REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

BOX RFP

BID #FY22-002

DATE: August 17, 2021

The Houston Food Bank
535 Portwall St
Houston, TX, 77029
Phone (713) 547-8658
Website http://www.houstonfoodbank.org

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

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To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.
August 17, 2021

The Houston Food Bank (HFB) is securing bids for Box RFP FY22-002 with a contract term of one (1) year with option to renew for up to two (2) additional years.

Houston Food Bank requires a steady supply of materials of various types and sizes for our food salvaging, packing, repacking, labeling, and distribution needs. HFB requires an efficient, timely, and fully accountable vendor arrangement that would enable us to process and distribute boxed food.

GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR BIDDERS:

Delivery
The Houston Food Bank operates multiple locations with each listed in the scope. The selected supplier will be notified of delivery location and given access to a dock door once they make an appointment with HFB receiving office.

Submission Guidelines
The Houston Food Bank is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit, our Tax Exemption Certificate shall be provided to the awarded bidder.

Bidding begins Tuesday, August 17, 2021 and ends at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, August 31, 2021 September 7, 2021 at the Houston Food Bank.

1. Bids shall be executed and submitted via e-mail. Please submit to Rosalind Armstrong Rarmstrong@houstonfoodbank.org and hfbprocurement@houstonfoodbank.org
   a. Please include in the Email Subject Line: Box RFP FY22-002
2. Bids will be opened at 10:00 AM, Wednesday September 1, 2021 September 8, 2021 via Zoom. You are invited, but not required to be present.

Should you have any questions concerning this request for proposals, please let us know via email at HFBProcurement@houstonfoodbank.org.

Sincerely,

Sarah McIntire
Director of Acquisition and Procurement
Houston Food Bank
Section 1 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

This document contains a Request for Proposals for cardboard boxes. The Houston Food Bank operates TEFAP, CSFP, SFSP, and CACFP established by the United States Department of Agriculture and sets forth the terms and conditions applicable to the proposed procurement. Upon acceptance, this document shall constitute the award between the successful bidder and the Institution. (Accepting a bid does not constitute acceptance of the contract.)

Soliciting Institution:
Houston Food Bank
535 Portwall St.
Houston, TX 77029
(713) 547-8658

Bid number: FY22-002

Bid Issue Date: Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Bid Due Date: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 September 7, 2021 at 5 PM CST

Bid Opening Date: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 September 8, 2021
Time: 10 AM CST
Location: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86481748391?pwd=SjVNZFNQTNAmVlZkZcWkZmQzY5Qk09
Meeting ID: 864 8174 8391
Passcode: 504428

Contract Commencement Date: Estimated Friday, October 1, 2021, or date of agreement approval by the Houston Food Bank

Contract Expiration Date: Estimated Friday, September 30, 2022 with options to renew for two (2) additional years

Prompt Payment Discount: ____ % for payment within ___ days (completed by bidder)

Total Estimated Amount of Bid: ______________________ (completed by bidder - in lieu of completing, bidders may supply additional bid amount detail on attachment)
By submission of this bid, the bidder certifies that, in the event he receives an award under this solicitation, he shall operate in accordance with all applicable, current program regulations. This agreement shall be in effect for one (1) year with the option to renew for two (2) additional years.

Name of Bidder: ________________________________
Name of Authorized Representative: ________________________________

__________________________
Print or Type Name of Company

Street Address: __________________________________________

City, State, and Zip Code: ________________________________

Telephone Number: ______________________________________

By: ________________________________
Signature of Representative

Title: ________________________________

Date: ________________________________

ACCEPTANCE

Bid Name & Number: ________________________________
Box RFP FY22-002

Institution’s Authorized Representative: ________________________________

Brian Greene
Title: President and CEO

Institution Name: ________________________________
Houston Food Bank

Institution Signature

Date: ________________________________
Section 2
Certificate of Independent Price Determination

(a) By submission of this bid, the bidder certifies, and in the case of a joint bid, each party thereto certifies, as to its own organizations, that in connection with this procurement:
1. The prices in this bid have been arrived at independently, without consultation, communication or agreement, for the purpose of restricting competition, as to any matter relating to such prices with any other bidder or with any competitor;
2. Unless otherwise required by law, the prices which have been quoted in this bid have not been knowingly disclosed by the bidder and will not knowingly be disclosed by the bidder prior to bid opening, directly or indirectly to any other bidder or to any competitor; and
3. No attempt has been made or will be made by the bidder to induce any person or firm to submit or not to submit, a bid for the purpose of restricting competition.

