

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: \$8.894M
- Current number of awards: 26

FERN Program Awardees (FY2020)						
Arizona	Arkansas	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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