

# Alliance to Support Integrated Food Safety System (IFSS) Activities Cooperative Agreement Program

## Program Description

- Assist FDA in meeting provisions of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).
- Support the efforts of federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial government agencies to build a National Integrated Food Safety System (IFSS).
- Establish systems for sharing, promotion, and collaboration of best practices, guidance documents, sampling plans, procedures, memorandums of understanding, and other tools to foster mutual reliance between federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial manufactured food regulatory programs and public health agencies.
- Assist FDA in the identification, development, delivery, promotion, and/or attendance of food safety and defense training programs to support conformance with the Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards (MFRPS), training and stakeholder support provisions of FSMA.
- Support the advancement of the MFRPS and the Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Alliance (Alliance).

## Intended Outcomes

- Build an online program portal to serve as a learning exchange, subject matter expert registry, topical index of regulatory guidance, regulatory updates, and other information that impacts state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) manufactured food regulatory programs.
- Build a user community and support data management and exchange between FDA and SLTT regulatory agencies to promote conformance with human and animal food regulatory program standards.
- Provide forums to elicit, discuss and address concerns identified by SLTT manufactured food regulatory programs relative to the MFRPS, food safety inspection contract, training, FSMA, and other activities impacting Federal-State relations.
- Update and continuous improvement of a web-based directory of SLTT food protection officials for use by federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial regulatory agencies. Continuous improvement activities include expanding the directory to include new agencies and individual roles. The directory should be maintained in an electronic format that is publicly available. A system for maintaining the accuracy of the data should be developed and maintained. At minimum, semi-annual verification of data and updates is anticipated.
- Provide administrative support to the Alliance and other initiatives that advance an integrated public health system.
- Provide administrative support to other meetings the grantee identifies, such as the Partnership for Food Protection (PFP) and Food Protection Task Force Alliance, that will support the advancement of an IFSS, including scheduling, meeting facilities, invitations, registration, materials, AV needs, and on-site support during the meeting. The grantee will work to ensure the meeting facilities and arrangements are adequate to support the agenda developed in conjunction with FDA. Feedback should be elicited from attendees through onsite evaluation forms, online surveys, or a combination to identify strengths and opportunities for improvement in future meetings.

- Support the training needs for SLTT regulatory program's conformance with regulatory standards and best practices in human and animal food.
- In support of FSMA, work with FDA to establish, participate, and promote operational partnerships that assist in building an IFSS. Operational partnerships may include other national associations, alliances (such as Version November 2023 as the Seafood HACCP Alliance and Preventative Controls Alliance), PFP, and Food Protection Task Forces.
- Provide financial support for SLTT manufactured food regulatory programs to develop, host, or attend training courses, meetings, conferences, and other events that support building an IFSS. Examples include the annual Alliance meeting, RRT meeting, Seafood HACCP Alliance, and training courses that support conformance with the MFRPS. An application and approval process for subawarding of funds must be performed in collaboration with and approved by FDA.
- Provide support and outreach to colleges and universities to promote career paths and experiential learning in regulatory affairs and sciences.
- Provide support for advanced training or fellowship programs to promote experiential learning, applied research and mentorship in manufactured food regulation.
- Establish a system for continuous improvement of all activities being performed under this cooperative agreement. The grantee will actively request feedback from SLTT manufactured food programs on activities being performed under this cooperative agreement. The feedback solicited will then be used to identify future activities.

## Program Metrics

- Current program funding: \$2.7M
- Current number of awards: 1
- Current Awardee: Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO)