

Report in Brief

Date: September 2018
Report No. A-07-17-06076

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



Why OIG Did This Review

The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 (CCDBG Act) 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 prior to employment and every 5 years thereafter. States must have requirements, policies, and procedures in place to conduct criminal background checks for staff members of childcare providers (other than relatives) that are licensed, regulated, or registered under State law or receive CCDF funds. 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 Colorado's progress toward implementing new criminal background check requirements established under the CCDBG Act.

How OIG Did This Review

Our review covered Colorado's implementation of the new criminal background check requirements that were in place as of March 1, 2018. In addition, we examined Colorado's plans to address the new criminal background check requirements that were not implemented by the end of our fieldwork, June 20, 2018. We also identified challenges that Colorado experienced. Our review did not address childcare providers' compliance with the new requirements.

Colorado Implemented Many New Criminal Background Check Requirements for Childcare Providers, but Challenges Remain for Unimplemented Requirements

What OIG Found

Colorado implemented many 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, on Colorado's part, unavailable finances and staff to process the background checks, data system limitations, and required changes to State laws or policies and procedures. Colorado currently has until September 30, 2018, to implement the new criminal background check requirements. The outstanding challenges may lead Colorado to request an additional 1-year waiver from the Administration for Children and Families to address the challenges and comply with the new requirements.