

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

AGENCY: District of Columbia Public Schools, Office of

Office of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) - 1.BDC.e-2ceenE6 - ServBDC 0 TdE

2. MINIMUM NEED:

DCPS must continue satisfying the requirements of the USDA school meals program. DCPS is responsible for providing breakfast, lunch, supper, and snack meals for over 52,000 enrolled students each day. The meals align with federal and district nutritional standards to ensure that students are fueled for learning and are prepared for the rigors of the academic day. The continuity of services is critical for DCPS to properly and holistically function as students endure long days of learning, whi201yPS is 0(,)T 61

Planning for a strong procurement of this size requires approximately one year, which began on schedule prior to 2020. Unfortunately, the concerns presented by the COVID-19 crisis that are represented above have not changed since that time. DCPS had constructed a Request for Proposal (RFP) as expected during this time and was prepared to release it. However, as school calendars were modified, and in-person services were suspended due to the crisis – it drastically changed the environment to which bidders would be responding. While the vehicle for executing the contract was ready for dissemination, the factors that DCPS relies on for this procurement, marketplace, the USDA, and DC government, all remain focused on the COVID-19 recovery due to the massive humanitarian needs resulting from the crisis. DCPS' request for services is fully prepared for a traditional school year. However, a proper response to the RFP is reliant upon a stable marketplace, predictable labor, and a pool of qualified providers that are able to perform a proper market analysis, proforma performance expectations, and provide a long-term value proposition that is advantageous to the District and the bidders. The conditions of the market are not allowing for any of these factors, and the marketplace for this procurement remains hampered by the crisis recovery. Therefore, it is in the District's best interest to extend the services of the existing providers as allowed by the USDA.

Diligently continue working on awarding new Food Services Management Company (FSMC) contracts, DCPS, FNS, and OCA constructed a Request for Proposal (RFP) Number GAGA-2022-R-0053 and posted on DCPS website on March 16, 2022. DCPS received five timely proposals but due to extreme time constraints the award cannot be made for the contractors to start July 1, 2022.

The current contract expires June 30, 2022, and new contract period of performance shall start July 1, 2022. With the value of these contract being over \$1 million and requires the City Council approval prior to award, DCPS will not be able to implement a new contract, though it is still required to serve DCPS' 50,000 plus students.

Most importantly, if these FSMC contractors do not start performing the services starting July 1, 2022, tens of thousands of DCPS students will go without their primary source of nutrition, critically risking the health and wellbeing of DC's youth.

