

**Request for Proposals:
Regional Farm to Food Bank (RF2FB) Meat Supplier
The Food Depot
RFP #: 0048**

Schedule of Proposal

1. **Opening of Bids-** Monday, April 15, 2024
2. **Optional RFP Informational Webinar,** Monday, April 22, 2024, 1:30-2:30 pm MT
3. **Proposals Due/Close of Bids-** Sunday, May 19, 2024 11:59 pm MT
4. **RF2FB award notification-** Monday, June 3, 2024
5. **Implementation** Monday, July 1, 2024

Submit bids electronically to:

localfood@thefooddepot.org by Sunday, May 19, 2024, at 11:59 pm MT.

Preparation of Proposals

These documents constitute the complete set of specification requirements and RFP forms. It is the sole responsibility of potential bidders to ensure that all pages are included. Prior to submitting the RFP, it is the sole responsibility of each bidder to ensure that all addenda released are received; that all RFP and addenda requirements have been completed and that all required submittals have been included. ***If submitting multiple bids, please fill out Appendices 1, 2, and 3 for each RFP submission.***

Proposal Checklist for a complete submission

1. [2024 Regional Farm to Food Bank application](#). Or visit: www.nmfoodbanks.org/farmtofoodbank
2. Appendix 1: Product Availability and Product Attestation
3. Appendix 2: Mandatory Specifications and Attestations
4. Appendix 3: Livestock Management and Processing Declarations
5. Supporting proposal materials, if applicable.

Purpose

The purpose of this agreement is for The Food Depot (TFD) on behalf of the New Mexico Association of Food Banks (NMAFB) and in cooperation with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) and New Mexico Farmers' Marketing Association (NMFMA) to purchase food from local farmers, ranchers and other producers to distribute to food banks and their agencies in New Mexico as part of the New Mexico Governor's Food Initiative. These local farmers, ranchers and other producers will act as Regional Farm to Food Bank (RF2FB) Suppliers.

TFD, NMDA, and NMFMA have a common objective to fulfill the terms of their Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement (LFPA) in compliance with the terms set forth by the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Services (AMS). By using a values-based procurement model, this Regional Farm to Food Bank cooperative partnership will pay local farmers, ranchers, and other producers fair market prices for locally produced, minimally processed, nutritious foods to underserved communities; thus, bolstering food and agricultural supply chain resiliency and providing nutritional assistance to food insecure New Mexicans.

Values-based-procurement is procurement guided by local values that are agreed upon by the RF2FB cooperative partners. This includes making purchases that support socially disadvantaged supplier ownership, local production/processing, sustainable production practices, small producers, and other community support activities. Values-based procurement moves away from purchasing decisions being made solely on selecting the lowest price and towards decision-making based on a combination of other important priorities.

The LFPA program supports the production of local foods by producers of all backgrounds with an emphasis on socially disadvantaged producers. The United States Department of Agriculture defines “local foods” as foods produced within the state or within 400 miles of a distribution destination and socially disadvantaged producers as those belonging to groups that have been subject to racial, ethnic and gender prejudice. [Click here for USDA "socially disadvantaged" definition.](#)

The purpose of this RFP is to seek multiple proposals to allow for the effective utilization of funding and statewide allocation of local food purchases in a values-based procurement model. Purchases from this agreement can continue throughout the estimated end of the program, June 30, 2025.

TFD requests fixed price quotations with a price adjustment clause.

Objective

To leverage LFPA funds to support local food producers, food systems and underserved communities in line with USDA AMS terms and the New Mexico Governor’s Food Initiative goals.

Expected Accomplishments and Deliverables

Food products delivered to food banks and/or other food agencies to be distributed in underserved communities.

These food products must meet the cooperative agreement standards as follows: locally produced, minimally processed, food-safe, nutritionally sound, culturally appropriate and desired by recipients.

Pricing must reflect fair market rates for the products provided.

