

**RLTS**

Regulatory and Laboratory  
Training System

# Regulatory & Laboratory Training System (RLTS)

December 2025

# Agenda

1 What is the RLTS?

2 Strategy and Implementation

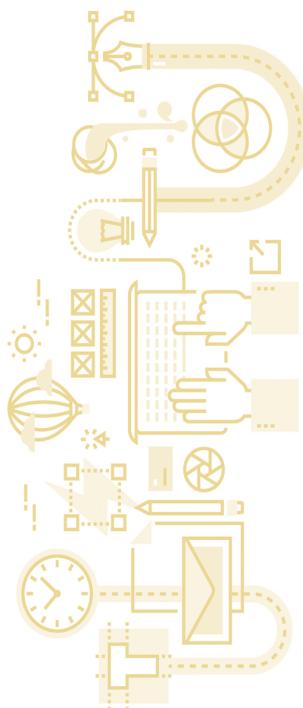
3 Governance

4 Features

5 Next Steps

6 Q&A & References

# What is the RLTS?



- The **Regulatory and Laboratory Training System (RLTS)** is a collaborative infrastructure used for accessing high-quality, competency-based training for regulatory and laboratory personnel.
- It is a cornerstone of FDA's efforts to build a well-trained and skilled workforce within the Integrated Food Safety System (IFSS).

# RLTS Partners



Lead by FDA, the IFSS RLTS Steering Committee includes partners from over 13 organizations

**NCIMS**

National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments



**NACCHO**

National Association of County & City Health Officials



U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE  
CONTROL AND PREVENTION



**AAFCO**  
Association of American Feed Control Officials



**USDA**

Food  
Safety and  
Inspection  
Service



**astho**<sup>®</sup>

FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL COLLABORATION

**NASDA** **neha**



# 2024 FDA Strategic Training Plan



**IFSS Regulatory and Laboratory Training Strategic Plan**

FEBRUARY 2024



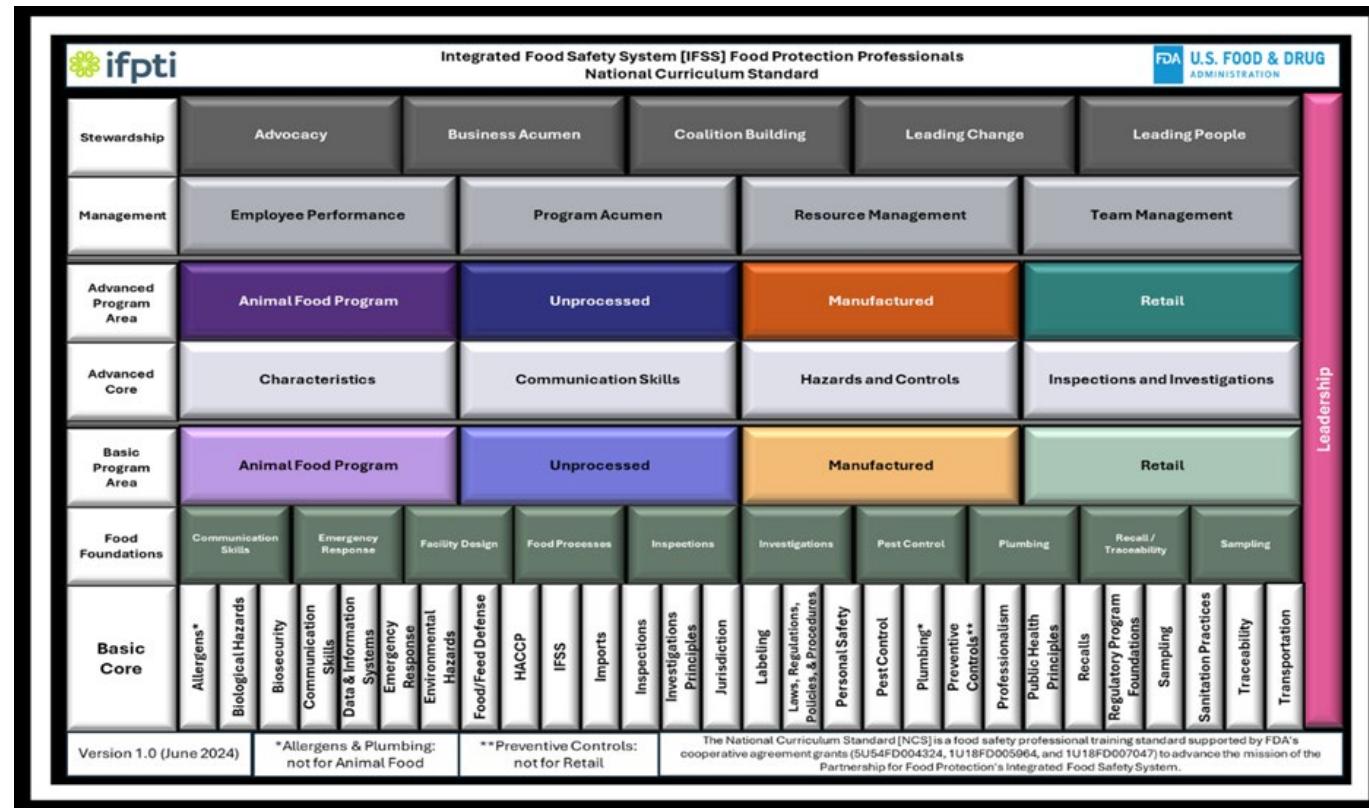
**IFSS Regulatory and Laboratory Training System  
Implementation Plan**