(b) Each person signing this bid certifies that:
☐ The person in the bidder’s organization is responsible within that organization for the decision as to the prices being offered herein and that he has not participated, will not participate, in any action contrary to (a)(1) through (a)(3) above; or
☐ The person in the bidder’s organization is not responsible within that organization for the decision as to the prices being offered herein but that he has been authorized in writing to act as agent for the persons responsible for such decision in certifying that such persons have not participated and will not participate, in any action contrary to (a)(1) through (a)(3) above, and as their agent does hereby so certify; and he has not participated, and will not participate, in any action contrary to (a)(1) through (a)(3) above.

_________________________________________________________________
Signature of bidder’s authorized representative

Title ________________________________________   Date _______________

In accepting this bid, the Institution certifies that the Institution’s officers, employees or agents have not taken any action which may have jeopardized the independence of the bid referred to above. (Accepting a bid does not constitute acceptance of the contract.)

_________________________________________________________________
Signature of Authorized Institution Representative

Note: Institution and Bidder shall execute this Certificate of Independent Price Determination.
Section 3

Instructions to Bidders

1. Definitions

As used herein:

a) The term “bid” means an offer to perform the work described in this Request for proposals at the fixed unit price specified in accordance with the terms and conditions of the solicitation.

b) The term “bidder” refers to a company submitting a bid in response to this Request for proposals.

c) The term “contractor” means a successful bidder who is awarded a contract by an Institution under The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) under the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

d) The term “Request for proposals”, hereafter referred to as RFP, means the document soliciting bids through the formal advertising method of competitive sealed bid procurement.

e) The term “Institution” means the Houston Food Bank which operates TEFAP, CSFP, CACFP, and SFSP Program which is issuing this RFP.

f) The Institution’s contact is Sarah McIntire, Director of Acquisition and Procurement or Rosalind Armstrong, Food Acquisition Manager – HFBprocurement@houstonfoodbank.org.

g) The term “responsive” means the bidder conforms to all material terms and conditions of the RFP.

h) The term “responsible” means the bidder is capable of successfully performing under the terms and conditions of the contract.

Other terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them in TEFAP, CSFP, CACFP, and SFSP regulations.

2. Submission of Bids

a) Bidders are expected to examine carefully the specifications, schedules, attachments, terms and conditions of this RFP. Failure to do so shall be at the bidder’s risk.

b) Bids shall be executed and submitted by email.

c) The copy marked “original” shall be governing should there be a variance between that copy of the bid and other copies submitted by the bidder. No
changes in the specifications or general conditions are allowed. Erasures on this
bid shall be initialed by the bidder prior to submission.

i) If accepted, this RFP will be signed by an authorized representative of the
Institution and a fully executed copy will be forwarded to the successful bidder
as the notice of award.

d) The successful bidder shall provide a contract, using the specifications outlined
in this RFP to the Houston Food Bank by 5:00 PM Wednesday, September 15,
2024 September 22, 2021 to the attention of Cole Masters,
cmasters@houstonfoodbank.org and HFBProcurement@houstonfoodbank.org

e) An interested party may protest the solicitation, the cancellation of the
solicitation, or the award or proposed award of a contract in writing by contacting
HFB Procurement via email at HFBProcurement@houstonfoodbank.org.

Failure to comply with any of the above shall be reason for rejection of the bid.

3. Explanation to Bidders

Any explanation/questions desired by a bidder regarding the meaning or
interpretation of the RFP specifications, etc., must be requested by email to
HFBProcurement@houstonfoodbank.org by 5:00 PM on Tuesday, August 24, 2021
August 31, 2021 to allow sufficient time allowed for a reply to reach all bidders
before bid opening.

Oral explanations or instructions given before the award of the contract shall not be
binding. Any information given to a prospective bidder concerning an RFP shall be
furnished to all prospective bidders as an amendment to the RFP if such information
is necessary to bidders in submitting bids on the RFP or if the lack of such
information would be prejudicial to uninformed bidders.

4. Acknowledgment of Amendments to Submitted Bids

Receipt of an amendment to a bid by a bidder must be acknowledged by signing and
returning the amendment. Such acknowledgment must be received prior to the hour
and date specified for bid opening.

