

PRESS RELEASE

FDA and AFDO Partner to Award 2017 Retail Program Standards 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 proud to announce Calendar Year 2017 (Year 4) of the AFDO-administered Retail Program Standards Grant Program. Opening on Wednesday, November 2, 2016, and accepting applications through Thursday, December 1, 2016, the program provides funds for the completion of projects and training to enhance conformance with the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards (Retail Program Standards). Grant funding is open to state, local, territorial, and tribal regulatory retail food programs that have enrolled in the [Retail Program Standards](#).

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

- **Small Projects** up to \$3,000, for jurisdictions to complete: a self-assessment of all nine Standards, small projects related to meeting one or more Standards, a verification audit or audits, or custom projects that increase a jurisdiction's conformance with the standards;
- **Moderate Projects**, \$10,000-\$20,000, for more ambitious projects that further conformance with the Retail Program Standards (computer software systems, risk factor studies, development of a written compliance program, training events, etc.);
- **Training** up to \$3,000, for jurisdiction staff to meet the requirements of Standard 2 (Step 1 & 3 Curriculum or CEU maintenance) or to attend FDA Regional Seminars to maintain FDA Standardization; and
- **Food Protection Task Force Support Projects** up to \$3,000 per award. The goal of this new category is to advance conformance with the Retail Program Standards by supporting attendance at Food Protection Task Force activities (or similar Food Advisory Board/Council activities, whether Task Force/Board/Council is supported by an FDA grant or not).

All eligible jurisdictions are encouraged to apply and can receive funding, regardless of whether they were awarded funds in previous years of this program. Jurisdictions may apply for funding for one project in each of the four categories. Approximately \$2 Million in funding is available for this granting year.

How to Apply for Funding

To stay informed of the latest developments on this funding opportunity or to enroll in the Retail Program Standards, visit the AFDO Retail Food Safety Grants website at: <http://afdo.org/retailstandards>. The Web site will have the most up-to-date information about this grant program, and will be open for 2017 funding applications on November 2, 2016. For additional information, please direct an email to the Retail Program Standards Grants Management Team at retailstandards@afdo.org, or call (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.