



**Title 21 Vacancy Announcement**  
**Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**  
**Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**  
**Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN)**  
**Office of Food Safety (OFS)**

**Application Period:** 10/10/2023 – 10/23/2023

**Area of Consideration:** United States Citizenship is required. You must be a U.S. Citizen or U.S. National. Foreign nationals or legal permanent residents are not eligible for consideration.

**Position:** Branch Chief, Supervisory Interdisciplinary Scientist

**Series:** 0401 (Biology)  
0403 (Microbiology)  
1320 (Chemistry)

**Location(s):** Remote

**Salary:** Starting at \$132,368

**Work Schedule:** Full Time

**Full Performance Band Level:** Band D

**Cures Band(s):** Band D

**Travel Requirements:** Up to 25% travel

**Bargaining Unit:** 8888, Nonbargaining Unit

**Relocation Expenses Reimbursement:** You may qualify for reimbursement of relocation expenses in accordance with agency policy.

**This position is being filled under a stream-lined hiring authority, Title 21, Section 3072 of the 21st Century Cures Act. The candidate selected for this position will serve under a career or career-conditional appointment and be paid under the provisions of this authority.**

**Additional information on 21st Century Cures Act can be found here:**

[21st Century Cures Act Information](#)

## Introduction

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA or Agency) is the regulatory, scientific, public health and consumer protection agency responsible for ensuring all human and animal drugs, medical devices, cosmetics, foods, food additives, drugs and medicated feeds for food producing animals, tobacco and radiation emitting devices are safe, and effective.

CFSAN is responsible for promoting and protecting the public's health by ensuring that the nation's food supply is safe, sanitary, wholesome, and honestly labeled, and that cosmetic products are safe and properly labeled.

## Duties/Responsibilities

The Office of Food Safety provides oversight of regulations, guidance, policy, programs, position papers, and advisory opinions, and recommends research priorities for issues related to food safety within the scope of the responsibility of the Office. Provides expert advice to inquiries from throughout the Center, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), other Federal Agencies, U.S. and foreign government officials and external stakeholders including Congress, as well as industry, international and other organizations on food safety programs and policies. Supports interaction and collaboration among Federal and State partners in shellfish, milk safety and retail food protection cooperative programs. Provides expertise in acidified and low acid food technologies, including the registration and evaluation of filed processes. Reviews industry petitions and regulatory actions to determine if they are supported by relevant science and established policy. Provide expert scientific testimony and provide technical review of laboratory analyses supporting proposed enforcement actions and when needed, provides expert scientific testimony. Conducts food safety research in food processing, food packaging, and food technology and conducts seafood safety research. Provides coordination, oversight and management of the food safety programs.

The incumbent serves as the Branch Chief for Shellfish and Aquaculture Policy Branch (SAPB) and is responsible for providing leadership, management, program direction and general oversight for policy and program activities focused on addressing seafood safety issues particularly those related to seafood shellfish and aquaculture.

- As a biologist, the incumbent will evaluate the safety of seafood products by using existing research literature and relevant analytical data, applying current policies and guidance when reviewing the extent of possible biological contamination (i.e., bacteria, viruses, or parasites) to determine if the food products are safe for consumption.
- As a chemist, the incumbent will evaluate the safety of seafood products by using existing research literature and relevant analytical data, applying current policies and guidance when reviewing the extent of possible chemical contamination (i.e., organic (natural toxins) or inorganic compounds (i.e., mercury, PFAS) to determine if the food products are safe for consumption.
- As a microbiologist, the incumbent will evaluate the safety of seafood products by using existing research literature and relevant analytical data (i.e., whole genome sequencing), applying current policies and guidance when reviewing the extent of possible biological contamination (i.e., bacteria or viruses) to determine if the food products are safe for consumption.
- Provides guidance, leadership, scientific, and administrative direction to the branch.

