



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

ELIZABETH DUDEK
SECRETARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 20, 2016

Contact: AHCA Communications Office
AHCACommunications@ahca.myflorida.com
(850) 412-3623

AHCA Announces Receipt of State IT Recognition Award for Florida Care Provider Clearinghouse

~ Agency Recognized by NASCIO in Government to Business Category ~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Today, the Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) announced that it has received a State IT Recognition Award from the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO). The Agency's Florida Care Provider Screening Clearinghouse (Clearinghouse) was selected in the Government to Business category out of a field of 17 nominees from around the country. The Clearinghouse serves as a host to multiple state agencies that work with vulnerable individuals and streamlines the background screening process by allowing employees and employers to use one screening across multiple agencies.

Secretary Elizabeth Dudek said, "The Clearinghouse has become a vital tool that ensures only the most qualified individuals are serving our vulnerable individuals. I want to thank our dedicated staff in the Background Screening Unit and our sister agencies who have worked for more than three years on this project. It is our job to protect those who cannot protect themselves, and the Clearinghouse helps us accomplish this while also helping government run more efficiently. Thank you to NASCIO for this incredible honor."

In addition to the streamlining of screenings across agencies, the Clearinghouse uses a rap back notification system that alerts participating agencies if a previously qualified individual is arrested after passing their initial screening. Previously, this arrest may not have been discovered for up to five years, the maximum amount of time between required screenings.

To date, the Clearinghouse has processed more than 1.4 million screenings and has saved health care providers and licensees more than \$12.6 million.

Additional agencies participating in the Clearinghouse include: Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Department of Elder Affairs, Department of Children & Families, Department of Health, Department of Education and Department of Juvenile Justice.

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The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. The Agency administers Florida's Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 48,500 health care facilities and 45 health plans, and publishes health care data and statistics at www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov. Additional information about Agency initiatives is available via [Facebook \(AHCAFlorida\)](https://www.facebook.com/AHCAFlorida), [Twitter \(@AHCA_FL\)](https://twitter.com/AHCA_FL) and [YouTube \(/AHCAFlorida\)](https://www.youtube.com/AHCAFlorida).

