



Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services
3 West Road, Virks Building, Cranston, RI 02920

April 30, 2018

Bonnie Brathwaite, Director
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Northeast Region
10 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02222

Dear Ms. Brathwaite,

It was a pleasure to host your team in Rhode Island recently for a site visit. Thank you for taking the time to meet with us and to engage in a productive dialogue around Rhode Island's progress and work ahead to achieve compliance with SNAP regulations. Please know that our team takes federal compliance seriously and remains committed to working closely with you to address outstanding issues.

As mentioned during your visit and in subsequent phone conversations, this week we will forward contracts for CSG, KPMG, IBM, and Northrup Grumman to your office which will require expedited review. We apologize, in advance, for any inconvenience this may cause your team and are taking steps to ensure that going forward, Rhode Island consistently aligns with FNS' review standards for procurements. The Rhode Island Division of Information Technology recently hired a permanent Chief of Technology Vendor Management, Strategic Sourcing and Procurement, who brings additional capacity to this work. The State is also revising procurement and contract oversight roles and processes to improve performance.

As requested, we will provide FNS with an updated procurement tracker on a monthly basis. The tracker will include: (1) the procurement strategy for contracts associated with the UHIP project that are within six months of their expiration and currently utilize FNS funding or have the potential to use FNS funding, (2) the target date upon which the next procurement document will be submitted for federal review and approval or the decision to wind-down and/or expire the contract, and (3) the State's point of contact for the procurement.

Again, thank you for visiting us earlier this month and for your continued partnership. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact me at 401-462-0620 or Matt Stark, EOHHS Chief Administrative Officer, at 401-871-5710.

Sincerely,

Eric J. Beane
Secretary

