

PRESS RELEASE

FDA, AFDO, ISSC, and NCIMS Partner to Award 2018 Calendar Year Training and Equipment Grants

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO), the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference (ISSC), and the National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments (NCIMS) are proud to announce Year 2 of the National Grade “A” Milk Safety and National Shellfish Sanitation Grant Programs. Opening on September 25, 2017, and accepting applications through October 30, 2017, the program provides funds for training and equipment purchases in support of milk and shellfish regulatory programs. Grant funding is open to State and Territorial (Puerto Rico) agencies that have the regulatory authority to implement the National Grade “A” Milk Safety Program and/or the National Shellfish Sanitation Program. Applicants to this program can expect a simple application process, up-front funding when required by the project, and simple reporting requirements.

Project categories for the 2018 funding year include:

- **2018 Annual Program Training Needs Grants for Milk and Shellfish Programs up to \$2,000 per person per course to fund training** for Milk Sanitation Rating Officers (SROs), Laboratory Evaluation Officers (LEOs), Shellfish Sanitation Officers (SSOs) and other Regulatory Staff Members to attend Required Training and Other Courses for Calendar Year 2018.
- **Equipment Grants for Milk and Shellfish Programs up to \$3,000 for Milk agencies and up to \$5,000 per Shellfish agency to fund equipment purchases** that support the Grade “A” Milk Safety Program and/or the National Shellfish Sanitation Programs.

Agencies that applied for and/or were awarded funds for the 2017 Calendar Year are eligible to apply again for funds in Year 2. Total funding for this program for Year 2 is estimated to be \$675,000.

A single program with authority to implement the National Grade “A” Milk Safety Program (regulatory/rating authority or laboratory service) may apply for funding for up to two (2) projects:

- One (1) National Grade “A” Milk Program 2018 Calendar Year Training Request
- One (1) National Grade “A” Milk Program Equipment Request

A single program with authority to implement the National Shellfish Sanitation Program may apply for funding for up to two (2) projects:

- One (1) National Shellfish Sanitation Program 2018 Calendar Year Training Request
- One (1) National Shellfish Sanitation Program Equipment Request

Agencies with the authority to implement both the National Grade “A” Milk Safety Program and/or the National Shellfish Sanitation Program may apply for funding in all four subcategories.

How to Apply for Funding

To stay informed of the latest developments on this funding opportunity and to find more information about it, visit the AFDO Milk and Shellfish Grants website at: <http://www.afdo.org/msgnants>. The website will have the most up-to-date information about this grant program, and will be open for Year 2 applications on September 25, 2017.

For Additional Information

Contact us by email at msgnants@afdo.org or by phone at (850) 583-4593.