

## **Background Check Program Pilot Information**

### **Overview**

Section 307 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act (MMA) of 2003 (PL 108-173) established the framework for a program to evaluate national and state background checks on prospective employees with direct access to patients of long-term care facilities or providers. The program's purpose was to identify efficient, effective, and economical procedures for conducting background checks.

The pilot was administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), in consultation with the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI). The pilot program operated from January 2005 through September 2007. CMS contracted with Abt Associates to conduct an independent evaluation of the Background Check Pilot Program, including the lessons learned – the final report is available on the CMS website.

### **Pilot States**

CMS selected seven states to participate in the Background Check Pilot Program. The states represented a mix of rural and urban areas and included ethnically and culturally diverse populations. The pilot states included:

- Alaska
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Michigan
- Nevada
- New Mexico
- Wisconsin

Links to the pilot states' program websites:

[Alaska Department Health & Social Services – Alaska Background Check Program](#)

[Idaho Department of Health & Welfare – Criminal History Background Checks](#)

[Illinois Department of Public Health](#)

[Michigan Department of Community Services – Michigan's Program for Background Checks](#)

[Nevada State Division of Health: Criminal History Background Check](#)

[New Mexico Department of Health – Caregivers Criminal History Screening Program](#)

[Wisconsin Department Health and Family Services – Federal Background Check Pilot](#)