

programs nationwide. Examples of food safety projects are the retail food program; the egg, milk, and shellfish safety programs; and, State food safety laboratories. Applications that address one of the food safety projects and fulfill the following specific project objectives will be considered for funding.

Each application must address only one project. Applicants may apply for more than one project area, but must submit a separate application for each project. These grants are not to be used to fund or conduct food inspections for food safety regulatory agencies. For example, applications relating to the Retail Food Program area should be applicable to program improvement processes for FDA's Draft "Recommended National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards" (<http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/ret-toc.html>) (see review criteria).

There are three key project areas identified for this effort:

1. Inspection

One key project area is the development of innovative regulatory inspection methods or techniques for the inspection process of various food establishments in order to improve effectiveness and efficiency. Innovative Regulatory Program Methodology projects must demonstrate an effect on factors that contribute to foodborne illness in all, or a segment of, food industry programs. For example, projects could address key elements from the draft entitled "Recommended National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards," such as the 5 Food Code Interventions (management knowledge; employee health; hands as a vehicle of contamination; time/temperature relationships; and consumer advisory), or the 5 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Risk factors (improper holding temperature; inadequate cooking; contaminated equipment; unsafe source; and poor personal hygiene). Other examples of projects in this area could include prevention and control of *Listeria monocytogenes* in retail and foodservice environments and projects that address shell egg safety, such as refrigeration, safe handling, or labeling. The goal of these projects should be to achieve efficient and effective compliance with regulations that affect factors that contribute to foodborne illness.

2. Education and Health Information Dissemination

Another key project area is the development of innovative education projects and materials for State and local food safety regulatory officials that foster consistency and uniform

application of State and local food regulations. These education projects and/or materials must be reproducible by other State and local food safety regulatory agencies. These projects may incorporate concurrent education of both State and local food safety regulatory agencies and the food industry.

3. State Laboratories

FDA recognizes that there are a number of new technologies and test methods that may be applicable to chemical and/or microbiological food analyses. FDA's regulation of a wide range of food commodities requires the validation of new test methods in a variety of food matrices. State/local food testing laboratory validation of test methods will provide the Federal, State, and local food safety agencies with invaluable information with respect to the methods' feasibility and applicability. State laboratories should identify areas in food testing (chemical and/or biological) that would enhance their program activities and provide alternative analytical capabilities for Federal and local food safety officials. Requirements For State Laboratories Projects:

The applicant must include the following in the grant application:

1. The applicant must identify rapid test method/technique proposed for validation study. Please note that this is NOT research; it is a single lab validation of food test methods/techniques with already existing data that warrants further investigation. Selection of test method technology must fall under the following categories:

- AOAC official method with foods and food commodities that have not been previously validated;
- Non-AOAC official method, i.e., State lab method;
- New technology or method with single lab validation for a particular food and analyte (validation data must be submitted).

2. The applicant must include at least 4 food matrices for each validation study. Food matrices selected should benefit State program activities in addition to providing Federal and local agencies with alternative analytical capabilities.

3. The applicant must identify the microbiological or chemical test method protocol, including laboratory equipment and personnel needed for each validation study. Copies of the complete methods for the validation study must be included.

4. The applicant must cite and incorporate into a protocol the single-laboratory method validation guidelines

(i.e., AOAC) for both chemical and microbiological validations studies.

5. The applicant must also provide a scientific review of the literature pertaining to the rapid test.

6. The applicant must agree to provide a written report on the laboratory findings, including all the above materials and appropriate documentation which will be reviewed by the FDA Division of Field Science (DFS) before being recommended to other State/local food safety agencies.

B. Applicability

All grant application projects that are developed at State, local, and tribal levels MUST have national implication or application that can enhance Federal, State, and local food regulatory programs and are likely to reduce factors that cause foodborne illness. At the discretion of FDA, successful project formats will be made available to interested Federal, State, local, and tribal food safety regulatory agencies. No grant will be awarded for projects that do not support the FDA Food Code.

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III. Reporting Requirements

Semiannual progress reports as well as a final program progress report and a final financial status report (FSR) (SF-269) are required. The grantee must submit an original FSR and two copies to FDA's Grants Management Officer within 90 days of the expiration date of the grant. The final program progress report must provide full written documentation of the project, copies of any results, as described in the grant application, and an analysis and evaluation of the results of the project. The documentation must be in a form and contain sufficient detail such that other State and local food safety regulatory agencies could reproduce the final project.

Program monitoring of recipients will be conducted on an ongoing basis and written reports will be reviewed and evaluated at least semiannually by the project officer. Project monitoring may also be in the form of telephone conversations between the project officer/grants management specialist and the principal investigator and/or a