

Retail Food Safety Advisory Group Charter

Background:

In 2020, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), the Conference for Food Protection (CFP), the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO), and the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) began collaboratively working together to advance retail food initiatives through two-year cooperative agreements with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The cooperative agreements align with the purpose of the Retail Food Safety Association Collaborative (Collaborative). The Collaborative was formed in 2019 after a series of discussions among the retail food regulatory associations [(AFDO, CFP, NACCHO, NEHA, (FDA, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)]. These stakeholders identified the need to have a collaborative approach toward retail food safety, fully leveraging each organization working in this space to maximize their effectiveness and reach. The Collaborative recognizes the important contributions of other retail food safety organizations and assesses opportunities to leverage their impact toward the advancement of Collaborative objectives.

Purpose:

The Retail Food Safety Advisory Group (RFSAG) will advise on the six specific aims:

1. Support, promote, and encourage complete adoption of one of the latest two FDA Food Codes by state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) retail regulatory programs.
2. Increase retail food regulatory programs' application of risk-based inspections and implementation of effective intervention strategies.
3. Increase enrollment and active participation in and application of the Voluntary Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards by SLTT retail food regulatory programs.
4. 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.
5. Increase number of establishments that have well developed and implemented Food Safety Management Systems (Includes well developed employee health program); and
6. Develop a strategy to enhance communication around retail food safety issues and resources.

Expectations:

RFSAG members will serve on the group for two-project years. The first project year will be from December 1, 2020 through July 31, 2021 and the second project year will be from August 1, 2021 through July 31, 2022.s. For each project year, members are expected to participate in at least five (5) virtual RFSAG meetings a year (1-2 hours per meeting) and potentially one (1) in-person meeting a year (approximately 1-1.5 day per meeting and travel expenses of up to \$1,400 per member will be reimbursed. Members are also expected to do work between meetings (e.g. reviewing documents, providing feedback, etc.).

Activities:

RFSAG members will be asked to:

- Review and advise the associations on protocols and findings for an assessment of the application of risk-based inspection methods by SLTT retail food regulatory programs;
- Review and advise the associations on protocols and findings related to identifying, assessing, and promotion implementation of effective intervention strategies by retail food regulatory programs;
- Review and advise the associations on protocols and findings related to building upon the FDA’s Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards (VNRFRPS) technical assistance strategy to provide a “multiplier effect” to promote participation and implementation of the VNRFRPS by SLTTs;
- Provide feedback on states and localities with a successful Food Code adoption process;
- Provide feedback on emerging food trends and ongoing retail food safety issues;
- Share useful foodborne illness outbreak resources and tools;
- Provide feedback on active managerial control (AMC) programs and suggest useful AMC tools and resources;
- Promote summary report and findings from the associations grant activities as requested; and
- Provide recommendations about effective methods and channels to communicate information regarding the project to various stakeholder groups involved in retail food safety, including feedback on the Collaborative website’s content and usability.

Membership:

The Retail Food Safety Advisory Group consists of 15 state, local, tribal, and territorial health department professionals, academic food safety professionals, retail food industry professionals, and retail food association staff.