- Plans regulation, guidance, and policy and program development efforts to be accomplished by subordinates, establishes, and adjusts short-term priorities and prepares schedules for development of policy and guidance.
- Provides biological, microbiological or chemistry direction to subordinate employees conducting regulation and policy development and other work functions of the branch.
- Manages the development of regulations, guidance, policy, programs, position papers and advisory options, and recommends research priorities for issues related to the safety of seafood, particularly those related to shellfish and aquaculture.
- Manages and oversees the review of scientific information about proposed shellfish and aquaculture related enforcement actions to determine if those actions are supported by relevant science and established program priorities, policy, and guidance; determines where policy does or does not exist, and whether expert testimony to support the action can be provided.
- Serves as a leading scientific and technical expert concerning the biological, microbiological or chemistry safety of seafood during production, handling, preparation, processing, packaging and distribution of shellfish and aquaculture products.
- Provides expert advice to the Division, Office, Center, and other agency leadership and serves as the principal liaison to industry, international and other organizations on issues related to shellfish and aquaculture.
- Serves as lead seafood safety delegate on joint Federal inter-agency working group with CDC.
- Facilitates and examines the implementation of regulations, domestic and foreign programs, and bilateral agreements related to shellfish.
- Serves as the primary point of contact to the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference on policy setting matters. Provides expert review and comment on industry petitions and regulatory activities pertaining to seafood processing and technology.
- Manages and oversees the development of model regulations, and provides scientific/technical support, training, evaluation and certification for State and international shellfish and aquaculture programs.
- The incumbent is a nationally and internationally recognized technical expert for the Center in the area of naturally occurring bacterial pathogens especially *Vibrio* species in seafood, particularly bivalve molluscan shellfish. The incumbent is the Agency's expert on *Vibrio*-related matters of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program, including participation on appropriate committees within the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference.

#### Supervisory Responsibilities:

Supervisor provides occupational specific technical and administrative direction 25 percent or more of the time to three or more subordinate employees performing the work and functions

of the organization. \* Obtains resources and identifies strategic objectives for the organization. \* Defines jobs, selects employees, and assigns work; defines technical work requirements and milestones; evaluates the organization and employee accomplishments by accepting or rejecting work products; and presents and defends organization and employees work to senior management and other offices. \* Recommends employee promotions and recognition; approves leave; implements performance modifications and takes corrective actions as appropriate. \* Provides equal opportunity in all Federal human capital and employment programs regardless of race, color, gender, national origin, religion, age, disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, affiliation or non-affiliation with a labor organization, political affiliation, status as a parent or gender identity. \* Provides employees resources and information that insures a safe and healthy work environment.

## Conditions of Employment

- U.S. Citizenship requirement or proof of being a U.S. National must be met by closing date.
- Employment is subject to the successful completion of a background investigation, verification of qualifications, completion of onboarding forms, submission of required documents, and any other job-related requirement before or after appointment.
- Applicants must meet all qualification requirements by the closing date of this announcement.
- Direct Deposit: You will be required to have all federal salary payments electronically deposited into a bank account with a financial institution of your choice.
- FDA participates in e-Verify: All new hires must complete the I-9 form; this information will be processed through e-Verify to determine your employment eligibility. If a discrepancy arises, you must take affirmative steps to resolve the matter.
- Males born after December 31, 1959, must be registered with the Selective Service.
- One-year supervisory probationary period may be required.
- Financial Disclosure may be required.
- Ethics Clearance may be required.
- Background Investigation/Security Clearance is required. All employees must pass a security investigation. Failing to pass the background check may be grounds for removal or legal action. If hired, you may be subject to additional investigations at a later time.

## Qualifications

To be placed into a Cures position, candidates must meet the following criteria:

1. Scientific, Technical, and Professional Fields
2. Qualified and Outstanding Candidates
  - a. **Qualified** applies to all candidates for Cures appointments. The FDA OTS will use the basic requirements defined in the [OPM Qualification Standards](#) as a baseline for comparing experience levels and other candidate attributes for relevant positions.

- b. **Outstanding** candidates can be defined by existing outstanding work experience, outstanding performance rating, or both.

In order to qualify for this Title 21 Cures position, the candidate(s) must meet the following **required** qualifications. *Please note: Additional education and experience listed that is not indicated as required is preferable and desired. Candidates who do not meet the “desired” criteria will not be excluded from consideration for this position.*

**Education Requirement:**

**Biology Series, 0401:**

- A. **Degree:** biological sciences, agriculture, natural resource management, chemistry, or related disciplines appropriate to the position; or
- B. **Combination of education and experience:** Courses equivalent to a major, as shown in A above, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

**Microbiology Series, 0403:**

Education: A bachelor’s degree or higher in biology, microbiology, or virology. The degree must be from an accredited program or institution.

**Chemistry Series, 1320:**

Education: A bachelor’s degree or higher in chemistry, biochemistry, or molecular/cellular biology. The degree must be from an accredited program or institution.

