



CONFERENCE FOR FOOD PROTECTION, INC.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

March 26-27, 2024

NACCHO-CFP Retail Collaborative Grant Project Accomplishments Summary

Year 2 of Grant Cycle 2

Mid-Year Progress Report (August 1, 2023 – January 31, 2024)

In Year 2 of cycle 2 of the Retail Collaborative grant, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), with a subaward to the Conference for Food Protection (CFP), were funded by the FDA for a research project on the primary objectives of the Retail Food Safety Regulatory Association Collaborative (Collaborative). This report outlines the NACCHO-CFP research strategy with specific activities and action items, including a summary of accomplishments as of January 31, 2024.

Primary Objectives	
Objective 1	Develop a national Food Code adoption strategy (includes integrating FC Adoption Tool Kit into the strategy)
Objective 2	Improve the regulatory approach, competency, and food safety culture in the regulatory community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase retail food regulatory programs applications of risk-based inspection methods • Increase retail food regulatory programs implementation of intervention strategies
Objective 3	Increase enrollment and active participation and application of the Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards
Objective 4	To improve outbreak investigations, develop and implement training, outreach, educational materials and opportunities, and other innovative approaches to assist SLTT regulatory jurisdictions with reducing the occurrence of foodborne illness risk factors in food establishments and responding more effectively to foodborne illness outbreaks
Objective 5	Increase number of establishments that have well developed and implemented Food Safety Management Systems (FSMSs) (Includes well developed employee health program)
Objective 6	Develop a strategy to enhance communication and better tell our story

NACCHO-CFP Research Strategy Activities & Action Items	
<p>Activity 1 NACCHO & CFP</p>	<p>Objective 1: Research, develop, and implement a national strategy for promoting full, complete adoption of the most recent FDA Food Code to state legislatures and state/local boards of health, working in collaboration with associations that have ties to these entities.</p> <p><u>Action Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFP will convene and facilitate monthly meetings of the Food Code Adoption Toolkit Workgroup. This includes leading meetings of the workgroup, assisting in the formation of goals and objectives for the year, being an active participant in activities undertaken by the workgroup, and posting information on FoodSHIELD. • NACCHO will attend meetings with NEHA and CFP to plan Food Code Adoption Toolkit Workgroup agendas. • NACCHO and CFP will participate in meetings of the Food Code Adoption Strategy workgroup and subgroups. This includes assisting in the formation of goals and objectives for the year and being an active participant in activities undertaken by the workgroup.
<p>Activity 2 NACCHO</p>	<p>Objective 2B: Research, identify, assess, and promote implementation of effective intervention strategies to reduce the occurrence of foodborne illness risk factors in retail and foodservice establishments.</p> <p><u>Action Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A summary including recommendations for amplifying the training program to SLTT retail food regulatory programs. • A summary report including recommendations for improving the risk factor study training course and template using instructional design theory.
<p>Activity 3 CFP</p>	<p>Objective 2C: Maintain facilitation of and participation in the Retail Food Safety Advisory Group (RFSAG) and continue efforts to provide stakeholder input into Collaborative projects.</p> <p><u>Action Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFP will convene virtual meetings of the RFSAG, with agenda, meeting notes, and action items. • CFP will convene and facilitate virtual RFSAG co-chair meetings.
<p>Activity 4 NACCHO</p>	<p>Objective 2D: Ensure that LHDs are confident using the tools made available to them by FDA to evaluate their Retail Food Safety programs. <u>Action Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specific action items.
<p>Activity 5 NACCHO & CFP</p>	<p>Objective 3A: Establish at least one SLTT Program Standards Network to help jurisdictions improve conformance with the standards and increase enrollment. With CFP, we plan to launch a second formal network in MO.</p> <p><u>Action Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalized Networks in Illinois and Missouri. • Host/facilitate meetings of the Networks. • Develop evaluation materials to monitor Network participants' success.
<p>Activity 6 NACCHO & CFP</p>	<p>Objective 3B: Evaluate the success of Program Standards Networks in improving conformance with the standards and increasing enrollment in the standards.</p> <p><u>Action Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A data analysis plan to evaluate effectiveness of Networks. • Improvement in conformance will be evaluated at the jurisdictional level using a longitudinal approach with the inflection point being joining the Network. • Effect on enrollment will be evaluated using the establishment of the Network as an intervention point.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provision of up to twenty (20) stipends or other financial compensation to offset the cost of Network members' participation in evaluation tasks (e.g., completing the SA/VA gap analysis tool).</i> • <i>Summary of initial and progress benchmarks (e.g., assessments) of progress in conformance with the VNRFRPS after joining a Program Standards Network.</i>
<p>Activity 7 NACCHO</p>	<p>Objective 3C: Highlight stories of success at LHDs who have successfully progressed through the Retail Program Standards and have maintained momentum with the standards throughout changes in program, staff, and leadership.</p> <p><u>Action Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>No specific action items.</i>
<p>Activity 8 NACCHO & CFP</p>	<p>Objective 4A/5A: Supporting the efforts of other Collaborative associations to reduce the occurrence of foodborne illness outbreaks and to promote active managerial control as a means of preventing outbreaks; research, develop, and promote strategies to improve industry Active Managerial Control at the retail level.</p> <p><u>Action Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Support the Collaborative and its workgroups.</i> • <i>The CFP research team will work with the CFP Program Standards Committee to complete its current charges related to Standard 5 that require collaboration with the Retail Food Safety Regulatory Association Collaborative in advance of the 2025 CFP Biennial Meeting.</i>
<p>Activity 9 CFP</p>	<p>Objective 5B: Advance the importance of facility and equipment design as preventative controls for retail food safety management in collaboration with retail industry trade organizations and/or national standards setting/accreditation bodies.</p> <p><u>Action Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The CFP research team will work with the CFP Food Safety System Committee (FSMS) to complete its current charges that require collaboration with the Retail Food Safety Regulatory Association Collaborative in advance of the 2025 CFP Biennial Meeting.</i> • <i>Attend and participate in project coordination and planning meetings with the Co-Chairs of the CFP Food Safety Management System (FSMS) Committee</i> • <i>Attend and participate in meetings of the FSMS Committee to identify CFP, NACCHO, and other Collaborative resources to assist the FSMS in the completion of specific deliverables associated with its assigned charges.</i>
<p>Activity 10 CFP</p>	<p>Objective 5C: Encourage the application of digital tools and incentives that prompt desired behaviors (e.g., handwashing) in collaboration with retail food and foodservice industry trade organizations. During year 2, CFP will submit a proposal for planning, coordinating, and completing (with support from NACCHO) a research project addressing the use of digital systems and technology for predictive modeling of food handling behaviors and practices. The research project portion of this activity will be completed in Year 3 (FY2024-2025).</p> <p><u>Action Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Develop a research plan addressing the use of digital systems and technology for predictive modeling of food handling behaviors and practices.</i>
<p>Activity 11 CFP</p>	<p>Objective 5D: Enhance existing manager certification and food handler education and training requirements – in collaboration with Food Safety Manager Certification bodies – to include adult learning principles designed to better influence human behavior.</p> <p><u>Action Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Document which metrics training developers, corporate entities, and regulatory bodies use to determine if their food safety training programs make a measurable</i>

