

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. SCOPE:

1.1 The Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES and Participants require **COOPERATIVE GROCERY ITEMS**. The BOCES and Participants have agreed to form a Cooperative Bid Group as authorized by General Municipal Law Section 119-o. It is the intent of the Cooperative Bid Group (hereinafter referred to as "Participants") to contract with vendor(s) and to establish prices for these items for the stated contract term. Notwithstanding the details presented in the specifications, it being understood that a complete reliable supply of **COOPERATIVE GROCERY ITEMS** satisfactory to each participant shall be required in all cases.

1.2 The Participants reserve the right to add to, or remove from, the contract at any time using Organizations, Departments, Agencies and School Districts.

2. AMENDMENTS TO BID:

Any verbal information obtained from or statements made by representatives of Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES at the time of examination of the documents or site shall not be construed as, in any way, amending contract documents. Only such corrections or addenda as are used by the BOCES in writing to all Contracts shall become a part of the Contract. Any addendum issued during the time of bidding shall be included in bids and become a part of the Contract Agreement.

3. DESCRIPTION OF BOCES:

3.1 The Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) was created by New York State legislation in 1948. Today, there are thirty-eight organizations in the State. Each has its own governing board, elected by members of the Boards of Education of the component districts. The primary purpose of the BOCES is to provide services to two or more member districts more effectively and economically than one district could provide alone. Each year, the component districts request the services they want their BOCES to provide in the following year. The various requests for services and programs are assembled into an operating plan along with the associated budget. The State Department is required to approve all services before they can be provided to districts. Legal contracts are drawn up and approved by the district, the individual BOCES and the Commissioner of Education.

3.2 BOCES is an educational agency of the State, and must, therefore, adhere to all laws and regulations of the State of New York, which govern the public schools in the State, as well as regulations controlling the BOCES. BOCES receives most of its money from the member districts. In return, the member districts receive BOCES aid based on their relative wealth and need for the service. The various BOCES operate many programs. Generally, the largest programs are associated with Career & Technical and Special Education.

3.3 Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES covers a four county region and supports 25 component school districts. Students served by BOCES are provided instructional programs including Career and Technical education, programs for children with handicapping conditions, and Adult Education.

4. OBLIGATION OF BIDDERS:

At the time of the opening of the bids, each bidder will be presumed to have read and be thoroughly familiar with the contract documents. The failure or omission of any bidder to receive or examine any form, instrument, or document shall in no way relieve any bidder from any obligation in respect to the submitted bid.

5. RESPONSIBILITY OF CONTRACTOR:

The contractor shall be responsible for providing, delivering and inspecting all materials ordered as a result of this bid. The contractor is responsible for following all instructions as described in this document.

6. BOCES' RESPONSIBILITY:

Although this bid was issued, evaluated, and awarded by the Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES at the request of itself and participants, BOCES' liability under contract is limited to coordination and BOCES issued purchase orders only. Districts are required to generate their own purchase orders (to the successful vendors) in accordance with the bid provisions and the attached schedule of awards.

7. PARTICIPANTS' RESPONSIBILITY:

Purchase Orders will be issued to the designated vendor(s) by the participants listed, authorized in accordance with established Municipal Accounting Practices. Those participants are solely responsible in contract for obligations entered into with the vendors.

8. CONTRACT TERM:

The contract resulting from this bid invitation shall remain in effect from July 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023. The contract may be extended for one (1) six-month term or less upon mutual agreement of the contracting parties.

9. SHORT TERM EXTENSION:

In the event the replacement contract has not been issued, any contract let and awarded hereunder by the BOCES, may be extended unilaterally by the BOCES for an additional period of up to one month upon notice to the contractor with the same terms and conditions as the original contract including, but not limited to, quantities (prorated for such one month extension), price, and delivery requirements. With the concurrence of the contractor, the extension may be for a period of up to three months in lieu of one month. However, this extension terminates should the replacement contract be issued in the interim.

10. QUANTITIES:

The annual usage quantities indicated in the specifications represent estimated total requirements for the contract term. The totals are estimates ONLY and should not be construed to represent either maximum or minimum amounts to be purchased during the contract term. Therefore, the contract is only for quantities actually ordered.

