



November 2024 | OEI-07-24-00100

National Background Check Program for Long-Term Care Providers: A Final Assessment

Why OIG Did This Review

- As many as 70 percent of seniors may need care in long-term care setting at some point in their lives. In 2023, nearly 16 percent of residents living in long-term care settings reported experiencing abuse.
- In 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (the Act) established a National Background Check Program, which provided Federal financial assistance for States (including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico) to develop or enhance systems for long-term care settings to conduct background checks on prospective employees. The Act mandated OIG to evaluate the program.
- Twenty-nine States participated in the program at various times from 2010 to 2024. The last two States ended participation on May 31, 2024.

What OIG Found

The National Background Check Program was successful in assisting 27 States to develop programs to identify efficient, effective, and economical procedures for conducting background checks on prospective long-term care employees.



The National Background Check Program helped States successfully build systems to disqualify employees with concerning criminal convictions from working in long-term care settings.



States reported two procedures that were appropriate, efficient, and effective for conducting background checks: having an automated system for conducting background checks and having the ability to monitor status changes to a person's background check after the initial background check has been completed.



States rarely reported that conducting background checks resulted in any unintended consequences, such as a reduction in workforce.



The most common challenges that States encountered while in the program were a lack of State legislative authority and difficulty coordinating between State-level departments.



States spent more than \$100 million in combined Federal and State funds to develop or enhance systems to conduct background checks of potential employees of long-term care providers.

What OIG Recommends

OIG issued recommendations during the program that aided the outcomes in this final assessment. OIG does not have further recommendations for [CMS](#).