



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Northeast Region

10 Causeway St.
Room 501
Boston, MA 02222

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

MAR 29 2018

Dear Director Hawkins:

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) acknowledges receipt of Rhode Island (RI)'s responses to FNS's comments on its Unified Health Infrastructure Project (UHIP) contract amendments #45 and #46 with Deloitte Consulting LLP on March 26, 2018. Due to the delay in RI's submission of responses to FNS's concerns identified on March 9, 2018, FNS is unable to complete our evaluation of the State's request by March 31. FNS will consider approving the two Deloitte contract amendments back to the date of execution if the State continues to cooperate with our requests and sufficiently responds to the concerns identified in our March 9, 2018 email response.

The State is reminded that ALL contract amendments must be submitted allowing for ample review time compliant with the requirement of up to 60 days for FNS review (7 CFR § 277.18(c)(5)). FNS recommends RI consider building enough time into its timelines for approval to allow for a timely response to FNS concerns, while still assuring sufficient time for a complete review of that response by FNS, especially if the contract or its amendments include substantial changes to the project or its scope of work, or are considered crucial to the project's stabilization.

As a reminder, contract amendments, such as this one, that exceed 20% of the base contract cost (cumulative) must be submitted to FNS for review and approval prior to starting any work or incurring any costs. We also request that all contract amendments, regardless of value, be submitted for our records.

FNS remains concerned with the State's current plan to transition to maintenance and operations without the resolution of all critical and high defects and the inclusion of all federally required SNAP functionality in the RIBridges system. However, we continue to work with the State with regard to RIBridges' stability and are providing technical assistance as needed. 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,

Kurt Messner
Regional Administrator
Northeast Region

cc: Matt Stark
Iwona Ramian
Ben Shaffer
Bonnie Brathwaite