

Item 1.9.1 – NACCHO-CFP Retail Food Safety Collaborative Grant Project Update

Objective 1: Develop and implement toolkits and subsequent strategies to promote full, complete adoption of one of the two most recent FDA Food Codes by SLTT retail food regulatory programs.

As part of the Retail Food Safety Regulatory Association Collaborative, the Food Code Adoption Workgroup provided a survey to various state, local and tribal agencies regarding benefits and challenges of Food Code Adoption. A summary of the survey results as well as additional material such as FDA links associated with the Food Code, published research papers, testimonials, letters of support and policy statements from various organizations and companies and reference materials will be in the Tool Kit. This information will be placed on the Collaborative website and updated as needed.

Objective 2A: Assess application of risk-based inspection methods by SLTT retail food regulatory programs, identify barriers to implementation, and coordinate with FDA to execute strategies to overcome the barriers.

CFP and NACCHO staff utilized the FDA listing of enrolled jurisdictions found on FDA's website to identify local jurisdictions that fully met or partially met standards 3, 4 and 6. Jurisdictions were selected based on conformance with standards 3, 4 and 6, size of the jurisdiction and geographic area of the jurisdiction. 28 local jurisdictions were selected as possible key informant interviews. CFP and NACCHO staff sent invitation letters to 9 jurisdictions. As jurisdictions declined participation, alternates were selected based on jurisdiction size, full or partially meeting standards 3, 4 and 6 and geographic area for consistency of the study. Jurisdictions were asked to complete an online survey and submit their written policies/procedures for standards 3, 4 and 6. CFP has conducted key informant interviews with Weld County Colorado, Scott County Iowa, Oklahoma City-County Health Department and is in the process of working with Jackson County, Missouri. The key informant interviews take about an hour and a half and dig further into the "how" of conducting risk-based inspections. Once CFP and NACCHO staff have completed all 9 key informant interviews a summary report will be developed to identify themes, successful processes in applying risk-based inspection methods and barriers that are preventing local jurisdictions from implementing risk-based inspection methods. The report findings and recommendations will be shared with the Food Safety Advisory Group, FDA, and Collaborative members.

Food Safety Advisory Group:

CFP and NACCHO advertised for recruitment of individuals to form the FSAG. 38 individuals completed the application, and 15 individuals were selected. The FSAG comprises the following members: Industry - 3 industry food representatives, 1 food safety consultant and 1 industry association member. Regulatory - 5 members from local public health departments, 4 members from state health departments and 1 academic member. The first meeting of the FSAG was held on 12/14/20. The second meeting was held 2/10/21. CFP and NACCHO staff have requested input from the FSAG on deliverables for objectives 2 and 3. At the February meeting the FSAG split into 5 subgroups: identifying additional existing retail program standards

networks, feedback on retail program standards funding and mapping goals, food code adoption toolkit review and feedback, emerging trends, identifying/vetting resources for the Collaborative website. Members self-selected what subgroup to join. A March meeting will be held to have a presentation from FDA on the Collaborative and how the FSAG fits into the larger Collaborative project.

Objective 2B: Identify, assess, and promote implementation of effective intervention strategies.

CFP staff developed a research strategy to identify jurisdictions that have completed standard 9: risk factor study and identify effective intervention strategies. The research strategy included: fair representation of jurisdictional sizes (small, medium, and large), fair representation of geographic area, local jurisdictions with 2 or more self-assessments and verification audits as published on FDA's website of enrolled jurisdictions and Crumrine Award winners. 32 jurisdictions had met Standard 9, however only 13 jurisdictions actually met the research strategy criteria. CFP staff were able to collect 11 of the 13 risk factor studies from the jurisdictions meeting the research study criteria. CFP staff have reviewed all the risk factor studies and have sent the review notes and a suggested ranking of the jurisdictions to NACCHO. CFP staff and NACCHO are working together on a guide and script for key informant interviews of up to 9 jurisdictions. 1 common theme identified during the review process is many jurisdictions do not identify how effective intervention strategies are measured. Many jurisdictions list education as an intervention strategy with no mechanism to measure the effectiveness.

Objective 3: Increase enrollment and active participation in and application of the Voluntary National Retail Food Program Standards by state, local, tribal, and territorial food regulatory programs.

Work on Objective 3 has just begun. CFP staff have worked with NACCHO to identify retail food program standards networks. We have reached out to AFDO and the FDA retail food specialists as well as the FSAG for help in network identification. Several networks have been identified, some of which are actually a network within an FDA region. NACCHO staff have data on retail food program standards funding and enrollment. The data sources are from NACCHO, AFDO, FDA and NEHA. CFP staff are working with NACCHO and the FSAG on mapping the funding data, identifying data layers (jurisdiction size, jurisdictional governance - state vs local, conformance, etc.). Next steps on this objective include identifying areas with less reach and fewer enrolled jurisdictions, governance trends, and successful/unsuccessful patterns of funding.

Communications Workgroup

Things the Collaborative's Communications Work Group have worked on since August 2020.

- Created a logo, website, and PowerPoint template for the Collaborative.
- Created a live streaming event on May 24, 2021 to formally announce the creation of the Collaborative and showcase its various projects.
- Develop marketing materials to promote the Collaborative.

- Develop a template that can be used to submit abstracts for professional meetings. Abstracts have been submitted for upcoming AFDO, IAFFP and NEHA educational conferences.
- Create a plan for reviewing and approving Collaborative messaging.
- Developing a Communications Plan for the Collaborative