

FDA-State Produce Safety Implementation Cooperative Agreement Program (PAR-21-174)

Program Description

- The FDA's Cooperative Agreement Program for States and Territories to Implement a National Produce Safety Program ([PAR-21-174](#)); to be referred to as FDA-State Produce Safety Implementation CAP.
- The Produce Safety rule established, for the first time, science-based minimum standards for the safe growing, harvesting, packing, and holding of fruits and vegetables grown for human consumption. The rule is part of the agency's ongoing efforts to implement the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The final rule went into effect January 26, 2016. The Produce Safety Rule, along with other FSMA-mandated rules to regulate food production, importation, and transportation, will better protect consumers from foodborne illness.
- FDA has continued its funding of state produce safety programs for a second 5-year period. The first 5-year period that began in 2016 with state and territorial agencies to develop produce programs.
- The overall purpose of this funding is to advance efforts for a national integrated food safety system (IFSS) by supporting state and territory Produce Safety Programs to enhance produce safety and achieve high rates of compliance with the FDA's Produce Safety Rule.
- Eligible applicants for this cooperative agreement include state/territory government agencies with actual or potential regulatory oversight and responsibility over their respective jurisdiction's commodities regulated in FDA's Produce Safety Rule.
- Program Path (A, B, or C) selected by the grantee primarily distinguishes how they choose to accomplish a Produce Safety regulatory program and participate in this program.
 - PATH A: Jurisdictions that will not conduct produce safety inspections (non-regulatory programs) but will complete other applicable program objectives.
 - PATH B: Jurisdictions that will conduct produce safety inspections under FDA's authority and will complete other applicable program objectives.
 - PATH C: Jurisdictions that will conduct produce safety inspections under their own authority and will complete other applicable program objectives.
- Funding amounts are based on band assignments for each Program Path. Band assignments are based on the anticipated workload for each grantee. A description of the band assignments can be found in the [PAR- 21-174 Funding Opportunity Announcement \(FOA\)](#).

Program Objectives

The program objectives outlined below are detailed in the [PAR-21-174 Funding Opportunity Announcement \(FOA\)](#):

- **Objective 1. Assessment and Planning** - Develop and maintain Project Plan and Assessment documents that will guide the development of the grantee's produce program.

- **Objective 2. Program Administration** - Establish the foundational resources, including, but not limited to, personnel, supplies, training, authority, and agreements, needed to fulfill the grantee’s project plan.
- **Objective 3. Education, Outreach, and Technical Assistance** - Provide opportunities for education, outreach, and technical assistance on the Produce Safety Rule and the jurisdiction’s produce regulatory program to produce farms, prioritizing covered farms.
- **Objective 4. Farm Inventory** - Establish a complete and accurate inventory of produce farms, which can be used to implement corresponding objectives of this CAP.
- **Objective 5. Inspection Program** - In effort to support an IFSS, inspection regulatory programs should be focused on quality and national consistency. This objective is applicable to grantee agencies that will conduct produce safety rule inspections funded by this CAP.
- **Objective 6. Compliance and Enforcement Program** - Establish compliance and enforcement programs tailored to their chosen program path. In any event, it is recommended that all programs coordinate with local/state/federal agencies to utilize the compliance and enforcement action(s) that will result in greatest protection of public health. In effort to support an IFSS, compliance and enforcement regulatory programs should be focused on quality and national consistency.
- **Objective 7. Produce Related Event Response Planning and Implementation** - **As of 10/28/2021, Objective 7 work under this CAP is on pause until further notice.** Each jurisdiction should have the capability to systematically detect, investigate, mitigate, document, and analyze produce related incidents to stop, control and prevent hazards that are likely to result in a produce related illness, injury or outbreak. Grantee’s may document a plan and request additional funding to develop a capability/capabilities that does not exist within the jurisdiction.

Program Information

- 2023-2024 available program funds: \$2.57M
- Current number of grantees in program: 47

Grantee Agency	Program Path
Alaska State Department of Environmental Conservation	B
Alabama State Department of Agriculture and Industries	C
Arkansas Department of Agriculture	C
Arizona State Department of Agriculture	C
California State Department of Food and Agriculture	B
Colorado State Department of Agriculture	C
Connecticut Department of Agriculture	C
Delaware Department of Agriculture	B
Florida State Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	B
Georgia State Department of Agriculture	C
Hawaii Department of Agriculture	A
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	A
Idaho State Department of Agriculture	C
Indiana State Department of Health	C



Grantee Agency	Program Path
Kansas State Department Agriculture	B
Kentucky State Department Agriculture	C
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry	C
Massachusetts Department of Agriculture	C
Maryland Department of Agriculture	C
Maine Department of Agriculture Conservation and Forestry	B
Michigan State Department of Agriculture	C
Minnesota State Department of Agriculture	C
Missouri State Department Agriculture	B
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce	C
Montana State Department of Agriculture	C
North Carolina State Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	C
North Dakota Department of Agriculture	A
Nebraska Department of Agriculture	B
New Hampshire Department of Agriculture and Markets	C
New Jersey State Department of Agriculture	B
Regents of New Mexico State University	B
Nevada State Department of Agriculture	C
New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets	C
Ohio State Department of Agriculture	C
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry	C
Oregon State Department of Agriculture	A
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	B
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management	C
South Carolina State Department of Agriculture	C
Tennessee State Department of Agriculture	B
Texas State Department of Agriculture	C
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food	C
Virginia State Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	C
Vermont State Agency Agriculture Food and Markets	C
Washington State Department of Agriculture	C
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection	B
West Virginia State Department of Agriculture	B