

DETERMINATION AND FINDING FOR A SOURCE PROCUREMENT

AGENCY, OFFICE: District of Columbia Public Schools, Office of Operations, Food and Nutrition Services Division

CAPTION: Consultative staffing services to support monitoring of the District's Food Service Management Company (FSMC) Contracts

PROPOSED CONTRACTOR: Food Jonezi

CONTRACT NO.: GAGA-2025-C-0295

FINDINGS

1. AUTHORIZATION:

D.C. Code 2-354.04 and 27 DCMR, Section 1304 and 1700.

2. MINIMUM NEED:

The District of Columbia Public Schools ("DCPS") Office of Operations, Department of Food and Nutrition Services ("FNS") has an immediate need to procure the services of C. Jonezi Nutrition Consulting Services, LLC to provide additional personnel support to assist with the monitoring of the District's Food Service Management Company (FSMC) Contracts across 117 schools between October 1, 2025, and September 30, 2026.

3. ESTIMATED COST:

The estimated cost is \$101,221.00 from October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026.

4. FACTS THAT JUSTIFY A SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT:

- a. In school year 2024-2025, the provider, Food Jonezi, in partnership with DCPS, FNS provided an unparalleled quality control services to make sure quality and nutrition compliance of food and services via assigning this individual that satisfied the level of function FNS requires. The individual has been cleared through DCPS Clearance processes and have provided a superior level of service throughout the implementation. The overall result was successful, and Food Jonezi was integral in the success of FNS' contract oversight and helped DCPS meet the high marks of quality and satisfaction required of the school meals program.
- b. Food Jonezi is already equipped with staff who have been fully trained and security cleared in school year 23-24 and 24-25 to support all aspects of FNS' operations support. Food Jonezi staff are actively monitoring the new FSMC contract and are currently integrated with the FNS team. This sole source procurement will allow continuation of critical Food Jonezi support without a break in service.
- c. The training FNS invested in Food Jonezi was complex, and the inclusion of Food Jonezi, which is a certified CBE and on the DC Supply Schedule, is the most effective and efficient option for DCPS in this situation. Further, Food Jonezi is an expert organization when it comes to nutrition regulations and meal service operations, as this is the center of the competency that Food Jonezi offers in its services.

5. BACKGROUND

- a. FNS is responsible for providing food and nutrition services to all 117 DCPS school sites with meal programs, equating to over 9.5 million meals each year. Currently, three key FSMC vendors are responsible for food service at 110 of these schools, while 8 have converted to self-operation by DCPS. SodexoMagic is contracted to operate 47 schools, DC Central Kitchen is contracted to operate 24 schools, and most recently, Aramark, became a new contractor with DCPS in SY24-25.
- b. The full-time FNS Operations Team is comprised of five individuals that oversee a cluster of approximately 24 schools. The work stream of the Operations Team requires constant oversight of operations, in addition to the accountability of over 100 required regulatory reviews per member. The span of work in 117 schools far outpaces the capacity of the existing team to conduct random quality assurance checks and operational follow-up across multiple schools in a responsive time to meet all deadlines and properly monitor the performance in all 24 schools without additional support.
- c. FNS is required to provide meals to DCPS students as part of the scheduled school day and is also tasked with providing universally free meals during summer months and outside of the traditional school year. It is important to note that over 85% of DCPS students are categorized as Free or Reduced due to the overwhelming need identified in the city. As a result, the need to ensure that the menu is provided in whole is foundational for student learning; the meal received at DC Public Schools may be the only meal students receive.
- d. Success hinges on FNS' ability to sufficiently monitor vendor performance. DCPS' FSMC contracts are highly visible and are constantly under scrutiny. DC Council monitors the administration and performance of these contracts closely because of the very high fiscal investment required for the procured services. More importantly, families are reliant upon DCPS' fulfillment in its promise to deliver a high-quality program that exceeds expectations.
- e. The challenge of oversight in a contracted service of this size risks FNS' ability to oversee the execution of prescribed nutrition as required by USDA and OSSE, in addition to ensuring that DCPS is receiving the full value of services as required by the contracts.
- f. In plain terms, without additional support, FNS is unable to fully ensure that nutritional requirements are met, contractual obligations are compliant, and day-to-day operations are efficient, effective and are safe for workers in their kitchens while students must have safely handled meals for consumption.
- g. FNS has identified Food Jonezi as a unique provider that is able to meet its needs. For continuity of services, we would like to move forward with Food Jonezi as the vendor.

6. CONCLUSION:

- a. The FNS Division is robust in its size and reach, and the stakes in ensuring vendor performance are high. The administration of high-quality nutrition for over 52,000 students is reliant on five individuals monitoring across 117 schools. FNS has an obligation to ensure that all aspects of the FSMC contract are implemented seamlessly and compliant with pertinent laws and regulations of the highest quality and health, because of the value of the contracts, and more importantly, to the satisfaction of our students and families.
- b. This Sole Source contracting is the most beneficial method to procure these services, because of saving time and money due to contractor's familiarity with FNS and service.
- c. The need for quality assurance under the circumstances is tremendous to ensure FNS' success in contract administration and monitoring, and Food Jonezi is equipped, active, and can easily extend its services to meet DCPS' needs in FY26.

7. **CERTIFICATION BY PROGRAM DIRECTOR:**

I hereby certify that the above findings are correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and the anticipated prices to DCPS are fair and reasonable.

August 13, 2025

Date



Program Director, OoO-FNS

8. **CERTIFICATION BY CONTRACT SPECIALIST:**

I hereby certify that the above findings are correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and the anticipated prices to DCPS are fair and reasonable.

August 13, 2025

Date



Contract Specialist

CERTIFICATION AND DETERMINATION

Based on the above-certified findings in accordance cited authority, I hereby determine that it is not feasible or practical to invoke the competitive bidding process under Section 402 or 403 of the District of Columbia Procurement Practices Reform Act of 2010 (D.C. Law 18-371; DC Code 2-354.04 and 27 DCMR 1304 and 1702.

August 13, 2025

Date



Contracting Officer