

Report in Brief

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



Why OIG Did This Review

The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act (CCDBG Act) of 2014 added new requirements for States receiving Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) funds to conduct comprehensive criminal background checks on staff members and prospective staff members of childcare providers every 5 years. Background check requirements apply to any staff member who is employed by a childcare provider for compensation or whose activities involve the care or supervision of children or unsupervised access to children.

Our objective was to determine Illinois' progress toward implementing new criminal background check requirements established under the CCDBG Act.

How OIG Did This Review

Our review covered Illinois' implementation of the new criminal background check requirements that were in place as of March 1, 2018. In addition, we examined Illinois' plans to address the new criminal background check requirements that were not implemented by the end of our fieldwork, April 17, 2018. We also identified challenges that Illinois experienced. Our review did not address childcare providers' compliance with the new requirements.

Illinois Implemented Most New Criminal Background Check Requirements for Childcare Providers, but Challenges Remain for Unimplemented Requirements

What OIG Found

Illinois implemented most of the new criminal background check requirements established under the CCDBG Act. However, certain criminal background check requirements for childcare providers remained unimplemented as of March 1, 2018, and significant challenges may delay full implementation until 2019 or 2020. Specifically, these challenges include unavailable finances and staff to process the background checks, data system limitations, and required changes to State laws or policies and procedures. Illinois currently has until September 30, 2018, to implement the new criminal background check requirements. The outstanding challenges may lead Illinois to request an additional 1-year waiver from the Administration for Children and Families to address the challenges and comply with the new requirements.