JUNE 10, 2024

October 2023 – September 2025

# Foundation of the RLTS

- RLTS is built on **National Curriculum Standards (NCS)**: competency-based framework that aligns knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to do a job



# IFSS National Curriculum Standards

**Integrated Food Safety System [IFSS] Food Protection Professionals  
National Curriculum Standard**

**U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION**

This matrix diagram illustrates the curriculum standard for Food Protection Professionals. It is organized into six main horizontal columns: Stewardship, Advocacy, Business Acumen, Coalition Building, Leading Change, and Leading People. The vertical axis is divided into four main program areas: Advanced Program Area (Animal Food Program, Unprocessed, Manufactured, Retail), Advanced Core (Characteristics, Communication Skills, Hazards and Controls, Inspections and Investigations), Basic Program Area (Animal Food Program, Unprocessed, Manufactured, Retail), and Food Foundations (Communication Skills, Emergency Response, Facility Design, Food Processes, Inspections, Investigations, Pest Control, Plumbing, Recall / Traceability, Sampling). A vertical pink bar on the right is labeled 'Leadership'. A legend at the bottom defines colors: purple for Animal Food Program, blue for Unprocessed, orange for Manufactured, green for Retail, and grey for the other categories. A note at the bottom states: "The National Curriculum Standard (NCS) is a food safety professional training standard supported by FDA's cooperative agreement grants (5U54FD004524, 1U18FD005984, and 1U18FD007047) to advance the mission of the Partnership for Food Protection's Integrated Food Safety System."

## National Curriculum Framework for Regulators

<https://www.ifpti.org/ncs>

**Integrated Food Safety System [IFSS] Human and Animal Food Laboratory  
National Curriculum Standard**

This matrix diagram illustrates the curriculum standard for Human and Animal Food Laboratory professionals. It is organized into five main horizontal columns: Director (Agency/Legal Requirements, Laboratory Oversight), Expert (Grants, Contract, & Cooperative Agreements, Management, Regulations, Standards, & Programs (RSPs), Scientific Acumen), Mid (program Specific) (Advanced Animal Food, Radiochemistry, Select Agents and Toxins, Shellfish), Mid Core (Advanced Communication Skills, Advanced Quality Techniques, Advanced Safety, Advanced Waste Management, Audit, Emerging Analytical Challenges, Environmental Conditions, Evidentiary Integrity, Incident Detection & Response, Informatics / IT, Laboratory Collaborations, & Interagency Programs, Legal Proceedings, Method Evaluation & Selection, QMS II), and Entry (Program Specific) (Animal Food, Biosafety Level 3, Dairy Regulatory Programs, Select Agents, Shellfish Regulatory Programs). A vertical pink bar on the right is labeled 'Leadership'. A note at the bottom states: "Version 1.0 (June 2024)".

