

# FDA Announces Cooperative Agreement to support Grade “A” Milk and Molluscan Shellfish Regulatory Programs

## Constituent Update

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October 30, 2019

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is pleased to announce the selection of the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) to manage a funding system to train and purchase equipment for state, tribal, and territorial agencies that regulate Grade “A” milk and/or molluscan shellfish (hereafter referred to as milk and shellfish). FDA and AFDO have entered into a five-year cooperative agreement through which FDA will provide \$2.8 million in the first year and \$3.0 million in the remaining four years to AFDO. FDA had also selected AFDO to manage this system in its previous competitive selection process.

AFDO has designed a simple and straightforward application process with streamlined reporting requirements for training and equipment purchases in support of state, tribal, and territorial agencies’ Grade “A” Milk and Molluscan Shellfish Regulatory Programs. AFDO has led this effort in collaboration with FDA, the National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments (NCIMS), and the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference (ISSC).

State, tribal, and territorial agencies will be able to apply for funds for their regulators to travel to training courses, workshops, and seminars that advance the goals of federal food safety programs for milk and shellfish. The agencies will also be able to request funding for equipment purchases to improve their regulation of milk and/or shellfish, increase efficiency, and/or improve effectiveness.

In response to AFDO receiving the award, Laurie Farmer, director of the Office of State Cooperative Programs in the FDA Office of Regulatory Affairs, wrote, “This important partnership with AFDO, NCIMS and ISSC is capacity-building support for regulatory authorities of Grade “A” Milk and Molluscan Shellfish Regulatory Programs that contribute to advancing our national food safety goal to reduce foodborne illness.”

Steven Mandernach, AFDO Executive Director, also wrote, “The Association of Food and Drug Officials is excited to continue the partnership with the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference (ISSC) and National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments (NCIMS) to provide a simplified application process to support funding for state milk and

shellfish programs. Funding from this simplified process will support milk and shellfish regulatory and laboratory programs which are critical components to an integrated food safety system.”

AFDO is a non-profit organization that connects food and medical-products safety stakeholders and impacts the regulatory environment by shaping sound, science-based rules, law, regulations, and sharing best practices that protect public health. To learn more about AFDO, please visit [www.afdo.org](http://www.afdo.org).

NCIMS is a non-profit organization made up of persons involved in the dairy industry, from the dairy farmer, to processing plant personnel, to those persons involved in inspecting the dairy farmer’s operation and/or the processing plant, to those persons who make the laws concerning the inspections, to those who enforce the laws, to the academic researcher and adviser, and to the consumer of the dairy products. To learn more about NCIMS, please visit [www.ncims.org](http://www.ncims.org).

ISSC is a non-profit organization dedicated to assuring shellfish is a safe food. The Conference works to foster and improve the sanitation of shellfish in this country, and to promote mutual respect and trust among shellfish regulatory agencies, the shellfish industry, and consumers of shellfish. To learn more about ISSC, please visit [www.issc.org](http://www.issc.org).