11. OTHER CONTRACTS:

The Participant(s) reserves the right to purchase goods and services from any avenue legally available by NYS law throughout the duration of any contract resulting from this bid.

12. UNANTICIPATED REQUIREMENTS:

12.1 Every effort has been made to include all items that may be required during the contract term. If, however, items are required which are not listed on the Proposal, the BOCES reserves the right to negotiate with the vendor a mutually agreeable cost for the items not specified to the extent permitted by General Municipal Law Section 103 and other applicable law. Any such items must be approved in writing by the BOCES prior to the contractor providing the items. Upon approval, these items will be added to the contract under the same terms and conditions. The BOCES further reserves the right to obtain these items from other sources if the cost cannot be mutually agreed upon, or if purchase of the items is subject to competitive bidding requirements.

12.2 The BOCES further reserves the right to purchase through the competitive bidding process, unanticipated large volume requirements, whether or not listed on the Proposal, if the BOCES concludes that prices or other considerations will result in terms which will be more favorable to the participants.

13. BIDDER QUALIFICATIONS:

13.1 In order to be considered responsive, a bidder must demonstrate that, immediately upon award of contract, the bidder is capable of meeting the terms and conditions of this contract. By submitting a bid, a bidder acknowledges and accepts the right of the Participants, at their sole discretion, to apply whatever criteria they deem to be reasonable in determining whether or not a bidder has demonstrated its capability of meeting the terms and conditions of this contract.

13.2 In addition to the requirements of the General Conditions, each successful bidder must be able to provide the Participants, upon request, sufficient evidence that the bidder can be reasonably expected to meet the requirements of this contract. Specifically, any bidder must provide evidence of a multi-year track record of having met the needs of customers of the size and complexity of the Participants.

13.3 Each successful bidder must be able to demonstrate the experience, financial stability, personnel, stock, plan capacity and systems requirements to perform this contract. Major criteria to be considered in evaluating these factors are:

1. Demonstration of stocking, warehousing, and ordering capability. Sufficient stock on hand to handle routine quantities of orders.
2. Demonstration of order taking and tracking capability. The bidder must have a system in place to efficiently and correctly handle multiple large orders from separate accounts.
3. Demonstration of delivery capability, i.e., and ability to provide separate delivery to each separate account within the time frames specified.
4. Demonstration of billing systems to insure smooth, correct and efficient billing to as many separate accounts as are established.
5. Demonstrate sufficient sales staff to receive orders and handle problems of all Participants as required.

13.4 A bidder must supply, within three (3) days of request, any information requested by the Participants as part of its review of qualifications.

13.5 The successful bidder must supply copies of catalog(s)/price list(s) bid to all Participants.

14. IRAN DIVESTMENT ACT:

14.1 By submitting a bid in response to this solicitation or by assuming the responsibility of a Contract awarded hereunder, Bidder/Contractor (or any assignee) certifies that it is not on the "Entities Determined To Be Non-Responsive Bidders/Offerers Pursuant to The New York State Iran Divestment Act of 2013" list ("Prohibited Entities List") posted on the OGS website at: <http://www.ogs.ny.gov/about/reggs/docs/ListofEntities.pdf> and further certifies that it will not utilize on such Contract any subcontractor that is identified on the Prohibited Entities List. Additionally, Bidder/Contractor is advised that should it seek to renew or extend a Contract awarded in response to the solicitation, it must provide the same certification at the time the Contract is renewed or extended.

14.2 During the term of the Contract, should BOCES receive information that a person (as defined in State Finance Law § 165-a) is in violation of the above-referenced certifications, BOCES will review such information and offer the person an opportunity to respond. If the person fails to demonstrate that it has ceased its engagement in the investment activity which is in violation of the Act within 90 days after the determination of such violation, then BOCES shall take such action as may be appropriate and provided for by law, rule, or contract, including, but not limited to, seeking compliance, recovering

damages, or declaring the Contractor in default.

14.3 BOCES reserves the right to reject any bid, request for assignment, renewal or extension for an entity that appears on the Prohibited Entities List prior to the award, assignment, renewal or extension of a contract, and to pursue a responsibility review with respect to any entity that is awarded a contract and appears on the Prohibited Entities list after contract award.

