

# FDA FACT SHEET

## FOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE NETWORK (FERN) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT PROGRAM

### Program Description

- The FERN CAP provides funding for microbiological, chemical, and/or radiological state, local and tribal laboratories to help increase the analytical capacity and expertise in the event of food outbreaks or other large-scale food emergency events requiring surge capacity testing of implicated food samples.
- Enhancements will be supported through training in current food methodologies, method validation and enhancement participation, analysis of surveillance and outbreak samples, facility and equipment upgrades, and supply and personnel provision.

### Intended Outcomes

- Provide early means of detecting threat agents in the U.S. food supply.
- Prepare food testing laboratories to respond to emergencies.
- Provide surge capacity for the nation to respond to food emergencies.
- Restore consumer confidence in food supply after an emergency threat.

### Program Metrics

- Current program funding: \$8.8M
- Current number of awards: 26

FERN Program Awardees (FY2017)						
Arkansas	Arizona	California*	Colorado	Connecticut	Florida	Hawaii
Iowa	Maryland	Michigan	Minnesota	North Carolina	Nebraska	New Hampshire
New Mexico	New York	Ohio	Pennsylvania	Rhode Island	Texas	Virginia
Washington*	Wisconsin*					

\*Denotes a state with two agencies holding individual contracts

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