



Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group

Ref: S&C 17-47-ALL

DATE: September 29, 2017

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Advance Notice Solicitation Deadline - National Background Check Program

Memorandum Summary

- **National Background Check Program:** The goal of the program is to prohibit the hiring of employees who have histories of abuse or relevant criminal violations to serve the vulnerable long term care population.
- **Application Deadline:** We are providing advance notice that the deadline for States to apply to the ninth (and final) solicitation for the NBCP will be December 15, 2017.
- **Solicitation:** The solicitation is posted at: <https://www.grants.gov>.

Background

The National Background Check Program (NBCP) is part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148, enacted on March 23, 2010) and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-152, enacted on March 30, 2010) together called the Affordable Care Act.

The purpose of the NBCP is to assist States and Territories that desire to institute or upgrade their systems of employee background checks to include checks of all pertinent registry sources in all States in which a potential employee has lived, to check State and Federal criminal records, and to use the FBI fingerprinting. The goal of the program is to prohibit the hiring of employees who have histories of abuse or relevant criminal violations to serve the vulnerable long term care population.

The State Office of the Governor, State Medicaid Agency, or the State Survey Agency may apply for funding under this grant opportunity. In order to participate in this nationwide program, a State must guarantee that it will make available non-Federal funds to cover a portion of the cost to be incurred by the State to carry out the Program in their State.

Deadline for States to Apply

We are providing advance notice that the deadline for States to submit an application for the ninth (and final) solicitation for the NBCP will be December 15, 2017. We encourage all States that have not applied to take this opportunity to participate. This opportunity will be particularly useful to those States that have been considering the potential for an effective background check program to ensure a quality long term care workforce. The Nationwide Program for National and State Background Checks for Direct Patient Access Employees of Long Term Care Facilities and Providers solicitation is posted at: <https://www.grants.gov>.

If your State intends to apply for the NBCP solicitation by December 15, 2017, please fill out the attached ‘Notice of Intent to Apply’ form and send it to the Background Check mailbox at background_checks@cms.hhs.gov by October 31, 2017.

Contact: If you have any questions, you may contact Background Check Program staff via the mailbox at background_checks@cms.hhs.gov.

Effective Date: Immediately. This notice should be communicated with appropriate survey and certification staff, their managers and the State/Regional Office training coordinators within 30 days of this memorandum.

/s/
David R. Wright

Attachment: Notice of Intent to Apply Form

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management