15. BUY AMERICAN PROVISION:

15.1 Section 104(d) of the William F. Goodling Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-336) added a provision, Section 12(n) to the NSLA (42 USC 1760(n)), requiring school food authorities (SFA's) to purchase, to the maximum extent practicable, domestic commodity of products. Section 12(n) of the NSLA defines "domestic commodity or product" as an agricultural commodity that is produced in the United States and a food product that is processed in the United States using substantial agricultural commodities that are produced in the United States. "Substantial" means that over 51% of the final product consists of agricultural commodities that were grown domestically. Products from Guam, America Samoa, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Northern Mariana Islands are allowed under this provision as territories of the United States. The Buy American provision (7 CFR Part 210.21(d)) is one of the procurement standards SFA's must comply with when purchasing commercial food products served in the school meal programs.

15.2 LIMITED EXCEPTIONS TO THE BUY AMERICA PROVISION:

There are limited exceptions to the Buy American provision which allow for the purchase of foods not meeting the "domestic" standard as described above (i.e., "non-domestic") in circumstances when use of domestic foods is truly not practicable. These exceptions, as determined by the SFA, are:

- The product is not produced or manufactured in the U.S. in sufficient and reasonably available quantities of a satisfactory quality; or
- Competitive bids reveal the costs of a U.S. product are significantly higher than the non-domestic product.

15.3 Should the vendor request an exception to the buy America provision, it is the vendors responsibility to provide sufficient evidence that the product in question does not exist in any form that would comply with the provision. Should the BOCES determine that the evidence supplied by the vendor does not meet the requirements for an exception, the vendor will be required to supply the appropriate produce or be deemed nonresponsive to the bid or contract.

16. MWBE: §200.321 Contracting with small and minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms.

(a) The non-Federal entity must take all necessary affirmative steps to assure that minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible.

(b) Affirmative steps must include:

- (1) Placing qualified small and minority businesses and women's business enterprises on solicitation lists;
- (2) Assuring that small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises are solicited whenever they are potential sources;
- (3) Dividing total requirements, when economically feasible, into smaller tasks or quantities to permit maximum participation by small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises;
- (4) Establishing delivery schedules, where the requirement permits, which encourage participation by small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises;

(5) Using the services and assistance, as appropriate, of such organizations as the Small Business Administration and the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce; and

(6) Requiring the prime contractor, if subcontracts are to be let, to take the affirmative steps listed in paragraphs (1) through (5) of this section.

17. BID FORMAT:

The bidder shall insert the unit price, the extended price, and any brand, quantity and/or size variance from the specified product on the bid forms enclosed for each item he/she proposes to furnish. In the event of a discrepancy between the unit price and any extension or bid total, the unit price will govern. If not bidding an item or items, mark N/A in appropriate place(s), do not leave any blanks.

18. REGULATIONS:

All products must meet all applicable Local, State and Federal regulations.

19. SPECIFICATION REFERENCES:

19.1 For the items specified, the words "or equal" are understood after each item. All bidders are to identify the brand, specifications, weight and number of items per package, label standards and any variance on all items bid. If no description or alternate item information accompanies the bid, it will be assumed the bidder will furnish the item exactly as listed on the bid proposal form specifications. Items must be clearly labeled as to item and weight and packaged to assure adequate protection from dirt, moisture or other contaminants.

19.2 The Participants have determined that if manufacturers are listed (model names or numbers used) in the specifications, those listed are preferred. This manufacturer's reference is not intended to be restrictive but descriptive of the type and quality that the Participants' desire to purchase. Bids for similar manufactured items of like quality will be considered if the bid is fully noted with the manufacturer's brand name and model.

19.3 The Bid Committee reserves the right to determine products of equal value. The decision of the Bid Committee will be final as to acceptable alternates. Vendors will not be allowed to make unauthorized substitutions after award is made.

19.4 If the item or items called for in these specifications are delivered and fail to meet specifications in any respect, the bidder will be notified and he will arrange for their removal from the Participant's property at no expense to the Participant. If successful bidder fails to remove the items, which, in the opinion of the Bid Committee, do not meet specifications, the Participant will arrange to have such items removed and any expense connected therewith will be the responsibility of the successful bidder.