Completion of the Regional Farm to Food Bank application, and other reporting as required by the cooperative agreement partners and their AMS cooperative agreement terms.

Scope of Work

- A. The RF2FB Supplier will be responsible to the RF2FB cooperative agreement partners.
- B. The RF2FB Supplier will ensure that food deliverables are commensurate with the pricing and are delivered in a timely fashion and in accordance with the needs of the receiver.
- C. The RF2FB Supplier will be responsible for the information included in the Deliverable Proposal.

Deliverable Proposal

****Appendix 1: Product Availability and Product Attestation requires applicant review of this section****

The following deliverable food products are provided and an estimated price per specified unit. Other deliverables include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Product specifications:

- a. 3,500 lbs. of frozen NM cubed Mutton. Mutton is defined by the age of the animal, over 1 year old.
- b. Meat product can be boneless or bone-in, or a mix, and is not to exceed 20% fat content.
- c. The cubed mutton must be a size which is equivalent of not less than a 0.5 inch (13 mm) cube or more than a 1.25 inches (3.1 cm) cube and no individual surface on these pieces shall exceed 2.5 inches (6.2 cm) in length, for uniformity.
- d. Product to be vacuum packaged without the use of metal or plastic clips
- e. All packages shall weigh 1.0 lbs. or 2.0 lbs.
- f. 12 or 24 packages to a case for a total of 24 lbs. per case

2. Product delivery:

- a. The contractor is responsible for delivery of the product to **ECHO, INC Food Bank 401 South Commercial Avenue Farmington, NM 87401**. Delivery dates, times, and frequency are negotiable.
- b. The contractor will be responsible for ensuring products are frozen on arrival of delivery. The finding of any product showing evidence of deterioration due to mishandling, thawing, refreezing, or freezer burn will not be accepted.
- c. The product must be in its original packaging with the USDA FSIS inspection stamp on the packaging from the USDA FSIS inspected processor.
- d. The cost of delivery shall be provided as a separate line item on all quotes and invoices.

3. Product labeling:

- a. Individual units of product must include the following: safe handling instructions, pack date, FSIS establishment number, USDA FSIS inspection stamp, business name or logo, code number that shall indicate traceability to production lot and pack date, and fat declaration.
- b. All boxes or cases must be labeled with the name of the product, quantity or volume, weight, lot code, and the name and address of the business.

4. Other Requirements:

- a. Timely completion of necessary application and reporting required by the RF2FB cooperative partners and AMS.
- b. Maintain Approved Supplier Program membership and food-safe conditions at all points in the supply process.
- c. Conduct all activities in compliance with applicable nondiscrimination provisions and local, state and federal laws and regulations.
- d. Pricing is in line with market rates as put forth in the proposal
- e. Submit invoices for individual purchases with all the required information.

Specifications

Mandatory Specifications

Attestation of the following is required in Appendix 2

1. Agreement to perform the scope of work identified in the RFP.
2. Approved Supplier status or ability to become an Approved Supplier before the first sale.
3. Compliance with USDA AMS [Grant Terms and Conditions](#).

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Values-Based Procurement

1. To submit the required values-based procurement information, suppliers must complete a RF2FB application for 2024.
2. If the business aggregates products, then TFD, NMFMA, or NMDA may request verification documentation of “socially disadvantaged” producers that would directly benefit from the agreement.
3. Considerations other than price will be central to determining which proposals are or are not accepted. This includes making purchases that support socially disadvantaged supplier ownership, local production/processing, sustainable production practices, small producers, and other community support activities.

Bid Reservations

Regional Farm to Food Bank reserves the right to reject any portion of and/or the entirety of bids, to award in whole or in part, and to waive minor immaterial defects in bids. Such decisions are entirely at the discretion of Regional Farm to Food Bank within the USDA AMS Terms and Conditions of their funding.

Capability

Attestation of the following is required in Appendix 2

1. Capability to produce, store, and deliver food products meeting RF2FB cooperative agreement standards and specifications.
2. Capability to provide accurate and timely reporting and invoicing to facilitate compliance.

Company Overview /Experience and Ability to Provide Services

Attestation of the following is required in Appendix 2

1. Key personnel in business have the qualifications, skills, and experience to perform the scope of work.
2. Demonstrated ability to perform scope of work to agencies in New Mexico.
3. Ability to perform timely communications to RF2FB cooperative partners.

References

No references are needed if an Approved Supplier.

If not currently an Approved Supplier, two (2) references are needed from purchasers of the deliverable food products from the respondent. Each reference shall include:

1. Name and address of entity
2. Name and telephone number of the contact person
3. List of deliverable food products provided, description of the delivery process, and date range of purchasing activity.

Pricing and Quotes

Proposals should include:

1. A clear pricing proposal for each of the deliverable food items
2. A range of estimated price increases throughout the life of the agreement
3. Estimated per delivery costs to the location
4. A range of estimated price increases for delivery costs.

Price adjustments are acceptable in this agreement only if they are shown to reflect cost changes and/or changes in fair market pricing. When adjusting price, TFD requires two weeks' notice prior to any sale of the product for which the price is being adjusted. All price adjustments must include an explanation/justification and are subject to renegotiation.

Several rural and remote agencies lack cold storage capacity. Those locations may require more frequent deliveries of products requiring cold storage. As such, proposals must clearly separate the price of their products from the price of deliveries so that the proposal may be accurately assessed by TFD.

Before each delivery, producer agrees to manufacture a quote of sale generated through invoicing software, an email, or text that includes the following:

1. In the title, clearly states whether the information provided is a "quote" or "sales estimate,"
2. Name of the vendor is clearly visible.
3. A clear unit of measurement for the item being quoted (e.g., lbs. or packages or bushels)
4. A price per unit
5. Number of units being quoted
6. Estimated delivery cost to the destination including miles traveled and total cost
7. Total price
8. Date (if an email or text, the date it is sent will be automatically captured).

Appendix 1: Product Availability and Product Attestation
PLEASE ATTACH AND SUBMIT ALONG WITH REQUIRED RFP DOCUMENTS

Name (print): _____

Business: _____

Please use the provided template attached below, or provide documentation detailing product availability as follows:

- Item type (list varieties)
- Unit type (lb, case, bunch, package size)
- Price per unit/price per lb
- Total units/lbs per delivery
- Total units projected through June 2025
- Months available
- Frequency of delivery (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, single order)
- Total cost of product projected through June 2025

Producer is responsible for delivery of products to location:

(name and address of Food Bank) as referred to in RFP #: _____.

What is the proposed transportation method of products?

If there is a \$ charge for transportation, provide \$ charge details.

Cost of transportation: \$ _____ per delivery/per mile.

Provide a price adjustment statement detailing a maximum percent increase for the life of the agreement through June 2025, for both product and delivery costs.

Please detail the expected shipping and packaging materials here, with reference to the required specification on the applicable RFP.

If applicable, please list any voluntary certifications that apply to products i.e. (Certified organic, certified naturally grown, certified grass-fed, GAP certification, etc).

Please initial to attest to the following:

_____ The business will meet the product specifications referred to in the Deliverable Proposal, Section 1 of the RFP.

_____ The business will meet the delivery expectations referred to in the Deliverable Proposal Section 2 of the RFP.

_____ Individual units of product must include the following: safe handling instructions, pack date, FSIS establishment number, USDA FSIS inspection stamp, business name or logo, code number that shall indicate traceability to production lot and pack date, and fat declaration.

_____ All boxes or cases must be labeled with the name of the product, quantity or volume, weight, lot code, and the name and address of the business.

_____ Maintain Approved Supplier Program membership and food-safe conditions at all points in the supply process.

_____ Conduct all activities in compliance with applicable nondiscrimination provisions and local, state, and federal laws and regulations.