**Professional Experience:** Expertise in advanced food production and manufacturing, current principles, and methods associated seafood, especially shellfish and aquaculture.

**Desired Professional Experience:**

- Experience in seafood production, specifically in shellfish, aquaculture, and seafood HACCP.
- Comprehensive understanding of the seafood manufacturing/processing environment, target pathogens, and indicators of concern.
- Extensive experience in advanced seafood production and manufacturing, current principles, and theories, principles, and methods.
- Extensive professional scientific and practical knowledge of microbial contaminants associated with seafood for human consumption.
- Experience in collaborating with national and international industry members, academics, state, and federal public health officials, and other parties interested in seafood.
- Experience in communicating and fostering partnerships with national and international industry members, academics, state, and federal public health officials, and other parties.

- Extensive knowledge, experience, and expertise in seafood safety regarding Vibrio species in bivalve molluscan shellfish.
- Experience and knowledge working with the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference and the National Shellfish Sanitation Program.

## Education Transcripts

SUBMITTING YOUR TRANSCRIPTS: Positions which are scientific or technical in nature often have very specific educational requirements. A transcript is required to verify educational achievement. Pay careful attention to the Qualifications and Education sections to identify vacancies where a transcript is required. Even if you hold a similar position or are a current FDA employee, you are not exempt from transcript requirements.

FOREIGN EDUCATION: If you are using education completed in foreign colleges or universities to meet the qualification requirements, you must show that the education credentials have been evaluated by a private organization that specializes in interpretation of foreign education programs and such education has been deemed equivalent to that gained in an accredited U.S. education program; or full credit has been given for the courses at a U.S. accredited college or university. For more information about this requirement, please visit the [U.S. Department of Education website for Foreign Education Evaluation](#).

## Security Clearance Requirements

Background Investigation/Security Clearance Requirements: All employees must pass a security investigation. Failing to pass the background check may be grounds for removal or legal action.

## Ethics Clearance Requirements

This position may require financial disclosure reporting and will be subject to FDA's prohibited financial interest regulation. If you are hired, you may be required to divest of certain financial interests. You are advised to seek additional information on this requirement from the hiring official before accepting any job offers. For more information, please visit the FDA Ethics web page: <https://www.fda.gov/about-fda/jobs-and-training-fda/ethics>.

## Equal Employment Opportunity

The United States Government does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, membership in an employee organization, retaliation, parental status, military service, or other non-merit factor. [Equal Employment Opportunity \(EEO\) for federal employees & job applicants](#)

## Reasonable Accommodation

Federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities where appropriate. Applicants requiring reasonable accommodation for any part of the application

process should follow the instructions in the job opportunity announcement. For any part of the remaining hiring process, applicants should contact the hiring agency directly. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis. A reasonable accommodation is any change to a job, the work environment, or the way things are usually done that enables an individual with a disability to apply for a job, perform job duties or receive equal access to job benefits. Under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodations when: An applicant with a disability needs an accommodation to have an equal opportunity to apply for a job. An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to perform the essential job duties or to gain access to the workplace. An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to receive equal access to benefits, such as details, training, and office-sponsored events. You can request a reasonable accommodation at any time during the application or hiring process or while on the job. Requests are considered on a case-by-case basis. Learn more about [disability employment and reasonable accommodations](#) or [how to contact an agency](#).

## E-Verify

The Food and Drug Administration participates in the USCIS Electronic Employment Eligibility Verification Program (E-Verify). E-Verify helps employers determine employment eligibility of new hires and the validity of their Social Security numbers.

## How to Apply

Submit resume or curriculum vitae, cover letter, and copy of all college transcripts and/or foreign education evaluation by the closing date as identified above to [CFSAN-CURES@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:CFSAN-CURES@fda.hhs.gov) and include the job reference ID: Branch Chief, SAPB.

Candidate resumes may be shared with hiring official within the CFSAN with a similar job vacancy. Candidates can opt out of this process by annotating resume with “do not share”. For questions, please contact [CFSAN-CURES@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:CFSAN-CURES@fda.hhs.gov) and include the job reference ID: Branch Chief, SAPB.

## Announcement Contact

For questions regarding this Cures position, please contact [CFSAN-CURES@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:CFSAN-CURES@fda.hhs.gov).

The Department of Health and Human Services is an equal opportunity employer with a smoke free environment.

*FDA is an equal opportunity employer.*

