



Retail Program Standards Grant Program

Year 3 Funding

Announcing Year 3

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) are proud to announce Year 3 of the AFDO administered Retail Program Standards Grant Program. **Opening on Tuesday, September 1, 2015 and accepting applications through Friday, October 9**, the program provides funds for the completion of projects and training to enhance conformance with the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards (Retail Program Standards).

Grant funding is open to state, local, territorial, and tribal regulatory retail food programs that have enrolled in the Retail Program Standards. Applicants to this program can expect a simple application process, up-front funding when required by the project, and simple reporting requirements.

Because of the success of this program in Years 1 & 2 and the progress jurisdictions made in increasing their conformance with the standards, total funding for this program is expected to increase significantly for Year 3, from approximately \$500K per year in Years 1 & 2, to \$1.5 million or more in Year 3. Consequently, we expect the number of awards to increase by 200-300%.

The portal for Year 3 applications opens
September 1, 2015

Jurisdictions that applied for and/or were awarded funds in Years 1 & 2 are eligible to apply once again for funds in Year 3. Jurisdictions can apply for funding for one project in each of the three project categories for a maximum of three applications per jurisdiction for year 3. Project categories include:

- **Small Projects** up to \$3,000, for jurisdictions to complete a self-assessment of all nine Standards, small projects related to meeting one or more Standards, or a verification audit;
- **Moderate Projects**, \$10,000-\$20,000, for more ambitious projects that further conformance with the Retail Program Standards (computer software systems, risk factor studies, development of a written compliance program, training events, etc.); and
- **Training** up to \$3,000, for jurisdiction staff to meet the requirements of Standard 2 (Step 1 & 3 Curriculum or CEU maintenance) or to attend FDA Regional Seminars to maintain FDA Standardization.

Year 2 Highlights

We were very pleased with the number and quality of applications from across the country. **We were able to fund 179 of 311 applications totaling \$522,764, an award rate of almost 56%.** By the numbers: Small Projects: 89 of 140 Awarded (63.6%); Moderate Projects: 8 of 59 Awarded (13.6%); Training: 82 of 122 Awarded (67.2%).

Local jurisdictions made up 86% of the total funding, while the balance went to state and tribal programs.

What's Next?

To stay informed of the latest developments for this funding opportunity, learn more about the program, or to enroll in the Retail Program Standards, visit the Retail Food Safety Grants Website at <http://afdo.org/retailstandards>. We strongly encourage you to register your email address on the site to receive news and updates. You may also reach us by email at retailstandards@afdo.org or by phone at (850) 583-4593.

Visit www.afdo.org/RetailStandards for more information!