5. Discounts

Although a blank is provided for a time discount, prompt payment discounts offered
for payment in less than twenty calendar days will not be considered in evaluating
bids for award. However, offered discounts of less than twenty days will be taken if
payment is made within the discount period even though not considered in the
evaluation of bids. (NOTE: Payment discounts may only be used to determine the
low bid when prior experience of the Institution indicates that such discounts are
generally taken).

6. Bidders Having Interest in More than One Bid
If more than one bid is submitted by any one person, by or in the name of a clerk, partner, or other person, all such bids shall be rejected.

7. **Time for Receiving Bids**

Sealed bids shall be deposited at the address specified on the RFP of the Institution no later than the exact time and date indicated on the face of this RFP. Bids received prior to the time of opening will be securely kept, unopened.

8. **Error in Bids**

Bidders or their authorized representatives are expected to fully inform themselves as to the conditions, requirements and specifications before submitting bids; failure to do so shall be at the bidder’s own risk and he cannot secure relief on the plea of error.

9. **Award of Contract**

a) The contract will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder meeting the specific requirements.

b) The Institution reserves the right to reject any or all bids when there are sound documented business reasons in the best interest of the Program and to waive informalities and minor irregularities in bids received.

c) The Institution reserves the right to reject the bid of a bidder who has previously failed to perform properly or complete on time contracts of a similar nature, or the bid of a bidder who investigation shows is not in a position to perform the contract. Other factors that may be considered include, but are not limited to the bidder’s integrity, compliance with public policy, and financial and technical resources.

10. **Late Bids, Modifications of Bids or Withdrawals of Bids**

a) Any bid received after the exact time specified for receipt will not be considered.

b) A bid may also be withdrawn in person by a bidder or his authorized representative, provided his identity is made known and he signs a receipt for the bid, but only if the withdrawal is made prior to the exact time set for receipt of bids.

c) The only acceptable evidence to establish the date of emailing of a late bid, modifications or withdrawal is providing evidence of the sent time of the email in the form of a screenshot displaying the time and date with the subject line listed above.

11. **Confidentiality**

a) Bidder covenants that all data, documents, discussion, or other information developed or received by bidder or provided for performance of this Agreement
are deemed confidential and shall not be disclosed by Bidder without written authorization by HFB.

b) HFB shall grant such authorization if disclosure is required by law. Bidder’s covenant under this Section shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

12. Addition and Removal of Locations

a) HFB is required periodically to increase or decrease its fleet size and locations due to changes in demand.

b) HFB needs the flexibility to communicate these changes to the contractor and easily update the contract under the existing contract terms and without incurring excessive additional cost for the changes.

13. Bidder Selection

HFB intends to select the bid with the best value based on the scoring matrix, but it reserves the right to choose multiple bidders in order to meet the needs of HFB.
Section 4 Scope

Cardboard Box Details

The Houston Food Bank is seeking proposals from qualified suppliers with the resources and experience to meet the needs of the organization to maintain inventory as needed for cardboard boxes.

Delivery Locations:
1. HFB East- 535 Portwall Street, Houston, Tx 77029;
2. Aleen (Teachers Aid building) 8353 East Freeway, Houston, Tx 77029;
3. HFB North -146 Knobcrest Drive, Houston, Tx 77060

Specific Conditions HFB intends to select a supplier to provide cardboard boxes based on the following:

- All products purchased under this contract shall be new and free from defect
- All freight, delivery, and handling charges are the responsibility of the supplier
- All prices must be quoted freight prepaid and FOB destination
- Please provide samples of cardboard items listed on this request for proposal.
  - Samples are to be sent to the Houston Food Bank, 535 Portwall Houston TX 77029 to the attention of LaKesha Oludare, Volunteer Services Administration Manager. Samples must be furnished free to HFB
  - Samples must be delivered before the due date of Tuesday, August 31, 2021
- No component used by HFB shall contain lead or mercury
- Annual usage is an estimate based on historical data and is not guarantee for future orders
- If boxes are needed outside the dimensions listed below, please provide a process for requesting those changes and updating the contract without unnecessary cost.
- If there is a minimum; that information should be disclosed in the proposal
- Supplier must provide estimated lead times for all products
- Supplier will be permitted to view the current box design used by HFB
- Supplier must bid based on current design and graphics
- Existing HFB plates must be used for box printing
- Supplier must be willing to work with HFB if plates need to be modified under this contract
- Cost of future plates must be provided by the supplier
- All materials will be delivered palletized, bound with protective covering, and shall not be shipped double stacked (one pallet on top of another) to ensure quality and minimize damage
- Responses to e-mails or phone calls to supplier will be responded to within 48 hours of receipt
- Should products be received in damaged condition (whether noted at receipt or hidden), HFB will note on the delivery slip the apparent damage and shall request that the Contractor remedy the situation by accepting prompt return of product and replacement with undamaged Product. Damage will be reported immediately to Contractor to determine the disposition instructions and HFB shall hold such
damaged products for inspection by the insurer, the carrier, or Contractor's designated representative. Any inspection of damaged merchandise needs to be completed within 15 days of reporting the incident. In the event the Supplier or its agents cannot inspect and resolve the damage claim within 30 days, HFB reserves the right to deduct any payments made, charge a processing fee for each claim occurrence, and return the product at the Supplier's expense.

