



Department of Human Services • Division of Family Development

**New Jersey Child Care Assistance Program
What to Know About Background Checks in Child Care**

Dear Parents/Applicants:

Federal regulations (45 C.F.R. § 98.43) require child care staff members to clear a comprehensive set of background checks. This requirement applies to licensed child care center staff as well as family child care and approved home providers and their staff (including certain household members and volunteers). This requirement also applies to staff members in youth camps participating in the New Jersey Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). The purpose of these background check requirements is to protect the health, safety, and well-being of children receiving child care services.

Child care providers that do not comply with the comprehensive background check requirement are not eligible to operate as a provider and therefore, are not eligible to receive assistance payments through CCAP.

The Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Agency in your county is responsible for helping families find child care that meets their family needs and complies with all regulatory requirements, including for background checks.

Please note that under federal and state law, specific information about comprehensive criminal background checks is confidential and may not be released by the CCR&R.

In the event your current provider doesn't meet the comprehensive background check requirements and is no longer eligible to provide care or participate in CCAP, your CCR&R will immediately contact you and help you find alternative child care.

As an important reminder, please make sure you have updated emergency contact information on file with your CCR&R.

For more information on the federal background check requirements for child care and CCAP, please visit www.ChildCareNJ.gov or contact your local CCR&R by calling 1-800-332-9227 or through the contact information provided below.

If you have questions, please contact your Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agency: