
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2020

Fiscal Services Division

January 13, 202019



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Food and Consumer Safety Bureau — Department of Inspections and Appeals

Overview

The Food and Consumer Safety Bureau is located in the Administration Division of the Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA). The Bureau is responsible for administering and enforcing the Iowa Food Code (Iowa Code chapter [137F](#)) by conducting food safety inspections at food establishments (grocery stores, restaurants, and convenience stores), food processing plants, school concession stands, and mobile food units (food trucks). According to the DIA, the purpose of the Iowa Food Code is to “safeguard the public health and provide to consumers, food that is safe, unadulterated and honestly prepared.” In addition to grocery stores, restaurants, and convenience stores, the Bureau deals with bed and breakfast homes and inns, farmers markets and temporary food establishments, and home food establishments. The Food and Consumer Safety Bureau also maintains a [restaurant inspection website](#) through which visitors can view or download inspection reports for Iowa food establishments, including restaurants, grocery stores, and convenience stores.

All food establishments in Iowa are inspected according to the Iowa Food Code. The Food Code is based on food safety recommendations developed by the federal Food and Drug Administration, in consultation with representatives from the food industry and regulators. The Food Code is derived from scientifically developed factors focusing on public health and the prevention of foodborne illness.

In recent years, trends have indicated that more municipalities are turning the duty of food inspections back over to the Bureau, as opposed to locally enforcing. Beginning in FY 2017, the process of collecting fees associated with food inspections changed to allow the DIA to keep fee revenue collected from inspections completed by the Department. Fees collected on behalf of a municipal corporation are not retained by the Department. The Department is required to deposit \$800,000 of the fee revenue into the General Fund and is permitted to retain the remainder in its operating budget.

Funding

The Food and Consumer Safety Bureau receives an annual General Fund appropriation in addition to the revenue from inspection fees.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapters [10A](#) and [137F](#)
Iowa Administrative Code [481](#)

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More Information

Food and Consumer Safety Bureau — Department of Inspections and Appeals:

www.dia.iowa.gov/food-consumer-safety

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