



Center for Medicaid, CHIP, and Survey & Certification/Survey & Certification Group

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DATE: April 22, 2011

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Notice - Third Opportunity National Background Check Program Funding

Memorandum Summary

- **Notice** - The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is providing notice that we released a third solicitation for the National Background Check Program for any States or U.S. Territories that were unable to meet the previous deadline for submitting their applications under the previous solicitation.
- **Third Solicitation** - We have released the third solicitation. Applications are due June 30, 2011.

Overview

The CMS has issued a third multi-year *National Background Check Program for Patient Protection* solicitation for Federal matching grants to all States and the U.S. Territories that did not submit proposals during the first two solicitations. States that applied during the first two solicitations but did *not* receive the full award amount may apply for the remaining amount allowed under the provisions of the law at section 6201 of the Affordable Care Act. The Federal matching funds and State funds will be used by States to perform criminal background checks for direct patient access employees of long term care facilities and providers. CMS has received applications from 19 States that were able to meet the frame for submitting a proposal under the first two proposals.

Third Opportunity for States to Apply

In early April 2011 we issued a third solicitation to allow those States that did not have adequate time to complete their application an opportunity to participate in the grant program. **We encourage all States that have not applied, but may be interested in doing so, to take this opportunity to continue their planning efforts.**

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The third 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 but needed more time to work with all State level interested parties. CMS will work individually with States interested in applying to the grant program, but have identified issues that would impact their ability to implement the program.

The Nationwide Program for National and State Background Checks for Direct Patient Access Employees of Long Term Care Facilities and Providers solicitation:

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=9QFQNTvPd3V8yVbJsxVGTP96q1fcyZ262k4CmGP9R2f6FJs196RB!-1041731581?oppId=88293&mode=VIEW>

Further information about the National Background Check Program will be updated periodically. In the meantime, States may wish to review the current Solicitation, as well as the Questions and Answers document and Pilot Evaluation located on our CMS website at:

http://www.cms.gov/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/04_BackgroundCheck.asp.

If you have any questions about this upcoming opportunity, you may contact the Background Check Program mailbox at background_checks@cms.hhs.gov. We hope you will consider becoming a part of this important new Federal and State partnership opportunity to enhance the safety and quality of care for our nation's long term care population.

/s /

Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management