

Office of Clinical Standards and Quality/ Survey & Certification Group

Ref: S&C: 12-11-NH

DATE: December 9, 2011

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Notice - Fifth Opportunity National Background Check Program Funding

Memorandum Summary

- **Notice:** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a fifth solicitation for the National Background Check Program (NBCP) for any States or U.S. Territories that were unable to meet the previous deadline for submitting their applications under the previous solicitation.
- **Application Deadline:** Applications are due February 28, 2012.

Overview

The CMS has issued a fifth 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 four solicitations. States that applied during the previous 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 18 States and Territories that were able to meet the time frame for submitting a proposal under the first four solicitations.

Fifth Opportunity for States to Apply

The fifth solicitation for the NBCP has been released. Applications are due Feb 28, 2012. **We encourage all States that have not applied, but may be interested in doing so, to take this opportunity to continue their planning efforts.** The fifth 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. Additionally, States that have identified issues that would

impact their ability to implement the program, CMS is available to work individually with those States if there is an interest to apply.

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=FtCjTd7Gk80GJH4BTYxGfR3WWsyr45T4YZJgwYjsLmx1sTmS5K0v!-102435184?oppId=130393&mode=VIEW>

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.

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

/s/

Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management