



NEHA-FDA Retail Flexible Funding Grant

NEHA and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are pleased to announce the new Retail Flexible Funding Model (RFFM) Grant Program, opening for the first time in fall 2021. The program will provide funding to state, local, tribal, and territorial retail food regulatory agencies as they advance conformance with the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards. FDA will utilize NEHA's strengths to assist retail food programs in their efforts to reduce the occurrence of foodborne illness risk factors and implement and attain conformance with the Retail Program Standards.

Jurisdictions that apply for funding through the NEHA-FDA RFFM Grant Program can expect a simple applications and reporting, clear grant guidance, and a responsive technical assistance team standing by to assist applicants & grantees.

Following are actions you can be making now, as you prepare for the opening of the AFDO-FDA Retail Flexible Funding Model Grant Program in September 2021:

[Enroll in the Retail Program Standards](#)

[Determine Your Eligibility, and Choosing an Application Track that Meets the Capacity Needs and Retail Program Standards Goals of Your Jurisdiction](#)

[Understand the Two Types of Base Grants and the Four Optional Add-On Grants](#)

[Complete a Comprehensive Strategic Improvement Plan \(CSIP\), to be Attached to Your Base Grant Application](#)

For more information: retailgrants@neha.org, 1-833-575-2404
neha.org/retailgrants

2021 AEC Virtual Conference Closes and is available On-Demand

Thank you to all the presenters, attendees, sponsors, and exhibitors who participated in the [NEHA 2021 AEC Three-Part Virtual Series](#)! If you haven't already done so, please complete the [2021 AEC Survey](#). Your feedback will be used to measure the success of the 2021 AEC and provide guidance on improving future AECs.

Rewatch your favorite sessions, view sessions you missed, or catch up if you were unable to attend any of the three parts live. Recorded sessions from [Parts 1 and 2 are now available for on-demand viewing](#) for registered attendees. Part 3 educational sessions will be available on-demand by early August. Once available, all registered attendees will receive an email with instructions on how to access the sessions and will have exclusive on-demand access until February 2022.





Advocacy for the Profession

EH Professionals: Your Army of Unseen Protectors

A [new animated video produced by NEHA](#) that helps to expose the often overlooked and undervalued world of environmental health professionals and the ways they tirelessly work to ensure public health and safety is available now. This short video shows some of the many ways an “invisible” environmental health professional impacts and protects many of the aspects of our daily lives, from our children’s day care to our oceans. It helps to not only expose the work that we do but also raise the importance of ensuring the environmental health profession is supported in a manner consistent with other public health initiatives and programs. **Affiliates are encouraged to [share the video](#) widely in your associations and communities to help make our invisible profession visible.**

“Did you know that the reason our homes, schools, and communities are safe from infection and disease is because an unseen team of guardians protect us, day and night? We are not superheroes; we’re trained scientists you may not have even heard of before. And when we are doing our job as environmental health professionals, you won’t notice us at all. We’re invisible... Problems are prevented.”

NEW ON THE DAY IN THE LIFE BLOG

Take a look at the latest series in the [Day in the Life of an EH Professional Blog](#) about members working on diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in the field.

In this limited Member Spotlight series we highlight professionals who have gone above and beyond to consider diversity in their workplaces and communities.

If you or someone that you work with would like to be featured on the NEHA Blog please contact Jonna Ashley, jashley@neha.org.

Letter to White House in support of including EH in the American Rescue Plan

NEHA sent a letter to President Biden and Vice President Harris encouraging them to include environmental health in the American Rescue Plan. Last month the [White House announced](#) that it will be redistributing \$7.4 billion from the American Rescue Plan to hire and train public health workers in response to COVID-19, which includes \$4.4 billion to state and local governments to expand staff at public health departments, \$3.4 billion to modernize the public health workforce, and a \$400 million investment to launch the Public Health Americorps.

NEHA applauds this effort but it is not clear whether the Administration has considered environmental health within its definition of the public health workforce. The letter strongly encourages the White House to include the hiring and training of environmental health practitioners in this plan, as well as highlights the importance of the environmental health profession in protecting our nation's public health.

[Read the letter](#)



REHS/RS Study Guide (5th Edition)

Starting in 2020, NEHA launched the process of revising this study guide to reflect the most recent changes and advancements in environmental health technologies and theories. Incorporating the insights of 29 subject matter experts from across academia, industry, and the regulatory community, paired with references from over 30 scholarly resources, the fifth edition of the *REHS/RS Study Guide* was thoughtfully compiled and recreated in a fresh visual layout to enhance the reading and studying experience.

The fifth edition includes 15 chapters that provide an overview of each content area for the REHS/RS credential exam. Each chapter covers a different environmental domain and is broken down into standardized sections including Roles and Responsibilities, Recommended Reading, and Test Mapping. At the conclusion of each chapter, there is a collection of sample exam questions to provide exam candidates the opportunity to apply the principles for that domain.

This essential guide is intended for those seeking to obtain the NEHA REHS/RS credential. It provides a general overview of the topics found on the REHS/RS credential exam and helps those studying for the exam identify areas of strength and areas where more study is needed.

[Purchase on the NEHA Bookstore](#)

Climate and Health Fact Sheets

NEHA has published seven fact sheets for our Climate and Health Program based on the NEHA and ecoAmerica report, *Emergency Preparedness and Response to Climate Change: The Role of Environmental Health*. Topics covered in the fact sheets include air quality, drought, extreme heat, extreme storms, floods, vectors, and wildfires.

The fact sheets provide information and resources on:

- Health impacts of climate change.
- Recommendations for reducing adverse outcomes.
- The role of the environmental health workforce in mitigating and adapting to these impacts.

The fact sheets also emphasize the importance of climate justice and health equity.