

## OEC Update on Background Checks – January 15, 2019



The CT Office of Early Childhood (OEC) has been working to establish a database for background checks, namely the Applicant Background Check Management System (ABCMS), to meet updated federal requirements, align with Connecticut state laws, and meet the needs of facilities regarding background checks for childcare providers. Unfortunately, internal testing recently revealed significant problems with the system.

After much deliberation, the OEC has decided to discontinue use of ABCMS in favor of enhancing an already-existing OEC data system. This option recently became available with the addition of internal OEC IT staff. We expect that this system will be available to the community in Summer, 2019. More information will be provided in the coming months.

The enhanced system will meet providers' need for:

- Direct access at your computer
- Electronic staff rosters with current background check status for each individual
- A decision point to continue or terminate the background check process for a new applicant before paying for fingerprinting and the fingerprint processing fee
- A clear "eligible to provide care" result on every staff person and volunteer

**Thank you for your patience as we move forward on this new and improved path to comprehensive background checks!**