

PRESS RELEASE

Launch of FDA and AFDO Retail Program Standards Grant Portal Monday, February 3, 2014

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) are pleased to announce the opening of the Retail Program Standards grant portal, <http://afdo.org/retailstandards>. **Opening on Monday, February 3 and accepting applications through Friday, February 28**, the program provides funds for the completion of projects and training to enhance conformance with the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards (Retail Program Standards). Grant funding is open to state, local, territorial, and tribal regulatory retail food programs that have enrolled in the [Retail Program Standards](#). Applicants to this program can expect a simple application process, up-front funding when required by the project, and simple reporting requirements.

Funds are available for completing projects that meet the goals and objectives of the Retail Program Standards in three categories:

- Category 1: Small Projects (up to \$3,000) – Examples: Completion of Self-Assessments, Verification Audits, Small Projects that Help Advance or Maintain Conformance with one or more Standards.
- Category 2: Moderate Projects (\$10,000 to \$20,000) – Examples: Completion of Foodborne Illness Risk Factor Studies, Implementation of Comprehensive Intervention Strategies to Reduce Risk Factors, Moderate Projects that Help Advance or Maintain Conformance with one or more Standards.
- Category 3: Training (up to \$2,000) – Examples: Travel to training courses, workshops, and seminars that advance the goals of the Retail Program Standards.

Jurisdictions can apply for funding for one project in each of the three categories for a maximum of three applications per jurisdiction. The amount of \$450,000 in funding is available for 2014, and we expect to make approximately 140 or more awards annually through this program. Jurisdictions must be enrolled in the Retail Program Standards in order to apply.

How to Apply for Funding

Beginning on February 3, eligible jurisdictions can find instructions on how to register for the Retail Program Standards, program grant guidance, and the online project application at: <http://afdo.org/retailstandards>.

For additional information, contact us. Email: retailstandards@afdo.org; Phone: (850) 583-4593

About AFDO

AFDO, which was established in 1896, successfully fosters uniformity in the adoption and enforcement of science-based laws, rules, and regulations regarding food, drugs, medical devices, cosmetics and product safety by either drafting regulatory rules or commenting on government proposals. By developing a broad base of support for new approaches, AFDO has become a recognized voice in determining the rules and helping to shape the regulatory playing field of the future. The consensus that AFDO helps develop is key to advancing uniform laws, regulations, and guidelines that result in more efficient regulations and less confusion among industries in the marketplace. AFDO develops support for its positions by interfacing with high-level regulatory officials, industry representatives, trade associations, and consumer organizations. This effort continues to have a significant impact on regulations at the Federal, State and local levels. For more information, visit www.afdo.org. Inquiries about AFDO can be directed to AFDO Executive Director Joseph Corby.