## National Curriculum Framework for Laboratorians

# Shift to Skill-Based Learning

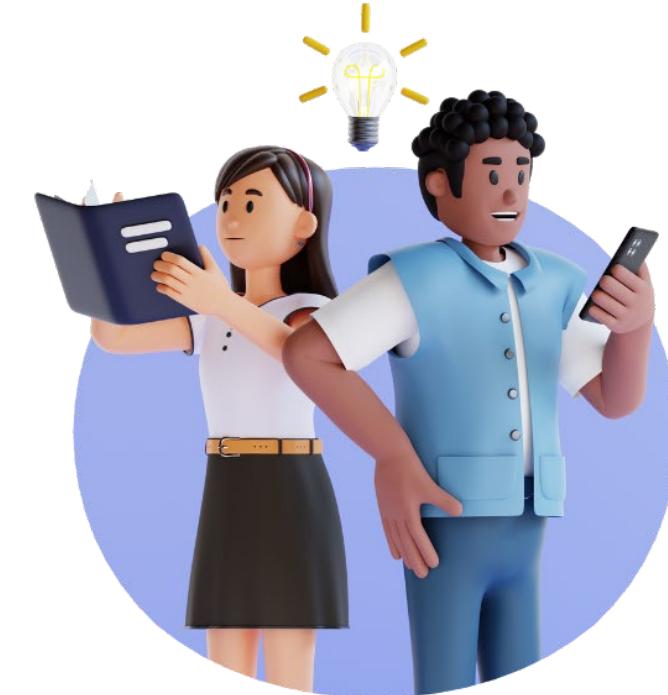


- Traditional training has measured success by course/ topic completion or hours spent in instruction.
- RLTS emphasizes **competency attainment**—ensuring that individuals can demonstrate knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) required for regulatory or laboratory roles, not just attend a class.

# Use of Alternative Learning Modalities

Beyond traditional FDA classroom learning:

- Scenario-based learning and case studies
- Virtual labs and simulation-based inspections
- On-the-job training, mentoring, and assessment
- Microlearning modules for just-in-time education
- AI-interactive tools for building resources



