

Retail Food Program Standards MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health



About Our Program

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Mentorship Program encourages local health departments (LHDs) to use the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards (Retail Program Standards). The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) created these standards to reinforce proper sanitation and reduce factors associated with the occurrence of foodborne diseases. By adopting these standards, LHDs can prevent foodborne illnesses and protect the health of their communities.

NACCHO's Mentorship Program supports LHDs in implementing these standards. The program provides peer-to-peer assistance and intensive technical support to help enforce the standards efficiently and effectively. Experienced LHDs advise participating agencies on how to get started and best apply the Retail Program Standards to improve their food protection programs. Mentees also gain insight on developing and implementing policies and procedures, completing self-assessments, and conducting verification audits.

Get Funded

- Funding is supported by a cooperative agreement between NACCHO and FDA
- Mentees receive up to \$10,000
- Mentors receive between \$8,000 and \$18,000, depending on the number of mentees they provide guidance to through the program

Our Goals

- Establish a growing network of LHDs experienced in the implementation of the Retail Program Standards.
- Improve NACCHO and FDA's understanding of the technical assistance needs of health departments around the Retail Program Standards.
- Identify strategies to enhance implementation of the Retail Program Standards among health departments.
- Provide a venue for enrolled jurisdictions to share resources, experiences, and lessons.
- Strengthen relationships between local health departments, state agencies, and FDA Regional offices.

Benefits of Mentorship

Our mentorship program provides LHDs with the opportunities to:

- Share sample policies and procedures, resources, and tools with other health departments from across the country.
- Learn from other health departments during conference calls and face-to-face meetings.
- Network with NACCHO, FDA and other health departments.

Important Dates

October: Request for applications open

November: Applicants are notified

December: Mentorship Program starts

August: Mentorship Program ends

For more information visit:

www.naccho.org/topics/environment/food-safety/retail

www.fda.gov/food/guidanceregulation/retail-foodprotection/programstandards

What Participants Are Saying

“There is a lot of energy in relationships and in partnering with others who are equally excited about a common project. With an appropriate match, there is a lot of opportunity for learning both for the mentee and the mentor.”

- *Andre Pierce, Director of Environmental Health and Safety Division for Wake County Environmental Services Departments (Mentor)*

“Our experience in the mentorship program was extremely valuable. We are a small LHD and were working to meet one of the FDA’s program standards. We didn’t know all of the pitfalls that come along with being audited. Through our mentorship we were able to put in all of the work ahead of the audit in order for the audit to go smoothly. It was great getting to see a much larger health department in action and all of the services they were able to provide.”

- *Maya Kulick, Senior Environmental Health Specialist for Summit County Environmental Health in Colorado (Mentee)*

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