



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Northeast Region

10 Causeway St.
Room 501
Boston, MA 02222

FEB 22 2018

Courtney Hawkins, Director
RI Department of Human Services
Louis Pasteur Building
57 Howard Avenue
Cranston, RI 02920

Dear Director Hawkins:

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has completed its review of Rhode Island's Advisory Services Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Unified Health Infrastructure Project (UHIP) Maintenance and Operations (M&O) Procurement Project. The RFP was submitted for FNS review on January 30, 2018 with subsequent revision on February 13, 2018. This RFP seeks to procure a qualified firm to provide advisory services to help Rhode Island procure M&O services for the State's UHIP. FNS approves Rhode Island's RFP.

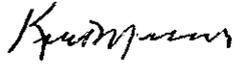
Prior to the approved RFP's publication, any change(s) made must be submitted to FNS for approval. Upon the RFP's release, the publication date and any subsequent amendments must be shared with FNS. The negotiated contract will also need to be submitted to FNS for approval prior to its execution.

Approval of this RFP does not constitute approval of funding for this procurement effort. Funding for this procurement must be requested through the State's submission of an Implementation Advance Planning Document Update (IAPDU).

Under the authority of 7 CFR Part 277.18 (and according to guidance set forth in FNS Handbook 901), FNS will monitor progress of the Rhode Island's UHIP using the APDU process, including regular conference calls, FNS site visits as needed as well as required review and approval of the user acceptance testing (UAT) and Pilot results. This monitoring approach supports the high degree of interaction expected between FNS and the State as the project moves forward. The State must have performance expectations, prescribed remedies and penalties in place that protect the State in the event of a failure in performance by the vendors. Acquisitions and subsequent undertakings that fail to meet approved APD requirements may be subject to disallowance of costs.

Please contact either Bonnie Brathwaite, Northeast Regional SNAP Director, at 617-565-6397, or Dawn Bartolomeo of the FNS State Systems Office at 415-744-3774 or dawn.bartolomeo@fns.usda.gov with questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt Messner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kurt" being more prominent than the last name "Messner".

Kurt Messner
Regional Administrator
Northeast Region

cc: Matt Stark
Iwona Ramian
Ben Shaffer