

FDA FACT SHEET

FoodSHIELD COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT PROGRAM

Program Description

- FoodSHIELD is an online information sharing platform that was developed in cooperation with the Food Protection and Defense Institute (FPDI).
 - It was officially launched as a Homeland Security Center of Excellence in July 2004 at the University of Minnesota.
 - It was built upon the CoreSHIELD architecture to enable the sharing of resources through food safety and defense portals, such as the Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) and the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN).
 - FoodSHIELD is a secure, web-based system offering a wide range of tools and resources to facilitate information sharing and communication between local, state and federal partners.
 - The mission of FoodSHIELD is to provide an online environment that enables these partners to interact and function as a unified network.
 - It also helps communicate food safety information among other government agencies.
- Workgroups are provided tools through FoodSHIELD that enable members across different regulatory jurisdictions and agencies to analyze, synthesize, coordinate and integrate their ideas and efforts to address the vulnerability of the nation's food system.

Current Awardee

- The FPDI is the sole awardee for this cooperative agreement program.
- FPDI is the developer and supporter of FoodSHIELD and CoreSHIELD, a major effort supported under this grant.

Accomplishments

- FoodSHIELD (www.foodshield.org) currently has registered participants from labs and regulatory agencies in all 50 states in the U.S.
- FoodSHIELD and CoreSHIELD have provided for a rapidly maturing infrastructure with more than 190 workgroups actively using FoodSHIELD to plan, coordinate, and develop new strategies for food defense and protection.
- FPDI has reported that more than 64,000 minutes are logged each month using the system's providing easy and enhanced collaboration amongst stakeholders and participants across the food safety and defense (food protection) sector.

Intended Outcomes

- FoodSHIELD encourages and enables the formation of workgroups, which serve as online communities to share information specific to a particular subject area or project.
- A workgroup can be composed of government representatives from the federal, state, and local levels, as well as non-government officials, including industry representatives, who are invited to a workgroup by a government representative.

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