

CMS NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CMS posted a [memorandum](#) on Friday, September 29th, 2017 to their State Survey Agency Directors providing advance notice that the NBCP grant solicitation will be removed from www.grants.gov. The deadline for States to submit an application for the final solicitation is **December 15th, 2017**.

States are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to participate. CMS has requested that States who intend to apply for the NBCP grant fill out the "Notice of Intent to Apply" form found on the homepage of the [BGCheckInfo website](#) and send it to background_checks@cms.hhs.gov by **October 31, 2017**.

CNA, as the technical assistance provider for the NBCP grant, can advise States on preparing a grant application. To request assistance, please email stateLiaison@cna.org.

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POTENTIAL NATIONAL ELDER ABUSE REGISTRY

H.R. 3885, known as the Senior Citizen Protection Act of 2017, could create a national elder abuse registry, giving long-term care providers another tool to screen potential employees according to [McKnight's Long-Term Care News](#). The bill was introduced on September 28, 2017 and "would create guidelines for an elder abuse registry and give grants to States to implement and operate their own registry."

The registries would contain details of those that have been convicted of elder abuse such as the type of abuse, the circumstances of the incident, and any relation between the abuser and the victim. Although some States have registries similar to the one proposed in the bill, Representatives Brad Schneider (D-IL) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) explained there is "no nationally searchable database of State-level data."

In a [press release](#) by Rep. Schneider, Rep. Ros-Lehtinen said, "There is no excuse for elder abuse and we must not allow those who commit abuse in one State to flee to another and start their terrible practices anew. The bill my colleague, Brad, and I have introduced with support from the Elder Justice Coalition will ensure that our parents, grandparents, and loved ones are looked after by professional caregivers who will give them the treatment and respect they deserve."

GRANTEE STATE HIGHLIGHTS

GEORGIA

On Thursday, September 28, 2017, the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) successfully went live with their fingerprint and criminal history integration with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI). Previously, provider users initiated requests for screenings in DCH's Georgia Criminal History Check System (GCHEXS) and entered applicant information for the criminal history checks in a separate data system through the GBI's vendor site. The criminal history results were returned to the vendor site for DCH to retrieve for review. The integrated system allows providers to initiate and submit screenings and DCH to review and make determinations all in one data system. On the first day, GCHEXS received criminal history information on an applicant only 26 minutes after the applicant had been fingerprinted!

NEVADA

Nevada graduated from the NBCP on September 30, 2017. It has successfully implemented a new web application, known as the Nevada Automated Background Check System (NABS), that allows for electronic tracking of background check requests, registry screenings and automated notifications to providers. State rap back has been developed but not yet implemented. Nevada has been able to use the grant funds to develop an effective, efficient system that reduces duplicate background checks, reducing the costs to conduct background check screenings while continuing to protect vulnerable long-term care residents.

WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia Clearance for Access: Registry and Employment Screening (CARES) went live with their payment system on Monday, October 2, 2017. Providers in WV will be able to pay by check, credit card, or through internal accounts using a batch payment system. Having an automated payment system provides the ability to collect, track and record all fees within WV CARES, alleviating the need for collecting fees through the mail and manually entering and tracking the fees in a separate accounting system.



MICHIGAN STUDY - PERSONAL CARE WORKERS

An article called "[Fingerprint-based background checks for personal care workers: Stakeholder views of policy criteria](#)," was published in the Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect by Eric D. Raile PhD, Sarah J. Swierenga PhD, Toni A. Dennis BS, Lauren A. Swanson-Aprill MA, Lori A. Post PhD and Fuad Abujarad PhD. The article discusses a "stakeholder analysis based on a pilot project involving fingerprint-based criminal history background checks for personal care workers in Michigan." The analysis examines the effectiveness of using fingerprint-based background checks to effectively protect elderly vulnerable adults from abuse.

Stakeholders such as elderly and vulnerable adults receiving services, personal care workers (PCWs), owners of provider agencies, and "government employees whose work intersects with background checks and/or the health care workforce" provided feedback through focus groups and a web survey. This diverse group of stakeholders provided different perspectives in the cost-benefit analysis of doing fingerprint-based background checks for PCWs. The article states that although the stakeholders surveyed in general find fingerprint-based background checks as a positive and a "net benefit," they also found contingencies; particularly constraints for government involvement.

PUERTO RICO

Puerto Rico, an NBCP grantee, was recently devastated by Hurricane Maria. Although the island's power and cell phone infrastructure was significantly damaged, CNA has learned that Lourdes Borres Otero, the project manager for the PR NBCP, and her family survived the brutal storms and are safe, but facing great challenges in the days and weeks ahead.

CMS and CNA send warm thoughts and well wishes to her and the rest of the island during this difficult time of recovery.



QUARTERLY REPORTS DUE OCTOBER 30, 2017

Reports for the quarter ending September 29, 2017, are due by close of business on **October 30, 2017**. Please be sure to use the new Cost Report that includes your State's name. The report templates are available on the [NBCP BGCheckInfo](#) website. Requests for extensions should be submitted to your CMS project officer at least **two weeks** before the due date.

Reminder!
Graduating States must submit a final Quarterly Report to complete the closeout process!

NBCP RESOURCES

The newly designed [BGCheckInfo Website](#) provides access to a comprehensive collection of original resource documents written specifically for existing and prospective NBCP States. These documents provide detailed information on a number of background check issues, including information on current standards of practice in the field of background checks. Please contact your CNA State Liaison if you have any questions about the new website or email stateliasion@cna.org.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- NBCP Quarterly Webinar, **Thursday, October 26, 2017, 3 - 4 pm EST**

