

FDA Announces a New Cooperative Agreement Program for Building an Integrated Information Technology Infrastructure for State Regulatory Programs

Constituent Update

September 14, 2022

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is pleased to announce the award of *Building an Integrated Information Technology Infrastructure for State Regulatory Programs* cooperative agreement, RFA-FD-22-021, to the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO). AFDO will receive up to \$18 million over three years to support the development, implementation, and maintenance of a regulatory data management system that will be utilized by our state, local, tribal, and territorial partners (SLTT partners) responsible for the safety of human and animal foods.

This cooperative agreement will allow the FDA and our regulatory partners to work together in new ways by leveraging technology to share one another's work, data, and actions. Robust and interconnected regulatory data management systems will advance our partnerships to ensure the optimal use of resources and maximize our food safety reach.

FDA's Assistant Commissioner for Partnerships and Policy, Erik Mettler, commented, "The FDA is committed to advancing efforts to build a more robust, data-driven, technology-enabled, and modernized food safety oversight system. Effectively sharing data with our regulatory partners is paramount in this effort to ensure a safe food supply across the country."

As the FDA continues to help build capacity and capabilities for our SLTT partners, the system will strengthen collaborations across the human and animal food regulatory community to prepare, detect, respond, and prevent future foodborne illness outbreaks and other public health emergencies efficiently and effectively. Developing this integrated IT infrastructure together with our SLTT partners will accelerate us closer in achieving the vision of an integrated food safety system.

"AFDO has been a leading advocate for an integrated food safety system for a quarter century, a multi-state and jurisdiction helps to realize this vision by promoting uniform approaches and best practices while efficiently using the limited resources across many jurisdictions," said Steven Mandernach, AFDO Executive Director. "Further we see this system enhancing the ability to share data across jurisdictions and more effectively accomplish our public health and safety missions. Putting data needs and transparency front and center while bringing together the efforts of all stakeholders for the benefit of improved access, quality, and timeliness is key to making the Era of Smarter Food Safety Blueprint a reality."

"This initiative exemplifies how state and federal agencies can come together and leverage their expertise and resources to develop a visionary tool that will increase response times, anticipate and prevent potential outbreaks, standardize regulatory efforts, and create efficiencies for our licensees and registrants," says Hollis Glenn, Deputy Commissioner of Operations for the Colorado Department of Agriculture. "With this new data management

system, food safety programs across the county will have access to cutting-edge technology a state or local agency could not typically afford on their own.”

For additional information, please email the Office of Partnerships in FDA’s Office of Regulatory Affairs at OP.Feedback@fda.hhs.gov.