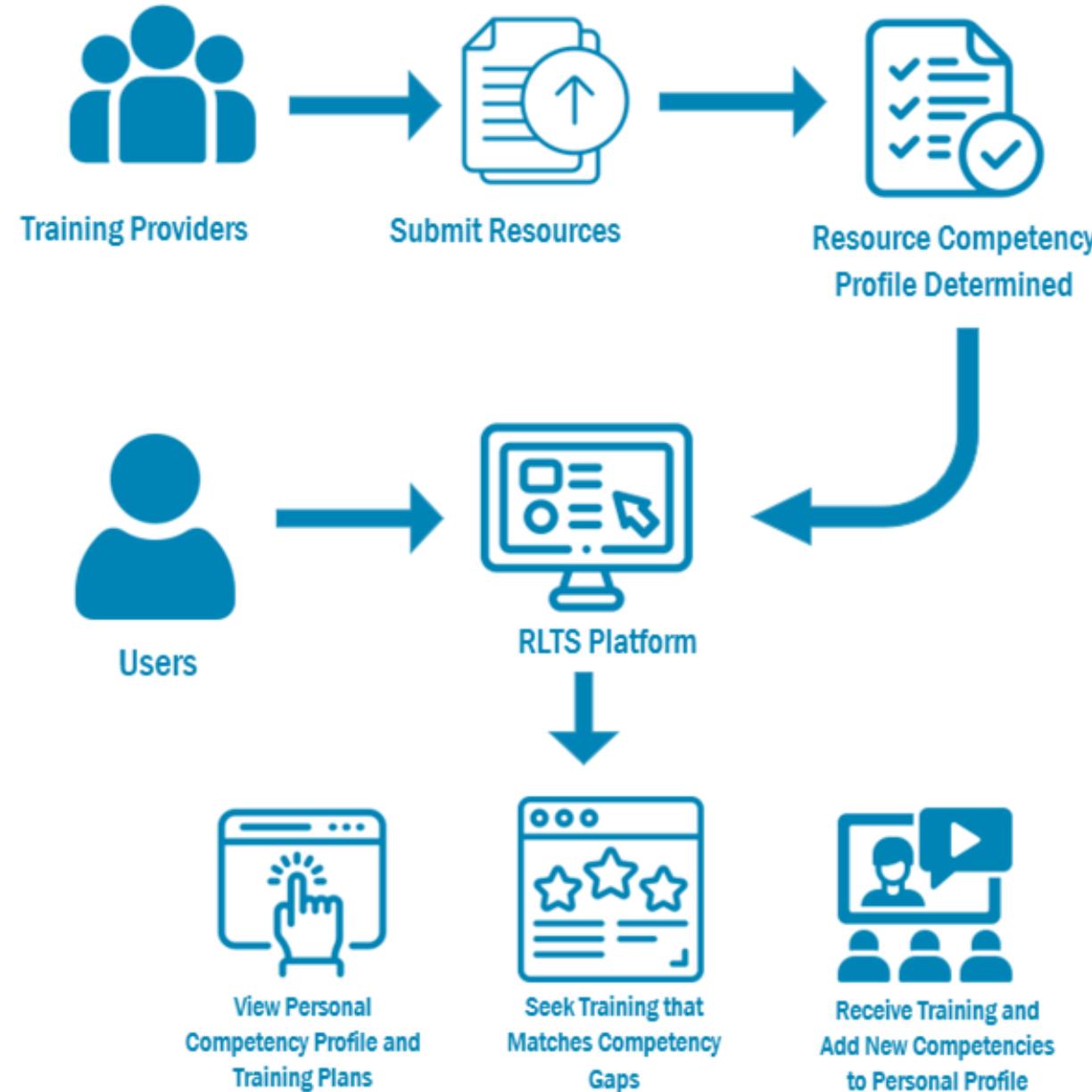
Accommodating different learning styles and operational constraints

# Demonstration of Competency Attainment

Competency Area	Examples of Demonstration
Knowledge-Based	Exams, quizzes, policy tests
Training Completion	E-learning courses, ILT sessions, blended learning
Performance-Based	Field assessments, observed inspections
Standardization	Standardized inspections, certification
Documentation	Mock inspections, sampling
Workplace Verification	Supervisor evaluations, checklists
Field Audits	QA audits, compliance reviews
Ongoing Maintenance	Refreshers, advanced courses, re-standardization

# Open-Marketplace Approach

In addition to FDA, training providers—including academic institutions, nonprofits, and commercial entities—can offer training to regulatory and laboratory professionals.



# RLTS Governance

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## Steering/ Advisory Committee



## National Coordination Center



## Sub-Committees and Workgroups

# What's Been Built



Developed 7 best practices/SOPs collaboratively with  
**Advisory Committees with members from federal  
agencies, SLTT, academia, and industry**

## Best Practices (Quality Standards):

- Learning Resource Content Development
- Learning Resource Design
- Learning Resource Delivery

## Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs):

