

Board of Health for Madison and Dane County

Resolution #2021-16

Resolution in Support of the Application for the NEHA-FDA Retail Flexible Funding Model Grant Program for Public Health Madison & Dane County (PHMDC) conformance with the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Standards (Retail Program Standards)

In 1996, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) established the Voluntary National Retail Food Standards Regulatory Program. These Retail Program Standards define what constitutes a highly effective and responsive program for the regulation of foodservice establishments. Public Health-Madison and Dane County (PHMDC) enrolled in the Retail Program Standards in 2015, and since been pursuing compliance with the Retail Program Standards; and, in 2017, completed program assessment and met conformance with Standard 7. In addition, the Retail Program Standards is a complement to the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) program, providing a performance-based system for continuous improvement and support of PHMDC Strategic Plan.

In order to support conformance of the Retail Program Standards, the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are providing funding to retail food regulatory agencies as they advance in conformance with the Retail Program Standards. PHMDC meets the criteria maintenance and advancement funding not to exceed \$117,000 over three years, with additional one year add on grants for training/staff development and special projects not to exceed \$17,500 over one year. PHMDC seeks support towards conformance with the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards, specifically in achieving the criteria of Standard 9, a program assessment to identify risk factors most commonly observed in our community of foodservice establishments. Upon completing the first risk factor study, a “baseline” will be established for future program performance measures. These performance measures will be used to evaluate the trends and strategic interventions to reduce the occurrence of risk factors known to contribute to foodborne illness.

Furthermore, PHMDC’s mission, “Working with the community to enhance, protect, and promote the health of the environment and the well-being of all people,” supports investigating whether equity exists in the licensing and regulating of food establishments. For this reason, the baseline data will be disaggregated by operator race, manager/food worker preferred language, and business gross sales to reveal patterns that may be masked by the aggregate data. From the revealed patterns, specific and equitable interventions will also be recommended for implementation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Health for Madison and Dane County, on behalf of Public Health Madison & Dane County, supports the application for the National Environmental Health Association and Food and Drug Administration Retail Flexible Funding Model Grant Program for advancing conformance with the Voluntary National Retail Food Standards Regulatory Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Health for Madison and Dane County, authorizes the Director of Public Health to enter into and sign an agreement with the National Environmental Health Association and Food and Drug Administration accepting funding, should it be awarded.

Drafted by: Bonnie Koenig
Introduced: 10/13/2021
Action: