After careful consideration and review, WSU Extension is revising the Volunteer Background Check Policy. We thank you for your continued patience as we work together to ensure we have an effective policy. There are two essential changes.

1. WSU Extension has approved alternative platforms for background screens to meet the WSU Extension requirements.
2. Additionally, effective May 5, 2021, rescreening of volunteer background checks will be required every three years.

The following options are now available for volunteer background checks:

1. **Sterling Volunteers**: This is the preferred method and is the only option available to 4-H volunteers who want the 4-H Program to pay for the background check.

   For all other volunteer programs, including Master Gardeners:
   a. **Program Paid Background Screens**: Sterling Volunteers is the only option available for volunteers who want the respective program to pay for the background check. (program paid screening is not available in all counties).
   b. **Foundation Paid Background Screens**: Individual Foundations will need to determine any limits on amount paid and may use the alternative methods described below if they choose.
      a. WSU will continue to bill Foundations for background screens completed through Sterling Volunteers.
      b. WSU cannot bill Foundations for alternative background check methods.

2. WSU Extension will accept a Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) fingerprint background check. The FBI labels this as an Identity History Summary Check. Options for accessing a FBI Identity History Summary Check can be found at https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks. An Identity History Summary Check will only be accepted with the following provisions:
   a. The volunteer is responsible for paying for the fingerprint check.
   b. The FBI fingerprint check must be a full criminal background check (Identity History Summary Check).
   c. The report produced by the FBI Identity History Summary Check must be delivered directly to: Jana Ferris, WSU Extension Volunteer Specialist, PO Box 370, Marysville, WA 98270 or ferrisj@wsu.edu

3. A volunteer may use an alternative background screening platform if they are able to have the screening report submitted directly to the Volunteer Specialist or WSU Extension personnel. As of May 5, 2021, IntelliCorp has been approved as an alternate vendor. Prior to using an alternative platform, including IntelliCorp, please contact the Extension Volunteer Specialist for specific requirements.