

# Office of Partnerships Stakeholder Newsletter



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**Our Vision:** A global partnership that protects public health.

**Our Mission:** We make partnerships happen by fostering funding opportunities and promoting domestic and international mutual reliance and systems recognition.

*OP: Office of Partnerships; DI: Division of Integration;  
DPIA: Division of Partnerships, Investments & Agreements; DSI: Division of Standards Implementation*

***The Coalition of Food Protection Task Forces - Supporting integrated, jurisdiction-based food safety networks to help address issues related to foodborne illness prevention, intervention and response.***

*Priscilla Neves, MEd., RS, Consumer Safety Officer, OP/DSI*

In 2017, the Office of Partnerships, working with both funded and unfunded state task force representatives and the University of Minnesota Food Protection Defense Institute FoodSHIELD team, established the Coalition of Food Protection Task Forces (CFPTF). The CFPTF provides state task forces with additional support and an electronic platform for networking, collaborating and leveraging their expertise and resources nationwide. The CFPTF launched the public-facing [website](#) in March 2018 that highlights taskforce activities and their websites. The site also promotes communication and collaboration nationwide. There are approximately 41 state-based food protection task forces in the United States, including 26 funded by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration under the Flexible Funding Model – Infrastructure Development and Maintenance for Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards cooperative agreement.

Food protection task forces provide a grassroots and integrated forum for stakeholders—regulatory agencies, academia, industry, consumers, state legislators, boards of health, agriculture, law enforcement, and other interested parties to join forces in improving food safety and defense within their jurisdiction. No two food protection task forces are alike. Each is responsible for identifying its priorities and setting its own goals and objectives.

Jurisdictional food protection task forces, whether state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT), play a vital role in the concept of an Integrated Food Safety System (IFSS) by communicating and supporting agency and related federal and SLTT objectives to strengthen protection of public health through prevention, intervention and response.

For more information on the CFPTF and task force participation, contacts, resources, activities and recorded presentations, go to <https://www.foodprotectiontaskforce.com/> or submit an inquiry via the website [Contact Us](#) page.



**Retail Program Standards and Grant Funding***Maribeth Niesen, Project Manager, OP/DPIA*

OP continually reviews its grant programs to ensure a high return-on-investment (ROI). Recently, OP worked with the FDA National Retail Food Team to evaluate data related to funding offered for the advancement of the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards (Retail Program Standards). The funding has supported numerous SLTT regulatory efforts. For example:

- 51 jurisdictions developed a public health performance metric using their data.
- 41 jurisdictions developed a risk factor study and implemented intervention strategies to address out-of-compliance food safety behaviors and practices identified.
- Multiple jurisdictions participated in a mentorship program to build capacity across jurisdictions.
- Multiple jurisdictions used funding to establish/enhance their infrastructure to allow further work on reducing foodborne illness.

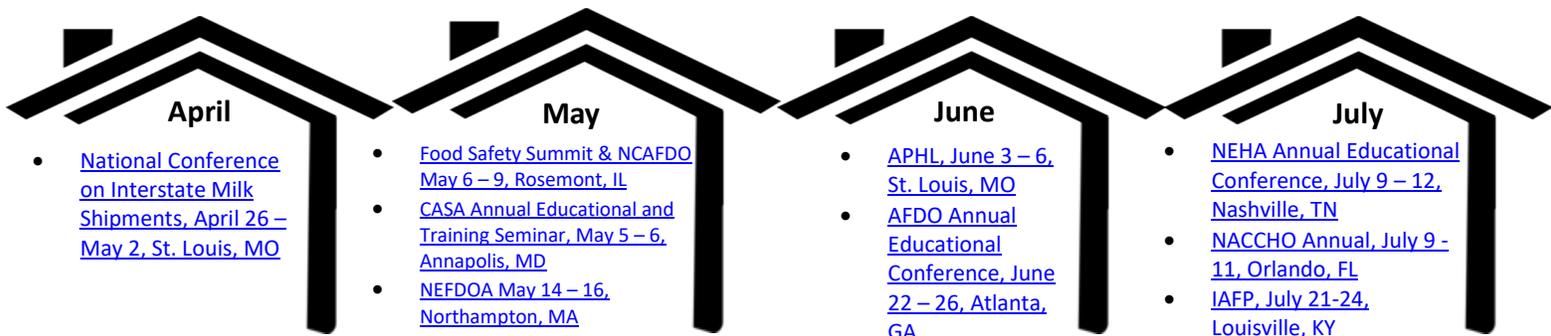
The Retail Program Standards provide the foundation for an IFSS that leverages the impact of SLTT jurisdictions. The grants ROI reflected movement by SLTT jurisdictions to develop the required program infrastructure necessary to enhance public health protection.

**Partnership Agreements***Denise Beuttenmuller, Project Manager, OP/DPIA*

Partnership agreements are formal, written documents that are intended to clearly define specific goals, activities and responsibilities of each partner. They are created to produce measurable outcomes that are related to programmatic objectives and/or operational needs. The goal of partnership agreements is to utilize new or existing relationships by maximizing available non-fiscal resources in the most efficient and effective manner while achieving the highest level of consumer protection. Click [here](#) for more information about partnership agreements.

**Milk/Shellfish Cooperative Agreement – Supporting Regulatory Agencies in the Grade “A” Milk and National Shellfish Sanitation Programs***Michael Antee, MS., RS, Consumer Safety Officer, OP/DSI*

In 2016, FDA promulgated a three-year cooperative agreement as an avenue to assist state and territorial cooperative regulatory programs in achieving and/or maintaining compliance with requirements and goals of the National Grade “A” Milk Safety Program and the National Shellfish Sanitation Program. Regulatory agencies can request funding to assist in receiving training and equipment. In addition, the cooperative agreement is to be extended through 2024. For more information on the 2019 Milk and Shellfish Cooperative Agreement, click [here](#).

**What’s Going on Around Town?****Frequently Referenced Resources:**

- [2017 Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards](#)
- [2016 Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards](#)
- [2017 Animal Feed Regulatory Program Standards](#)
- [2017 Rapid Response Teams \(RRT\) Best Practices Manual](#)