



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

Ref: S&C: 10-29-ALL

DATE: September 10, 2010

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Advance Notice - Second Opportunity National Background Check Program Funding

Memorandum Summary

- **Advance Notice** - The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is providing advance notice that we will release a second 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 for the previous solicitation.
- **Second Solicitation** - We expect to release the second solicitation early October 2010.

Background

On June 4, 2010, CMS issued a solicitation for Federal matching grants to all States and the U.S. Territories for a multi-year *National Background Check Program for Patient Protection* for direct patient access employees of several long term care facilities and providers. CMS received notices of intent from 27 States and full applications from 17 States that were able to meet the short timeframe for submitting a proposal. The States that were able to meet the immediate August 9, 2010 deadline and meet the minimum application criteria will receive award letters in the next several weeks. A number of States indicated that they were still interested but needed more time to mobilize all responsible parties behind an application, while still others indicated that they had identified issues that might be resolved with additional dialogue.

Second Opportunity for States to Apply

In early October 2010 we plan to issue a second 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.**

We also plan to work individually with those States that are interested but have identified issues that would impact their ability to implement the program, so that together we might resolve those obstacles and road blocks.

Further information about the National Background Check Program will be posted on our website in early October 2010. In the meantime, States may wish to please review the initial 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.

We expect the revised solicitation to be nearly identical to the initial solicitation. The program runs through September 2012 as stated in section 6201 of the Affordable Care Act.

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 safety and quality of care for our nation's long term care population.

/s /

Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management