



NASDA FY2027 Funding Request:

FDA Cooperative Agreements and Contracts: State & Local Food Safety Programs

March 2026

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: \$200,000,000 minimum

Programmatic funding and report language directing the FDA Human Foods Program to allocate no less than \$200,000,000 from appropriated funds to support state and local food safety programs. This funding will sustain existing programs, supporting training, inspections, outreach, and education programs, and enable the implementation of the FDA Better Regulatory Inspections for Dynamic Government Efficiency (BRIDGE) initiative.

Programmatic Funding Language Requested: In the provisos associated with the allocation of funding for the Human Foods Program, insert “of which no less than \$200,000,000 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 Food Safety Programs. - The Committee notes that state and local regulatory agencies are essential partners in an integrated national food safety system. States conduct the majority of domestic food safety inspections on behalf of FDA, including approximately 60 percent of food processing inspections, more than 90 percent of produce safety inspections, and 100 percent of retail food inspections. State and local agencies also play a critical role in preventing, detecting, and investigating foodborne illness outbreaks and implementing product removals and recalls at the local level to protect consumers. FDA often relies on state authorities to expedite product recalls and respond quickly to public health threats. The Committee directs FDA to **allocate no less than \$200,000,000** in appropriated funding for cooperative agreements supporting State and Local Food Safety Programs, including training, outreach, education, inspection activities, and implementation of the FDA **BRIDGE** initiative and framework, supporting the transition of more routine inspections to qualified state agencies, allowing FDA to focus federal resources on higher-risk facilities, complex investigations, and emerging public health challenges.

Funding Description:

NASDA asks the Committee secure **new appropriated funds to support the increased ask from \$117,000,000 to \$200,000,000** to support this new federal-state initiative to improve public health and food safety outcomes. This funding request supports the role of state agencies in key federal food safety regulations, including:

- Produce Safety Rule implementation
- Preventive Controls for Human and Animal Food Rule implementation
- Food Safety Outreach and Education Programs

Within this funding request:

- \$117,000,000 will sustain existing state and local food safety programs, including critical training, outreach and education to support farms, producers, and inspectors in effective, cost-effective, and preventative measures at the state and local levels.
- The additional funds are a new funding request, in support of the FDA's implementation of the BRIDGE framework, ensuring states are able to absorb and support the Administration's priority of moving more routine inspections to states, to meet public health outcomes, and cost efficiency priorities.

NASDA also supports continued funding for the Produce Safety Alliance, administered by Cornell University, which provides nationally recognized produce safety training and is funded separately from state programs.

Justification & Background:

Importance of Cooperative Agreements & Contracts: Cooperative agreements are a vital funding mechanism that ensures strong collaboration between federal agencies and state regulatory partners. Unlike grants, cooperative agreements require shared responsibilities and active engagement between FDA and state agencies. This structure enables coordinated implementation of inspections, compliance assistance, and prevention-focused programs for public health. Investing in cooperative agreements is cost-effective because it leverages existing state infrastructure, workforce capacity, and local expertise to implement national food safety programs efficiently.

State agencies currently conduct:

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

Funding Needs: The requested **\$200,000,000** represents the minimum funding level necessary to sustain program stability, maintain federal-state collaboration, and support new activities under the FDA BRIDGE initiative.

- Of this amount, **\$117,000,000 supports the continuation of existing state and local food safety programs**, including training, outreach, and education for farms, producers, and inspectors.
 - NASDA recognizes that fully supporting existing state and local food safety programs requires approximately \$170,000,000 annually. While the \$117,000,000 level maintains core programming, it remains below the funding needed for states to operate these programs at full capacity.
- The **new and additional funding request of \$83,000,000 supports implementation of FDA’s new BRIDGE initiative.**

About the FDA BRIDGE Initiative: The FDA **Better Regulatory Inspections for Dynamic Government Efficiency (BRIDGE)** initiative is a process to systemically move more routine inspections to the states while developing a process to maximize the efficiency and impact of inspections being conducted by the state agencies.

- FDA is partnering with state agencies to implement a tiered inspection model with standardized protocols.
- Routine domestic inspections are being transitioned to qualified state agencies, allowing FDA to focus federal resources on high-risk facilities, complex investigations, and emerging public health issues.
- Expanding this model requires additional resources for workforce training, credentialing, inspection contracts, and standardized inspection systems.