19.5 In addition, during the term of the contract, the Participants reserve the right to delete item(s) or add comparable item(s) to the list, at prices to be negotiated with the contractor.

20. TAX EXEMPT STATUS:

No charge will be allowed for federal, state or municipal sales and excise taxes for which the Participants are exempt. The price shall be the net delivered price, including all discounts, and shall not include any charges taxes or fees.

21. CANCELLATION CLAUSE:

The Participants reserve the right to cancel the contract at any time during the contract term upon ten (10) days written notice of cancellation mailed to the address of the vendor(s).

22. TERMINATION CLAUSE:

Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES reserves the right to terminate any contract resulting from this bid with or without cause upon (10) ten-calendar days written notice to the vendor. Upon such written notice, said contract shall be terminated and the vendor agrees to remove said equipment from Participant's property within seven (7) calendar days and refund the Participant(s) in full for the equipment within that same timeframe.

23. NON-ASSIGNMENT:

It is mutually understood and agreed that the vendor shall not assign, transfer, convey, sublet, or otherwise dispose of the Contract or his right, title, or interest therein, or his power to execute such Contract, to any other person, company, or corporation, without the previous written consent of the BOCES.

24. GOVERNING LAW:

Any dispute arising under this Contract shall be governed by the laws of the State of New York, County of Wayne, Town of Arcadia. Any litigation under this Contract if commenced by Contractor shall be brought in a Court of competent jurisdiction in the State of New York, County of Wayne.

Pending the resolution of any dispute, the Contractor shall proceed as directed by BOCES in writing.

25. JUDGMENTS/LEGAL FINDINGS:

By submitting this bid for consideration, the vendor affirms that they currently have no judgments or other legal findings nor have any pending judgments or other legal findings against the company or any of its executives, with any federal, state or local government entities that in any way could impact or have potential to impact their ability to complete any contract awarded them as a result of this bid. Failure to disclose any such judgments and/or findings will result in the termination or any contracts and other penalties as deemed legal and appropriate by the BOCES.

26. NEW YORK STATE SEXUAL HARASSMENT LAWS:

By submission of this Bid, each bidder and each person signing on behalf of any bidder certifies, and in the case of a joint bid each party thereto certifies as to its own organization, under penalty of perjury, that the bidder has and has implemented a written policy addressing sexual harassment prevention in the workplace and provides annual sexual harassment prevention training to all of its employees. Such policy shall, at a minimum, meet the requirements of section two hundred one-g of the NYS labor law. A model policy and training has been created by the NYS Department of Labor and can be found here: <https://www.ny.gov/programs/combating-sexual-harassment-workplace>

27. FORCE MAJEURE:

The Contractor shall not be held responsible for any losses resulting if the fulfillment of the terms of the contract shall be delayed or prevented by wars, acts of public enemies, strikes, fires, floods, or acts of God, or for any other acts not within the control of the Contractor and which by the exercise of reasonable diligence he is unable to prevent. This section shall not be construed to relieve Contractor from liability caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of Contractor, its officers, employees, or agents.

28. DISCREPANCY:

In the event of any discrepancy, disagreement or ambiguity among the documents which comprise this Bid and the Vendor's Bid, the documents shall be given preference in the following order to interpret and to resolve such discrepancy, disagreement or ambiguity; 1) the Bid Document; 2) the Vendor's proposal or bid.

29. NO ARBITRATION:

Disputes involving this contract including breach or alleged breach thereof, may not be submitted to binding arbitration, but must, instead, be heard in a court of competent jurisdiction of the State of New York, County of Wayne.

30. EXECUTORY CLAUSE:

The Contractor specifically agrees that this contract shall be deemed executory only to the extent of monies available and no liability shall be incurred by BOCES or the Participants beyond the monies available for this contract.

31. EXCEPTIONS:

Where a deviation or exception to this bid by the bidder to any part of this proposal, bidder must fully provide by a detailed explanation of exception on the Questionnaire Form. In the absence of a written exception or deviation, vendor agrees to fully comply with all conditions and specifications of the proposal.