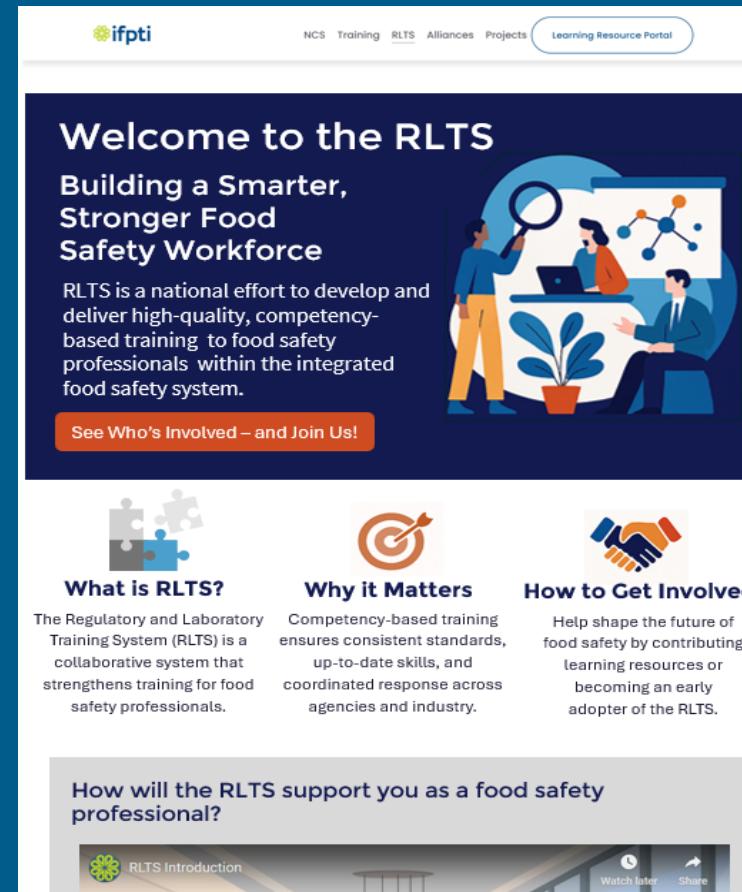
- SCORE (Submission & Alignment Process)
- NCS Development and Maintenance
- Demonstration of Competency

# Strategic Comms Subgroup

[ifpti.org/rlts](http://ifpti.org/rlts)

## RLTS Website

New, updated RLTS website that will allow us to share up-to-date information with our audiences:



## Up Next:

Standardized presentation for conferences

Updated Strategic Communications Plan for RLTS launch

Publications  
Subgroup: Dedicated papers and op-eds for the RLTS

# Benefits for the RLTS User



- One-stop shop national listing of resources
- Timely access to quality resources
  - Courses, assessments, alternative attainment
  - Learning paths
- Career pathways & performance plans
- Individual competency profile tracking
  - Portability – take your profile with you
  - Workforce readiness, cross jurisdictional recognition

# What's Next

- Amend Standards #2 of the Regulatory Program Standards to align with NCS
  - CFP approved 2025
- RLTS Subgroup work continues (Communications, Market Analysis, and Publications)
  - Sustainability Plan
  - Food Safety Magazine article
- Resource submission system
  - Resource competency profiles
  - Starting with FDA catalog
- User interfaces – launch Summer 2026





A large, stylized graphic reading "Q&A" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letters are composed of three overlapping rectangular planes: a dark blue plane on the left, a light green plane in the center, and a light blue plane on the right. The "Q" is on the left plane, the "&" is on the green plane, and the "A" is on the right plane. The graphic is set against a white background.

# References

- [IFPTI NCS](#)
- [National Curriculum Framework for Regulators](#)
- [National Curriculum Framework for Laboratorians](#)
- [RLTS Website](#)

**Welcome to the RLTS**

**Empowering the Future Workforce**

RLTS is a national effort to develop and deliver high-quality, competency-based training to food safety professionals within the integrated food safety system.

[See Who's Involved](#) [Join Us!](#)



[ifpti.org/rfts](http://ifpti.org/rfts)