	<p><i>difference in improving food safety and include measuring how adult learning principles influence human behavior.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Conduct a gap analysis or needs assessment of adult learning related to manager/food handler training.</i> • <i>Draft a report based on the key findings (e.g., metrics to measure if and how adult learning principles can be effective in changing human behavior related to food safety).</i>
<p>Activity 12 NACCHO & CFP</p>	<p>Objective 6: Implement strategies to promote availability and usage of best practices, tool kits, research, and other information sharing among retail food safety stakeholders.</p> <p><u>Action Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Will attend and participate in scheduled Collaborative Communications Workgroup meetings.</i> • <i>NACCHO and CFP communication vehicles utilized to promote the Collaborative's requests and resources.</i> • <i>Tracking log/record of resources distribution to SLTT retail food regulatory programs (e.g., monthly report of bit.ly link clicks, partner outreach lists, social media posts, etc.).</i> • <i>Communication campaign evaluations completed.</i> • <i>Submit abstracts to national conferences and meetings.</i> • <i>Attend and present findings at national conferences or meetings.</i>

Summary of Accomplishments (August 1, 2023 – January 31, 2024)	
Activity 1	CFP led five (5) Food Code Adoption Toolkit Workgroup meetings (8/28/23, 9/13/23, 10/25/23, 11/8/23, and 1/10/24). Agendas, notes, and attendance lists were captured and shared through FoodSHIELD. NACCHO and CFP attended three (3) National Food Code Adoption Strategy Workgroup calls (8/11/23, 9/27/23, and 10/25/23). During the Face-to-Face Collaborative meeting (12/11-12/12/23) cadence and outputs of the workgroup were discussed for the remainder of Year 2.
Activity 2	NACCHO received statistics from NEHA on Standard 9 from the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards (S9) to review and is working with NACCHO's research and evaluation team to finalize an interview guide and action plan. NACCHO also led an interview with Richmond County, North Carolina on 8/21/23 to discuss the risk factor study.
Activity 3	CFP convened and facilitated virtual three (3) RFSAG meetings (8/14/23, 9/18/23, and 1/22/24) and four (4) RFSAG co-chair meetings (8/11/23, 9/11/23, 11/13/23, and 1/8/24) with agendas, meeting notes, roll call/participant list, and action items posted to FoodSHIELD.
Activity 4	NACCHO traveled to North Carolina for two (2) site visits in Mecklenburg County and Richmond County and attended the Western North Carolina Retail Program Standards Fall Face-to-Face meeting in Charlotte (11/28/23 - 12/1/23). On-site visits allowed NACCHO the opportunity to ask clarifying questions and conduct interviews about data management, barriers, and lessons learned in the process of completing Retail Program Standards. In Mecklenburg County, NACCHO reviewed data management systems and quality assurance practices, and in Richmond County observed a Standard 9 Risk Factor Inspection and heard insights from the local jurisdiction about the process of completing multiple Risk Factor Studies and perform trend analyses over time.

