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TO: Child Nutrition Program – South Texas Cooperative (CNP-STC) Members

FROM: Lori Atwood Ramos, Purchasing Director

SUBJECT: **Child Nutrition Program-South Texas Cooperative – Fresh Produce RFP 23-0136, Extension 1 of 4**

DATE: June 18, 2024

This request for proposal (RFP) allows Region One Education Service Center and its Child Nutrition Program - South Texas Cooperative (CNP-STC) members the opportunity to purchase fresh produce and products. Item descriptions, specifications and/or technical requirements and estimated quantities and pricing have been competitively solicited and awarded. CNP-STC members are required to conduct a cost or price analysis for the procurement of goods and/or services not listed in the items tab, and within the scope of services offered with this bid solicitation. CNP-STC members are responsible for the selection of goods and/or services available to meet their needs.

On October 4, 2023, the Region One Education Service Center Purchasing Department, acting on behalf of its CNP-STC members, received four (4) responses to CNP-STC Fresh Produce RFP 23-0136. On November 16, 2023, the Region One ESC Board of Directors met to review and approve the recommendations of the CNP-STC, acting on behalf of its members, for award of CNP-STC Fresh Produce RFP 23-0136. Proposals were evaluated to select the best qualified vendors based on the established criteria. Four (4) vendors were recommended for award based on the proposals received, including pricing and services that best meet the needs of the cooperative members; effective upon board approval through August 31, 2024, with the option to extend up to four (4) additional one-year periods if all parties are in agreement.

On behalf of the CNP-STC membership, the current awarded vendors were offered the opportunity to utilize the first of four (4) extension options CNP-STC Fresh Produce RFP 23-0136 effective September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025 with three (3) one-year extension options remaining if all parties are in agreement. One (1) vendor, Lopez Vera Produce LLC was unresponsive to the extension request despite multiple attempts to contact the vendor via email and phone. Three (3) vendors agreed to the extension option and are recommended for award. The tabulation and evaluation summary are enclosed for your review and consideration.

On June 18, 2024, the Region One ESC Board of Directors met to review and approve the recommendations of the CNP-STC, acting on behalf of its members, for award of CNP-STC Fresh Produce RFP 23-0136, Extension 1 of 4, effective September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025 with three (3) one-year extension options remaining, if all parties are in agreement. The following vendors were awarded.

- ***Aspire Staffing Incorporated dba Verdant Exchange (former dba Institute for Ecology Scholarship and Health) – McAllen, TX.***
- ***Labatt Food Service, LLC – San Antonio, TX.***
- ***Nicho Produce Company, Inc. – Edinburg, TX.***

Bid item awards are subject to change monthly due to the fluctuation of fresh produce prices and availability. For your convenience, the order guide has been revised and posted on the Child Nutrition Program – South Texas Cooperative webpage at www.escl.net/SouthTexasCoop Awarded Bids & Proposals.

For additional information or questions, please contact the Region One Purchasing Cooperative at eBuyOne@escl.net:

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