

# Retail Food Specialists (RFSs) support FDA Food Code adoption in their jurisdictions through:

## Technical Assistance

RFSs provide interpretation assistance and a plethora of technical support related to the current Code. A RFS may:

- Attend meetings with stakeholders working on Code adoption. Stakeholders may include industry representatives (restaurants, grocery, associations) regulatory community, and consumers. RFSs may participate in the regulatory review process, serve on committees working on the adoption of the Code, serve as subject matter experts at legislative review committees, etc.
- Review proposed code language for alignment with the Model Food Code.
- Connect jurisdictions with others that have gone through the adoption process and can provide mentorship, support, and advice on the process.

Additional FDA technical resources:

- [Food Code Reference System](#)
- [Decoding the Food Code: Information to Assist the User, an Online Based Training Module](#)

**RFSs are active participants providing support through every step of the Food Code adoption process!**



## Presentation of Updates to State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (SLTT) Partners

RFSs present updates of new versions of the Code in one-on-one meetings with program managers, to boards of health, at association affiliate educational meetings, at food safety advisory meetings/councils and SLTT Food Safety Task Force meetings, and in other similar engagements. The updates provide jurisdictions with the best available science-based information that has been incorporated into the new version of the Food Code.



## Training

RFSs offer expert training that aligns with the most current version of the Code including the FD112 Food Code Course and Pre-Standardization training for SLTT program and field staff.

## Standardizations

RFSs standardize SLTT staff to ensure uniform understanding and application of the principles in the Food Code. RFSs also assist jurisdictions develop internal standardization programs for field inspection personnel.



## Food Code Development

RFSs assist with Agency review and development of Conference for Food Protection (CFP) issues related to potential changes in the Food Code. This allows RFSs a full understanding of Food Code related issues that they can explain to their stakeholders.

## Established Relationships

RFSs assist regulatory agencies and the industries they regulate by providing scientifically-based guidance, training, program evaluation, and technical assistance.<sup>1</sup> RFSs connect jurisdictions with similar barriers to promote conversations that support advancing the adoption of the Food Code.



## Marketing

RFSs highlight the benefits of consistent science-based regulations across jurisdictional lines that promote credibility and industry buy-in.

## Retail Program Standards Support

RFSs provide technical support and guidance for the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards which align SLTT programming with best practices of the Food Code and Food Code adoption via compliance with Standard 1.



## Risk Factor Study Support

RFSs promote the completion of risk factor studies through training and other technical support. The data from a study is used to identify risk factors as well as appropriate intervention strategies and can also be used to support the jurisdiction's Food Code adoption efforts. Trend data from risk factor studies may show the impact of Food Code provisions adopted by the jurisdiction.

## Gap Analysis

RFSs provide technical support and guidance for the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards which align SLTT programming with best practices of the Food Code and Food Code adoption via compliance with Standard 1.



## Collaboration

RFSs encourage collaboration and mentorship among jurisdictions for the sharing of best practices related to risk factor intervention and program improvement. RFSs promote the resources of national/state associations that align with the agency's vision.

**Please contact your FDA Retail Food Specialist with questions**  
**[Directory of FDA Retail Food Specialists](#)**