

**DETERMINATION AND FINDINGS
FOR A
SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT**

AGENCY: District of Columbia Public Schools, Office of Food and Nutrition Services (OFNS)
CAPTION: FreshFarm Food Prints for Sustainable Agriculture and Improved Food Access and Equity.
CONTRACT NO.: GAGA-2017-C-0036
CONTRACTOR:

FINDINGS

1. AUTHORIZATION:

D.C. Official Code: §2-354.04, and 27 DCMR 1304, 1701.

2. MINIMUM NEED:

DCPS has a need to establish a contract for with FoodPrints to develop a program that integrates gardening, cooking, and nutrition education into the curriculum, in 9 DCPS elementary schools.

3. ESTIMATED REASONABLE PRICE:

The estimated not to exceed price is \$354,793.12 from Date of Award to June 30, 2018 for the base year. The not to exceed prices for the Option Years:

Option Year 1: \$222,603.44

Option Year 2: \$222,603.44

4. BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:

The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), Office of Food and Nutrition Services (OFNS) has been in consultation with the Office of the State Superintendent for Education (OSSE) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding the need to demonstrate improvement of the food service programs, specifically in the areas of:

- Food Service Equipment Needs,
- Staffing Needs,
- Nutrition, Gardening and Cooking program,
- Kitchen and Cafeteria Improvements.

In light of the above minimum, DCPS developed a “Five-Year Strategic Improvement Plan” as required by USDA. The plan was developed in accordance with the following:

A. Contractual Requirement of Food Service Management Contract

C.3.22.10.03 of [Food Service Management Company Solicitation](#) GAGA-2016-R-0036A requires contractors to promote school gardens in coordination with DCPS and utilize the garden in nutrition education activities, including “working directly with or supporting a school garden coordinator as well as other community-based or DCPS contracted programs such as Food Prints”. Further, the food service vendors have incorporated the program into their contract submittal and have been executing these services to date.

B. Historical relationship with Freshfarm and DC Public Schools

FreshFram FoodPrints program first started working with Rudolph Elementary School until it closed in 2008. In 2009, the Freshfarm FoodPrints program at Watkins Elementary School was launched and has since expanded to seven additional schools, per below:

1. Francis Stevens Elementary School
2. Kimball Elementary school
3. Ludlow Taylor Elementary School
4. Peabody Early Childhood
5. Tayler Elementary School
6. Simon Elementary School
7. School Within School @ Goding
8. Marie Reed Elementary School

The Freshfarms FoodPrints program has developed robust support at each school, and credits much of its success to the support of the administration, teachers, staff, and families. This work, lasting nearly a decade, has created a unique and intimate relationship between FreshFarm and DCPS. The FreshFram FoodPrints provides expertise in implementing effective garden programs within the district and at the DC Public Schools.

C. New Proposed Contract Will Meet Immediate Needs

Nine schools have expressed an immediate need for continuing/implementing a garden program in their schools. FreshFarm is prepared to begin work almost immediately to ensure that on day one of SY 2017-18, programming is in place for the successful rollout of the program.

D. Proven Track Record of Success in DCPS

In a recent evaluation of the FreshFarm FoodPrints program in DCPS, researchers from George Mason University found:

- FreshFarm FoodPrints lessons are focused on real world application of core subject matter concepts in math, science and language arts, and students have regular opportunities to apply math and science concepts in a real-world setting.
- FreshFarm FoodPrints educators encourage students to work collaboratively and engage students by involving them in every step of the process.
 - Classes offer child-centered, active learning opportunities.
- The FreshFarm FoodPrints program has a positive impact on children’s knowledge of nutritious foods and their willingness to eat these foods at home; their interest in cooking nutritious food at home; and their nutrition and cooking knowledge and skills.

E. Supporting a Local Business

FreshFarm is a DC-based non-profit organization that promotes sustainable agriculture in the Mid-Atlantic Region. As part of this work, they support local farmers through purchases at farmer’s markets and direct connections with schools. They have also developed several key local partnerships, including:

- Universities and colleges – to recruit, train and provide interns and practicum students opportunities to support the program.
- Research and evaluation experts – to assess the effects of the program and methods for continual process improvement.
- Environmental literacy educators – who work in schools to bring programming and knowledge to implement the Environmental Literacy Framework from OSSE.
- AmeriCorps FoodCorps volunteers - who provide full-time support to the program.

F. DCPS Need to Centralize Garden Programs at Schools

Finally, a contract with FreshFram will assist in centralizing garden programs at DC Public Schools. Currently, schools operate independently, and the programs can fall to the wayside for more pressing budget priorities. Centralizing the program puts food and operations back in the hands of the experts and alleviates the administrative burden on schools and central office.

5. FACTS WHICH JUSTIFY SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT:

The decision for awarding a contract with FreshFarm is the result of the continuous collaboration and communication between United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), and the District of

Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), since 2016 regarding implementing the USDA initiatives on improvement of the food service programs for the DCPS.

FNS was allocated funding from the 2016 legal settlement wherein the USDA has required funds to be spent on the improvement of the food service program. DCPS developed the 5 year strategic improvement plan. The Freshfarm *FoodPrints Program* is listed in this improvement plan allocated throughout the course of five years. The plan requires annual updates to USDA on the follow-through of the committed funding which was vetted and approved by OSSE and USDA.

In light of the above it is a necessary governmental function and in the best interest of DCPS to award a sole source contract to FreshFarm.

6. CERTIFICATION BY DCPS PROGRAM:

I hereby certify that the above findings are true, correct and complete, and the anticipated cost to DCPS is fair and reasonable.

Date

Director, Office of Food and Nutrition Service

DETERMINATION

Based on the above certified findings and in accordance with the cited authority, I hereby determine that it is not feasible or practical to invoke the competitive bidding process and that this DCPS shall award the contract pursuant D.C. Official Code §2-354.04, and 27 DCMR Sections 1304 and 1701.

Date

Contracting Officer