ID # (assigned by CSG): 12-E-15-PA

Please provide the following information, adding space as necessary:

State: Pennsylvania

Assign Program Category (applicant): Government Operations and Technology- Information Systems

Program Name: USA Food Safety
Administering Agency: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Contact: Drew Polulak, Chief Information Officer
Address: 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg PA 17110
Telephone Number: (717)705-8897
E-mail Address: dpolulak@state.pa.us
Web Address: www.agriculture.state.pa.us

1. How long has this program operated?
   - Program began implementation in January 2011

2. Describe the program:
   USAFoodSafety is the first fully integrated state food safety system. It is the first comprehensive software product for regulating and inspecting facilities and/or equipment where food and dairy products are manufactured, prepared, or sold. It currently supports 21 different types of inspection, ranging from restaurants to dairy barns, from carnival food stands to frozen dairy products.

   - Why was it created?
     a. USAFoodSafety is an end-to-end software tool that public health officials can use in regulating and inspecting facilities and/or equipment where food and dairy products are manufactured, prepared, or sold. It was designed to serve as a tool to support health officials in their regulatory roles related to ensuring that the nation’s food supply is uncontaminated.

   - Why is it a new and creative approach or method?
     a. This project immediately benefits health inspectors who are responsible for inspecting over 80,000 facilities across Pennsylvania. It touches all production and retail aspects of the $18 billion food industry in the state.
The application is not only used by the Department of Agriculture, it is also given free of charge to over 50 local health departments and eight city health departments in Pennsylvania. However, the application is still only one database and these health departments have expanded the application to include health safety programs such as licenses and inspections of child daycare, schools, public swimming pools and retirement facilities.

- What are the specific activities and operations of the program in chronological order?
  a. Inspector-sanitarians carry a fully equipped tablet PC with a stylus and portable printer. Upon arrival at the inspection site, while working connected or disconnect, they use the stylus or mouse to check off compliance with each of the associated items on the inspection list, such as sanitation, worker hygiene, appropriate food temperature, etc. For any noncompliant items, they can select appropriate regulations and any standard commentary, to shorten time necessary to enter their personal observations. They can also take food samples for subsequent laboratory analysis, if needed. The person in charge at the inspected site then uses the stylus to write his/her signature on the tablet PC, and the sanitarian prints a copy of the inspection report to leave behind. The printed report shows the signature, any violations, and all observations recorded by the sanitarian. Upon supervisor review, the original inspection reports are then automatically posted to the website for the citizens to view.

At any place with Internet connectivity, the sanitarian synchronizes the tablet’s local database with the server PAFoodSafety automatically creates entries in the back-office laboratory information management system (LIMS) for any food samples taken. The LIMS module in turn interacts directly with the PAFoodSafety server to provide full visibility into the testing process and any contamination reported. This integration enables full chain of custody for tracking the food sample from point of collection to final resolution.

- Is it effective?
  a. Since implementing the software in 2011, Pennsylvania has seen a 38 percent increase in productivity, measured in terms of inspections executed. LIMS connectivity dramatically reduces cycle time for sample-related inspections and enables health officials to resolve incidents in minutes as opposed to days. In addition, public safety officials can use the geo-coded data to predict and contain food contamination, as opposed to simply reacting to it.

The ability to work faster, complete more inspections, and pro-actively promote food safety across the food supply chain is the primary health benefit of the project. USAFoodSafety represents a focused integration of best-available technology to dramatically improve public service and, by extension, the safety of the food supply in Pennsylvania.

3. Did this program originate in your state?
   a. Yes, more information on the program can be provided by Drew Polulak, Chief Information Officer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

4. Are you aware of similar programs in other states? If YES, which ones and how does this program differ?
   No, USAFoodSafety is available to other state/local organizations at no charge by a license agreement through the non-profit National Agribusiness Technology Center (NATC).
5. What limitations or obstacles might other states expect to encounter when attempting to adopt this program?
   a. It was designed, funded and originally implemented by PDA. PDA retains ownership of the original software; the NATC makes it available as a government off-the-shelf (GOTS) component of the AgraGuard suite of software tools used to ensure an uncontaminated food supply to the U.S. public.

CSG reserves the right to use or publish in other CSG products the information provided in this application. If your agency objects to this policy, please advise us in a separate attachment.
Use these as guidelines to determine the appropriate Program Category for your state's submission and list that program category on page one of this application. Choose only one.

**Infrastructure and Economic Development**
- Business/Commerce
- Economic Development
- Transportation

**Government Operations and Technology**
- Administration
- Elections
- Information Systems
- Public Information
- Revenue
- Telecommunications

**Health & Human Services**
- Aging
- Children & Families
- Health Services
- Housing
- Human Services

**Human Resources/Education**
- Education
- Labor
- Management
- Personnel
- Training and Development
- Workforce Development

**Natural Resources**
- Agriculture
- Energy
- Environment
- Environmental Protection
- Natural Resources
- Parks & Recreation
- Water Resources

**Public Safety/Corrections**
- Corrections
- Courts
- Criminal Justice
- Drugs
- Emergency Management
- Public Safety

Save in .doc or rtf. Return completed application AND video (if applicable) electronically to innovations@csg.org or mail to:

CSG Innovations Awards
The Council of State Governments
2760 Research Park Drive
Lexington, KY 40511

**Contact:**
Nancy J. Vickers, National Program Administrator
Phone: 859.244.8105
Fax: 859.244.8001 – Attn: Innovations Awards Program
The Council of State Governments
E-mail: nvickers@csg.org

This application is also available at www.csg.org.