



**NASDA FY26 Funding Request:
FDA Cooperative Agreements and Contracts: State & Local Food Safety Programs
March 25, 2025**

Funding Request Summary:

Appropriations Bill: Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Agency: Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Account: Human Foods Program – Field Operations Program

Title of the Program: State & Local Food Safety

Requested Funding Level: Programmatic funding and Report language directing the FDA Human Foods Program to allocate no less than \$117,000,000 from appropriated funds to support funding for state and local food safety programs.

Programmatic Funding Language Requested: In the provisos associated with the allocation of funding for the Human Foods Program, insert “of which no less than \$117,000,000 shall be used for cooperative agreements and contracts with states to support Field Operations Programs for state and local programs.”

Report Language Requested: State and Local Programs.--The Committee notes that state and local regulatory agencies are essential to the integrated food safety system. States conduct 60 percent of food processing inspections on behalf of the FDA, 90 percent of produce safety inspections, and 100 percent of retail food inspections. State and local agencies also perform key roles in identifying and investigating potential illnesses and effectuating product removals through recalls. FDA often requests state authority to expedite product recalls. The Committee directs FDA to provide no less than \$117,000,000 for the Field Operations Programs for state and local programs.

Description: NASDA requests that direction be provided to the FDA Human Foods Program to allocate no less than \$117 million for State & Local Food Safety Programs to ensure effective regulatory oversight and outbreak prevention and to sustain current programs. The actual needs of state programs are \$170 million, but we understand that budgetary pressure may make this level difficult to achieve. A new directive ensuring adequate funding for FDA state funding to provide long-term budget stability for U.S. food safety programs at \$117 million minimum, ensuring budgetary certainty for: Produce Safety Rule Implementation, Food Safety Outreach & Education Programs, and Preventive Controls for Human and Animal Food Rule Implementation. NASDA also supports funding for the Produce Safety Alliance, administered by Cornell University, which is funded separately from state programs under the FDA’s Human Foods Program.

Justification & Background

Cooperative agreements are a vital funding tool that ensures collaboration between federal agencies and state entities, driving effective food safety programs that protect public health. Unlike grants,

cooperative agreements require shared responsibilities, fostering active engagement between the FDA and state agencies. Fully funded cooperative agreements and contracts enable states to execute critical food safety inspections, outbreak response, and preventive measures effectively and efficiently. Escalating budget shortfalls and federal funding cuts threaten state food safety programs. Additionally, replacing cost-effective, state-run systems with more expensive, non-local federal personnel increases federal expenditures and weakens foodborne illness prevention efforts. NASDA urges Congress to increase funding for to FDA for food safety state cooperative agreements and contracts, strengthening the U.S. food system safety and consumer public health.

State departments are indispensable in safeguarding food safety, conducting:

- 50% of human food processing inspections
- 70% of animal food inspections
- 90%+ of produce safety inspections
- 100% of retail food inspections

NASDA Members Currently Oversee:

- Manufactured Food Programs in 20 states
- Feed Safety Programs in 47 states
- Produce Inspections in 44 states