



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food
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FACT SHEET

THE FOOD SAFETY OUTREACH PROGRAM

The **Food Safety Outreach Program (FSOP)** is offered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). This grant program helps agricultural producers and processors integrate Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) food safety guidelines into their operations, including conventional, sustainable, and organic systems. FSOP provides support for food safety training, education, extension, outreach, and technical assistance projects.

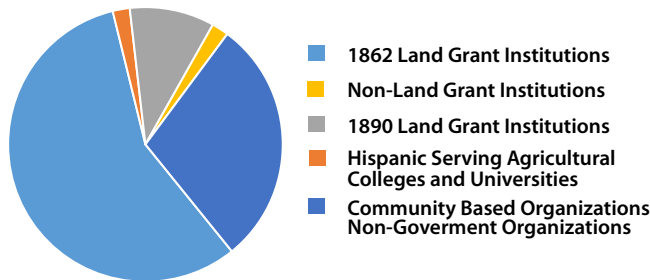
Target audiences

FSOP seeks proposals from community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, food hubs, farm cooperatives, and other local groups. Awardees address the needs of owners and operators of small to mid-sized farms, beginning farmers, socially disadvantaged farmers, small processors, or small fresh fruit and vegetable merchant wholesalers.

Results

Through FSOP, NIFA enhances the national food safety infrastructure by supporting customized training to specific target audiences. To date the program has awarded 16 pilot, 22 community outreach and extension, and 12 multistate education and training projects. Among the total funded projects were 15 community based organizations, 30 1862 land-grant colleges and universities, six 1890 institutions, and one non-land-grant public university. Fifty percent of the total awards collaborate with cooperative extension service programs in their respective states. In addition, each regional center has more than 25 collaborators, partners, and subcontractors including minority-serving institutions that work closely with underserved producers and processors.

USDA NIFA Food Safety Outreach Program
Percentage of Awarded Organizations / Institutions



Types of projects

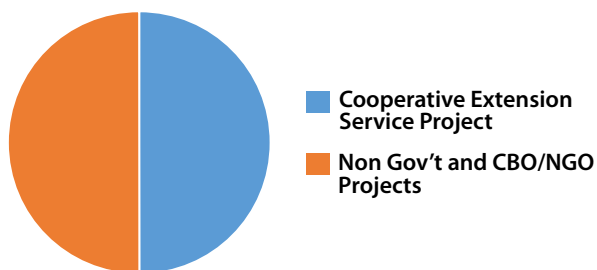
Pilot projects (up to \$50K each) support the development and implementation of new and potentially high-risk, high-impact food safety education and outreach programs in local communities that address the needs of small, specialized audiences from the various target groups.

Community Outreach and Extension projects (up to \$150K each) support the growth and expansion of already existing food safety education and outreach programs offered in local communities. These projects enable existing programs to broaden their scope by reaching out to a larger number of participants, or to expand the programs to new and broader audiences.

Multistate Education and Training projects (up to \$400K each) support the development of multicounty, statewide, or multistate food safety education and outreach programs. These projects encourage collaborations among counties and states sharing common food safety concerns, even though they may not be located within the same region.



Food Safety Outreach Program Award Types



Recent FSOP projects

Seeds for increasing tribal knowledge in food safety

This pilot project, led by the University of Arizona, targeted training and education needs within Arizona-based tribal communities focusing on the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) in Tucson, Arizona. Investigators developed culturally sensitive food safety training materials to implement a food safety education and outreach program that meets the specific needs of GRIC Tribal members. The program is also transferable to other tribal entities across the State of Arizona.

Hawaii Roots Food Safety Outreach Project

Kokua Kalihi Valley (KKV) Hawaii Roots Food Safety Outreach Project is led by the Kokua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services organization in Honolulu. The project enables Hawaii's small and beginning producers, processors, and wholesalers to enhance the safety of their food products (including complying with FSMA regulations), while maintaining profitability, sustainability, and equity.

FSMA education and outreach for new and disadvantaged organic producers

This project, led by the Grow Food Organization in Burlington, Washington, seeks to expand bilingual food safety education and outreach to producers in Washington State while integrating new guidelines established under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) for beginning and socially disadvantaged sustainable organic producers. The project helps beginner farmers improve their success by providing customized bilingual land-based experiential food safety education, training and technical assistance that integrates FSMA guidelines.

Water treatment systems help mitigate food safety risks

This project, led by University of Tennessee Cooperative Extension Service, equips growers in Knoxville, Tennessee with the knowledge to successfully implement water treatment systems on their farms. Fruit and vegetable growers are always looking for new practices to mitigate food safety risks in their operations. They understand that surface water can become contaminated with foodborne pathogens and do not want to rely upon monitoring via water testing or die-off rates to assure the safety of the produce they are growing. The project offers a curriculum to educate growers about different water treatments, such as chlorine, peroxyacetic acid, and UV-light. The resource also helps growers determine which treatment would work best in their operation, validate the effectiveness of different treatments; and conduct ongoing verification activities, such as record-keeping.

CONTACT US

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