Activity 5	The Illinois network has been formalized and NACCHO and CFP have attended two (2) quarterly meetings (9/12/23, 12/12/23). NACCHO also convened a check-in call with the Illinois team and their FDA RFS on 1/8/24 to discuss Yr.2 network activities and plan. CFP has been working with Retail Food Program representatives in the State of Missouri and the FDA Retail Food Specialists assigned to the region to submit a plan for creating a Program Standards Network in the State of Missouri. CFP convened one (1) lunch and learn meeting of the Program Standards Network (10/26/23) and convened seven (7) meetings with FDA Retail Food Specialist, Becky Steiner (8/25/23, 9/25/23, 10/2/23, 10/12/23, 10/30/23, 12/18/23, 1/18/24), and the Missouri Center for Public Health Excellence (9/9/23).
Activity 6	NACCHO and CFP have been meeting with NACCHO's Research and Evaluation (R&E) team to discuss evaluation goals, data, and timeline. The evaluation survey was finalized and fielded to 200 Retail Program Standards Network participants on 12/4/23 and closed on 1/16/24. NACCHO received 60 responses and is working with their R&E team on data analysis.
Activity 7	NACCHO conducted internal and external information gathering calls to discuss interview structure, logistics in terms of recording and publishing, and leveraging partnerships with external organizations (e.g., ASTHO and NEHA).
Activity 8	NACCHO and CFP have participated in all the Collaborative meetings and provided formal and informal feedback to Collaborative members' activities. NACCHO and CFP attended four (4) Retail Collaborative meetings (8/10/23, 9/6/23, 10/4/23, 11/1/23) and the face-to-face meeting (12/11-12/12/23). CFP has been working with Program Standards Committee (PSC) and Standard 5 Subcommittee to identify CFP and NACCHO project team member resources needed by the committee to complete its current charges in advance of the 2025 CFP Biennial Meeting (10/11/23, 12/14/23, 1/11/24, and 1/30/24). On 11/17/23, CFP convened and facilitated a briefing of PSC leaders and federal agency consultants to review linkages of the committee's charges to activities in other retail food safety forums including the Collaborative. CFP submitted a progress report (report period 8/1/23-11/30/23) for the PSC's work related to Standard 5, including the roadmap, description of requirements and data review and analysis, and review of CDC NEARS, EATS, and CIFOR for new inclusion components.
Activity 9	CFP participated in three (3) project coordination and planning meetings with the Co-Chairs of the CFP Food Safety Management (FSMS) committee (11/8/23, 12/13/23, and 11/10/23) and attended three (3) FSMS Committee meetings to identify CFP and NACCHO project team member resources (10/31/23, 11/11/23, and 12/14/23). During this time subcommittees were formed to address FSMS charges, discuss Collaborative support for charges, and discuss linkages between the charges assigned to the CFP FSMS and Food Safety Culture at Retail Committees and other forums with similar food safety initiatives. Lastly, CFP compiled the first progress report detailing status of the CFP Food Safety Management Systems committee's work on the charges for the 2023-2025 biennium (report period: 8/1/23-11/30/23).
Activity 10	CFP completed the literature review for twelve (12) peer reviewed articles that contain information about the use of predictive modeling, data-driven analysis, artificial intelligence (AI), application of AI and predictive learning analytics, food science and technology, and possible future innovations.
Activity 11	CFP completed the literature review of seventeen (17) articles that address how to measure training effectiveness, measuring food handler training, food handler training knowledge-sharing modules, and fostering a food safety culture.

<p>Activity 12</p>	<p>NACCHO and CFP have routinely promoted Collaborative messages to respective memberships, participated in the Communication Workgroup, and provided feedback on other members' communications requests. Planning abstracts for 2024 conference circuits has started, detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NACCHO presented at the FDA's Regional Retail Food Protection Seminar in Northampton, MA (9/19-9/22/23) and discussed the RFFM mentorship program and work on the Retail Food Regulatory Association Collaborative. NACCHO anticipates presenting and/or assisting with planning a roundtable discussion at AFDO AEC (6/9-6/23/24) and/or the Retail Program Standards Symposium (4/16-4/18/24). • CFP will be collaborating with the NEHA Knowledge Retention Study team to provide a session at the NEHA Annual Educational Conference in July 2024. CFP and NACCHO are leading an effort to present a Collaborative webinar that highlights the activities, accomplishments, and resources related to the 6 objectives and supported by FDA funding.
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