32. INDEMNIFICATION:

To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Contractor shall indemnify and hold harmless the Participants from and against claims, damages, losses and expenses, including but not limited to attorney's fees, arising out or resulting from performance of contracted services, provided that such claim, damage, loss, or expense is attributed in whole or in part by negligent acts or omissions of the Contractor, his subcontractor, anyone directly or indirectly employed by them or anyone for whose acts they may be liable, regardless of whether or not such claim, damage, loss or expense is caused in part by a party indemnified hereunder.

33. ORDER OF PRECEDENCE:

Should a contradiction appear within this bid document, the following order of precedence shall prevail:

1. Bid Terms and Conditions
2. Bid Specifications
3. General Conditions
4. Purchase Order Conditions

SPECIFICATIONS

Through this Request for Bids, the Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES seeks qualified and responsive vendors to provide grocery items. Items to be purchased from this contract may include, but are not limited to: grocery items not specified in this bid. **Items listed in Section A are specified on the attachments. Vendors may bid Section B for items of unknown type and quantity which will be purchased throughout the bid term also.**

NOTE: EXPIRATION DATES – Any and all items in both Section A and Section B that require expiration dates ***MUST*** have an expiration date of June 30, 2024 or later.

SECTION A

The items listed in the attached Vendor Bid Item Listing will be referred to in this document as Section A, which consists of specific items the Participants have purchased in the past year or anticipates the possibility of purchasing during the bid term. For items in Sections A, Bidders are to provide item pricing per the following conditions:

1. MINIMUM BID REQUIREMENTS:

- **Nutrient Data Requirements:**
 - **Nutrient data must be supplied by the food manufacturers, food distributors, or food brokers for food items that are offered in schools which do not appear in the *National Nutrient Database for Child Nutrition Program (NNDCP)*.**
 - **All required Data Submission Forms must be **submitted with the bid** and then to Participants prior to the delivery of any product, and no later than July 1, 2023.**
 - Where a deviation or exception must be taken by the vendor to any part of the proposal, vendor must fully provide a detailed explanation of exception on the Questionnaire Form. In the absence of a written exception or deviation, vendor agrees to fully comply with all conditions and specifications of the proposal.
 - The bidder shall insert the *price per unit, shipping container size and any variance for each item*. Bidders are directed to bid all items that they are able to supply as indicated on the Vendor Bid Item Listing form. If not bidding an item or items mark No Bid in appropriate place(s).
 - All prices offered are net delivered.

2. MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS:

As described in the bid forms.

3. DELIVERY COSTS:

3.1 Delivery of all items shall be FOB destination. In recognition of the added overhead involved, due in part to additional handling this may create and because we expect the lowest price per unit of issue, a minimum order quantity is recognized at \$500.00 for all orders delivered to a single destination. Order quantities that do not meet the \$500.00 minimum may be delivered FOB destination with freight (or delivery charges) allowed. Shipping charges should appear as a separate item on the vendor's invoice.

But, in cases where the aggregate sum exceeds \$500.00 for multiple orders being delivered to the same location, then there will be no freight or delivery allowance. Any additional freight costs the bidder may anticipate should be factored into the product bid price.

3.2 NO ADDITIONAL SURCHARGE (INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, FUEL SURCHARGE) will be paid by the BOCES or any of the Participants, (no matter how small an order may be).

4. DELIVERIES:

4.1 Prices are to be FOB each school/agency building in each district/agency participating in the bid. The successful bidder(s), upon notice, shall coordinate delivery schedules with all participating districts/agencies. It is understood that supplies shall be properly marked and packaged for inside delivery to specific school/agency buildings in accordance with the Delivery Site List. All such receipts must be signed and dated by an authorized representative of the Participant. Deliveries made to sites not designated on the delivery schedule, or without a signed delivery ticket, shall be considered as non-delivery.

4.2 Deliveries of perishable items shall be made in a refrigerated vehicle: temperature of frozen items shall not exceed 0 degrees F and the temperature of fresh items not to exceed 40 degrees F. It is the responsibility of the successful bidder to deliver all items in good condition to the point of destination.

4.3 IDENTIFICATION OF DELIVERIES - Purchase order numbers must appear on the outside of all shipments.