

# Developing an Integrated Food Safety System (IFSS) Regulatory and Laboratory Training System (RLTS) Strategic Plan

An IFSS includes the implementation of seamless partnerships and operations among federal, state, local, territorial, and tribal (SLTT) regulatory agencies and laboratories, as well as academic, foreign, industry, and consumer stakeholders, to achieve a safer human and animal food (HAF) supply. An IFSS requires a well-trained, integrated regulatory and laboratory workforce that conducts comparable work at all levels.

To support this objective, from 2022 to 2023, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) collaborated with SLTT HAF regulatory and laboratory partners to develop a 5-year IFSS RLTS Strategic Plan and companion 2-year Implementation Plan. The Strategic Plan calls for the design and implementation of a collaboratively governed and administered IFSS RLTS that leverages the expertise and resources of IFSS partners to ensure a competent regulatory and laboratory workforce.

April  
2022

## FDA Prep and Kickoff

- In April 2022, the FDA organized and secured a contractor, project manager, and communications support, and stood up internal and external stakeholder groups ("Project Team").
- The following month, the FDA held a kick-off meeting during which the project team developed an action plan, identified the audience for the strategic plan, and drafted strategy principles which are "the vision" for the plan.
- [Click here to view the full list of stakeholders.](#)



## Design and Conduct Environmental Scan

- The project team conducted an environmental scan to gain insights into the strengths and weaknesses of the current training system and solicit ideas for the future state.
- The environmental scan consisted of a survey to FDA and SLTT regulatory and laboratory professionals at all levels and 1:1 interviews with FDA and national HAF association leaders.



## Conduct SWOT Analysis and Finalize Strategy Principles

- Informed by the environmental scan, the project team conducted a Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats (SWOT) analysis.
- The SWOT analysis identified, among other things, a need to complete the build-out of the National Curriculum Standard(s) (NCS), increase FDA and IFSS partner access to training, and better leverage the strengths and expertise of IFSS partners to share in the responsibility of designing and delivering training.
- [Click here to view the strategy principles validated by the findings of this analysis.](#)



## Develop Strategic Plan

- Using the strategic principles as the backbone of the plan, the project team began a collaborative process of developing the 5-year Strategic Plan. The plan contains five goals, three of which relate to course content, design, and delivery to ensure training meets the needs of the learners and stakeholders. Goals 4 and 5 are overarching and outline the responsibilities of the collaborative governance of the RLTS and collaboration across IFSS partners to ensure training is consistent, effective, and of high quality.
- [Click here to view the list of Strategic Plan goals and objectives.](#)
- [Click here to view a summary of the intended outcomes of the strategic plan.](#)



## Develop Implementation Plan

- The project team then developed a 2-year Implementation Plan that outlines the tactics, projects, and activities that will be implemented to achieve the strategic goals and objectives.
- A collaboratively governed and administered IFSS RLTS governance structure will be stood up to include a Steering Committee, a National Coordination Center (NCC) (funded initially by an FDA cooperative agreement and then transitioned to a self-sustained private-public partnership), and various advisory committees.
- [Click here to view a list of planned activities and deliverables.](#)



October  
2023

## Launch Strategic Plan

- The IFSS RLTS Strategic and Implementation Plans will be launched with a stakeholder call, email releases, website, promotional videos, fact sheets, etc. A strategic tracking system will be stood up in the coming months to monitor progress of IFSS partners in completing the activities in the Implementation Plan.



### Want to get involved?

We need HAF regulatory and laboratory subject matter expert (SME) help in completing and validating the NCS. To volunteer, please contact [NCS@IFPTI.org](mailto:NCS@IFPTI.org).

We also need adult learning/training and instructional design SMEs to serve on committees to develop national course content, design, delivery, and equivalency determination standards. For more information, please contact [ORAIFSSRegulatoryTrainingStrategicPlan@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:ORAIFSSRegulatoryTrainingStrategicPlan@fda.hhs.gov).