



## FDLE VECHS ELIGIBILITY GUIDE

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Volunteer and Employee Criminal History System (VECHS) program is intended for entities designed for and/or provide services specifically focused on the vulnerable population(s). The qualified entity is able to screen employees and/or volunteers providing services as described in the application's summary of services, as well as individuals who have access within the entity to the vulnerable population. VECHS is authorized under the National Child Protection Act (NCPA), as amended, and is administered under Florida Statute 943.0542.

To be approved as a qualified entity, an applicant:

- Must be an organization, not an individual;
- Must screen current or prospective employees and/or volunteers performing services exclusively to a vulnerable population in Florida;
- Cannot utilize VECHS as a replacement to any legal requirement to perform state and national criminal history record checks on employees or volunteers;
- And must offer a program/programs
  - Providing services such as:
    - Care/Treatment
    - Care placement
    - Education/Training/Instruction
    - Supervision
    - Recreation
  - To one or more of the vulnerable populations:
    - Children
    - The Elderly
    - The Disabled

### **IMPORTANT**

To be approved as a qualified entity, the applying organization, either as a whole or with a specifically defined program, must offer services geared toward members of the vulnerable populations. The VECHS program is not for organizations providing services to the general population. The services must be rendered within Florida, with a Florida operating address.

Contracts, agreements, or requirements by other agencies or entities do not guarantee eligibility or approval for the VECHS program. Entities must qualify for VECHS participation through the criteria above by offering services or specific programs for children, the elderly, or the disabled.



## VECHS ELIGIBILITY GUIDE DEFINITIONS

<b>Qualified Entity</b>	A business or organization, whether public, private, for profit, not-for-profit, or voluntary, that provides care or placement services for children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, including a business or organization that licenses or certifies others to provide care or placement services.
<b>Covered Individual (Employee/Volunteer)</b>	"Covered Individual" is an NCPA definition that refers to the person the qualified entity will screen/conduct the criminal history record check on and is defined as any person who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has, seeks to have, or may have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, served by a qualified entity; AND           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Is employed by or volunteers with, or seeks to be employed by or volunteer with, a qualified entity; OR</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Owns or operates, or seeks to own or operate, a qualified entity</li> </ul>
<b>Care</b>	The provision of one or more of the following to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Care</li> <li>• Treatment</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Instruction</li> <li>• Supervision or</li> <li>• Recreation</li> </ul>
<b>Child</b>	Any person who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is unmarried and less than 18 years of age</li> <li>• Has not been emancipated by order of the court</li> </ul>
<b>Elderly Person</b>	Any person who is over 60 years old
<b>Disabled Person</b>	Any person who has a mental or physical impairment who requires assistance to perform one or more daily living tasks, defined as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An activity required on a frequent basis that permits an individual to secure or maintain independence. Such activities include, but are not limited to, personal home care, transportation, personal assistance services, housekeeping, shopping, attending school, communication, and employment.</li> </ul>



**FDLE**  
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## **AUTHORITY**

### **NCPA of 1993**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/103rd-congress/house-bill/1237/text>

### **Amended by Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/103rd-congress/house-bill/3355/text>

### **Volunteers for Children Act**

<https://www.congress.gov/105/plaws/publ251/PLAW-105publ251.pdf>

### **Child Protection Improvements Act**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1625/text>

### **Florida Law**

[http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&Search\\_String=&URL=0900-0999/0943/Sections/0943.0542.html](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0900-0999/0943/Sections/0943.0542.html)

### **FDLE Rule**

<https://www.flrules.org/gateway/RuleNo.asp?title=CRIMINALHISTORYRECORDSDISSEMINATIONPOLICY&ID=11C-6.004>