_____ Pricing is in line with local market rates.

_____ Price adjustments must be submitted at least two weeks before any sale of the product for which the price is being adjusted. All price adjustments must include an explanation or justification. I understand the sale would be subject to renegotiation even if it is within the range of price increases previously indicated in my bid.

_____ Submit quotes and invoices for individual purchases with all the required information.

_____ I agree to provide back up documentation for any certifications listed above. I will include these in the official RFP submission

Appendix 2: Mandatory Specifications and Attestations
PLEASE ATTACH AND SUBMIT ALONG WITH REQUIRED RFP DOCUMENTS

Specifications

Please initial to attest to the following:

_____ Respondent must agree to perform the *Scope of Work* identified in the RFP, which is in accordance with the agreement between TFD, NMDA, NMFMA, and AMS.

_____ Respondent must be an Approved Supplier or be able to qualify to become an Approved Supplier with the NMFMA before the first sale.

_____ Participation in RF2FB requires compliance with USDA AMS [Grant Terms and Conditions](#). As a condition of my ongoing participation in this program, I agree to comply with these rules including requests for information, and the possibility of scheduled site visits during normal business hours, if deemed necessary.

_____ I agree to complete the [2024 Regional Farm to Food Bank application](#).
Or visit: www.nmfoodbanks.org/farmtofoodbank

Capability

Please explain how your business has the capability to produce, store, and deliver food products meeting RF2FB cooperative agreement standards and specifications:

Please explain how your business has the capability to provide accurate and timely reporting and invoicing to facilitate compliance.

Company Overview /Experience and Ability to Provide Services

Please initial to attest to the following:

_____ Key personnel demonstrating qualifications, skills, and/or experience in:

- (a) Quoting, invoicing and reporting
- (b) Approved-Supplier-Program-compliant food safety protocols
- (c) Growing, raising, aggregating, co-packing, packaging and/or processing the deliverable food products
- (d) Delivering and/or coordinating the delivery of the food products to either food banks or food pantries in New Mexico.

Please provide names of above personnel/service providers

_____ Management structure and policy allows timely response to communications and requests for information from the RF2FB cooperative partners.

Please detail the applicants demonstrated ability to successfully provide the deliverable food products to agencies in New Mexico.

If the applicant is **not** currently an Approved Supplier, two (2) references are **required** from purchasers of the deliverable food products from the respondent.

Reference 1

Name and address of entity: _____

Name and telephone number of contact person : _____

List of deliverable food products provided, description of delivery process, and date range of purchasing activity. _____

Reference 2

Name and address of entity: _____

Name and telephone number of contact person: _____

List of deliverable food products provided, description of delivery process, and date range of
purchasing activity. _____

Appendix 3: Livestock Management and Processing Declarations
PLEASE ATTACH AND SUBMIT ALONG WITH REQUIRED RFP DOCUMENTS

Do you intend to purchase or aggregate animals *ready for immediate processing* from other producers for this proposed sale? If so, please explain:

RF2FB prioritizes purchasing with socially disadvantaged and historically underserved farmers and ranchers. We strongly encourage aggregators to source from this targeted population for the proposed sale.

____ If yes to the question above and if awarded, I will give socially disadvantaged/historically underserved attestation forms to all sources I purchase from, and submit complete attestation forms to the RF2FB purchasing team before the sale. I understand that the attestation forms will be provided to me by RF2FB staff.

Please select the product for this sale:

Commodity (specify below)

Breed(s) _____

Premium (specify below)

Breed(s) _____

Other: _____

For this proposed sale, what is the average age of the animal at processing?

RF2FB expects low to medium fat meat products for food banks. Low fat = 90% lean/10% fat, Medium fat = 80% lean /20% fat. How will you accomplish this for the proposed sale?

What is the process for analyzing fat content for the proposed product type? (i.e. Ocular, machine test)
