technology;
- Assess cost-effectiveness of the system implementation, examine lessons learned and explore potential policy implications, including but not limited to, uniformity of procedures, scalability of technology, and potential payment mechanisms;
- Ensure the success of the grant by maintaining a strong public-private partnership with input and participation from key state agencies, providers, and stakeholder groups.

Projected Impact. This initiative has the potential to:

- Increase the safety and quality of services provided by an estimated 132,000 direct patient access workers to Ohio residents;
- Reduce administrative and economic burden to the approximately 2,000 agency providers of direct patient access services in HCBS;
- Align Ohio with National Background Check Program standards, outlined in the Affordable Care Act and to improve the protection of vulnerable populations we serve.