

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 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 every 5 years. 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 Georgia's progress toward implementing new criminal background check requirements established under the CCDBG Act.

How OIG Did This Review

Our review covered Georgia's implementation of the new criminal background check requirements that were in place as of March 2, 2018. In addition, we examined Georgia's plans to address the new criminal background check requirements that were not implemented by the end of our fieldwork, May 30, 2018. We also identified challenges that Georgia experienced. Our review did not address childcare providers' compliance with the new requirements.

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

What OIG Found

Georgia 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 2, 2018, and significant challenges may delay full implementation until 2019 or 2020. Specifically, Georgia said that there does not appear to be a solution for resolving the issue of complying with the inter-State criminal background check requirement because other States do not have an incentive to respond to an applicant's request or Georgia's request for background check information.

According to Georgia, another significant challenge is the cost of providing supervision of provisional childcare staff while background check results are pending. Georgia has until September 30, 2018, to implement the childcare providers' criminal background check requirements. The outstanding challenges may mean that Georgia will not fully implement all of the requirements before the deadline, and, therefore, Georgia may request an additional 1-year waiver from the Administration for Children and Families to address the challenges and comply with the new criminal background check requirements.