

**National Background Check Program
State of Rhode Island**

Program Abstract

Rhode Island is home to 415 long term care facilities and providers who employ 79,500 direct patient/resident access workers. Some, but not all of these employees are required to undergo a statewide check of criminal records. Fingerprint collection is not currently a requirement of the state's background check system. This grant provides the state an opportunity to enhance and improve this system to provide greater protection to the elderly and people with disabilities.

The grant will further provide CMS with assurances that the necessary safeguards have been taken to protect the health and welfare of these long term care beneficiaries. These quality assurance activities are key initiatives outlined in the Office of Inspector General's FY 2010 Work Plan.

Through this proposal, the State expects to: 1) expand the population of employers/employees for whom state background checks are required; 2) expand the scope of the current background check regulations, statewide, to include the capture of applicant fingerprint information to facilitate the national background check of each applicant; 3) over time, utilize 'rap back' data to fully and completely investigate the background of all applicants against data as it is collected by national criminal databases.

To achieve these goals, the state will implement the following strategies: 1) draft legislation that will expand the BCI check policies to non-licensed long term care facilities and workers; 2) draft legislation which will expand the BCI check policies to require fingerprinting; 3) contract with a vendor to streamline the collection and validation of all BCI data, including fingerprints; 4) educate and train long term care facilities and providers on the new policies and procedures.