

PRESS RELEASE

FDA and AFDO Partner to Award Grants to State, Local, Territorial, and Tribal Regulatory Retail Food Programs

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) are pleased to announce the availability of funds for completion of projects and training to enhance conformance with the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards (VNRFRPS or Retail Standards). Funds are available for State, local, territorial, and tribal regulatory retail food programs who have enrolled in the Retail Standards. Applicants to this program can expect a simple application process, up-front funding when required by the project, and simple reporting requirements.

Funds are available for completing projects that meet Retail Standard goals and objectives in three categories:

- Category 1: Small Projects (up to \$3,000) - Examples: Completion of Self-Assessments, Verification Audits, Small Projects that Advance Conformance with a Standard Not Previously Met
- Category 2: Moderate Projects (\$10,000 to \$20,000) - Examples: Completion of Foodborne Illness Risk Factor Studies, Implementation of Comprehensive Intervention Strategies to Reduce Risk Factors, Moderate Projects that Advance Conformance with a Standard Not Previously Met
- Category 3: Training (up to \$2,000) - Examples: Travel to training courses, workshops, and seminars that advance the goals of the Retail Standards

Jurisdictions can apply for funding for one project in each of the three categories for a maximum of three applications per jurisdiction. The amount of \$450,000 in funding is available for 2014, and we expect to make approximately 140 or more awards annually through this program. Jurisdictions must be enrolled in the Retail Standards in order to apply.

How to Apply for Funding

We are working on a simple on-line application process. To stay informed of the latest developments on this funding opportunity and to find more information about it, or to enroll in the Retail Standards, visit the Retail Food Safety Grants website at: <http://afdo.org/retailstandards>. We anticipate that the website will be open for applications beginning in February 2014.

For Additional Information: Email: retailstandards@afdo.org Phone: (850) 583-4593

About AFDO

AFDO, which was established in 1896, successfully fosters uniformity in the adoption and enforcement of science-based laws, rules, and regulations regarding food, drugs, medical devices, cosmetics and product safety by either drafting regulatory rules or commenting on government proposals. By developing a broad base of support for new approaches, AFDO has become a recognized voice in determining the rules and helping to shape the regulatory playing field of the future. The consensus that AFDO helps develop is key to advancing uniform laws, regulations, and guidelines that result in more efficient regulations and less confusion among industries in the marketplace. AFDO develops support for its positions by interfacing with high-level regulatory officials, industry representatives, trade associations, and consumer organizations. This effort continues to have a significant impact on regulations at the Federal, State and local levels. For more information, visit www.afdo.org. Inquiries about AFDO can be directed to AFDO Executive Director Joseph Corby.

#