

# RFI #USDADF19 Questions and Answers

## Submission Requirements:

**Q.** Must a processor/manufacture have all end products in a category to be considered for that category?

**Q.** Can we bid individual items or do we have to bid entire category?

**A.** Per section 2.8 Specifications: “All submitted end products must meet written specifications to be considered for preapproval. A vendor **must submit at least one (1) end product for every written specification within a category to be considered for that category.** A vendor may submit up to two (2) end products per written end product specification for consideration.” So, if a processor is unable to submit at least 1 end product for every specification, they could not be considered for that category.

**Q.** According to Appendix 2 Procurement Cycle, Chicken Legs (3D) will not be released for bidding until 2020-2021, is that correct?

**A.** The aim of this process is to establish a 3 year bid cycle for each category. In order to spread out the amount of categories being solicited each year, some categories were awarded fewer renewals through the initial few years.

All categories in this RFI are intended to be awarded for 1 year with 2 renewals. This still has the possibility of changing if there were to be customer dissatisfaction with product, large changes to meal pattern requirements, unforeseen difficulties receiving product, etc.

**Q.** Potato Dehy (1E) – are all bidders required to provide true Child Nutrition Meal Pattern Contribution data to confirm ½ cup serving nutritional data for comparison?

**A.** Section 3.2.6 of the RFI asks for a nutrition facts panel, Component Contribution serving size, and CN label or Product Formulation Statement to back up the component contribution. From this information if the nutritional data isn't given in the meal component contribution serving size, the correct information can be calculated and verified to compare apples to apples.

**Q.** Will you be accepting responses to this RFI by email or strictly by mail?

**A.** Per section 3.1.5. “One original and one (1) copy of RFI will be submitted to the RFI Coordinator via **standard or expedited mail service or hand delivery**, in a clearly labeled envelope.” Thus the responses may be received by mail or by hand delivery.

**Q.** When we are considering what items to submit for approval, can you confirm that we should base our submission on the categories & products listed in Appendix 3?

**A.** Responses should be based on the Categories and Products listed in Appendix 3, as well as the Product Specifications outlined in Appendix 4.

## Clarifications

**Q.** Can you give estimated usage figures for each item being included in the RFI?

**A.** Yes, please see the updated Appendix 4 with estimated usage

**Q.** Is the “suggested holding time” mentioned in the required product specifications the same as the shelf life of the product?

**A.** Holding time refers to how long the product can be held for service once prepared.

**Q.** For the Cheese Mozz (5) Category would the State of Iowa consider a product that is open-ended rather than close-ended?

**A.** Not at this time.

**Q.** Will we be considered if we can only bid one of the two Chicken, Unbreaded Categories for SY 18-19?

**A.** Chicken Unbreaded 2D a and 2D B are being solicited as two separate categories. So yes, you could be considered for only one of them.

**Q.** In Appendix 4 End Product Specifications , under Chicken Unbreaded (2D b) the description for item: Chicken, Drumstick has the following: FC; Drumstick: "WG Rich Breading". Is this a misprint or does this product need to be breaded?

**A.** The drumstick needs to be breaded.

**Q.** According to 2.8. Specifications – (Appendix 4) , am I reading this correct that every manufacturer can only submit 2 items that meet the nutritional spec per item to be considered? If a manufacturer has 7 or 8 items that meet the specification can they make multiple official submissions or must they only choose 2? What happens if they submit more than 2 items?

**A.** Yes, a manufacturer may only submit 2 products per end product specification. If a manufacturer submits more than one, they'll be asked to choose which 2 they want evaluated.

**Q.** Hummus, Individual Cup – must this product contain Tahini or Sesame paste to be considered Hummus?

**A.** No, the product does not have to contain Tahini/Sesame paste to be considered Hummus.

**Q.** Your category Cheese Mozz 2 has two French Bread items and two Breakfast Pizza items. Would you consider separating that group into two?

**A.** At this time the category will stay grouped together to consolidate volume.