- Contractor's representative shall meet monthly during the first three months of the contract to ensure quality and timeliness of deliveries

Additional options:
- In order to provide flexibility, HFB is willing to look at options that include Just-In-Time (JIT) inventory programs.
  - The Bidder is required to deliver needed units to the individual user locations in HFB. The Bidder becomes, in effect, an extension of HFB material management department, while HFB retains a small in-house inventory for daily distribution.
  - JIT orders placed by HFB should be delivered within 72 hours.
At minimum the Houston Food Bank is seeking the following goods to be provided by the supplier(s):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material Type</th>
<th>Box #</th>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>Material Weight</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Order Frequency</th>
<th>Annual Projected Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bin Box</td>
<td>001</td>
<td>20 x 20 x 35 3/4</td>
<td>32-C</td>
<td>White with print and hand holes</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Box</td>
<td>002</td>
<td>15 1/4 x 12 3/4 x 10 5/8</td>
<td>44-C</td>
<td>Kraft with hand holes and print (different design/new plate)</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>115,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Drive Box</td>
<td>003</td>
<td>15 1/4 x 12 3/4 x 9 1/8</td>
<td>32-C</td>
<td>Kraft with print and hand holes</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>85,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice Box</td>
<td>004</td>
<td>12 x 10 x 6</td>
<td>32-C</td>
<td>Kraft with print</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>265,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backpack Box</td>
<td>005</td>
<td>19 5/8 x 15 3/4 x 10 1/4</td>
<td>275-C</td>
<td>Kraft with print and hand holes</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>155,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locker Box</td>
<td>006</td>
<td>11 1/2 x 10 1/2 x 11 1/4</td>
<td>32-C Insulated</td>
<td>Kraft</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>16,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sort Box</td>
<td>007</td>
<td>20 x 16 x 10</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>Kraft, no handles</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Box</td>
<td>008</td>
<td>15 1/4 x 12 3/4 x 9 1/8</td>
<td>32C</td>
<td>Kraft with hand holes</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Delivery Box</td>
<td>009</td>
<td>15 1/4 x 12 3/4 x 9 1/8</td>
<td>32C</td>
<td>Kraft with hand holes</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>60,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cost:**
All suppliers will provide an itemized list of fees and costs of the items listed above. If the vendor must outsource or contract any work to meet the requirements contained herein, this must be clearly stated in the proposal. Additionally, all costs included in the proposals must be all-inclusive to include any outsourced or contracted work. Any proposals which call for outsourcing or contracting work must include a name and description of the organizations being contracted. Any changes to contracted vendor must be approved by the Houston Food Bank.

One year following the contract start date, a paperboard price increase may be considered. The contractor must provide HFB with 30 day advanced notice and proof in the form of documentation from its paperboard supplier that an increase has occurred and that no other source of comparable product is available. A letter from the paperboard supplier must be submitted to HFB to verify the increase. If the increase is stated in tons, the contractor will be required to convert into the Unit Price. Permission to increase will be granted or denied by HFB. A secondary contractor may be considered at this time if in the best interest of HFB.
Section 5 Submission Criteria

Provide the following information in the response lines below or attached to the submitted RFP.

A. Cardboard Box Material costs – The purchase price plus the total long-term cost to the Houston Food Bank to acquire the Proposer’s goods or services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material Type</th>
<th>Box #</th>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>Projected Quantity (units)</th>
<th>Delivered Price per unit</th>
<th>Estimated Lead Time</th>
<th>Additional Vendor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bin Box</td>
<td>001</td>
<td>20 x 20 x 35 3/4</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Box</td>
<td>002</td>
<td>15 1/4 x 12 3/4 x 10 5/8</td>
<td>115,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Drive Box</td>
<td>003</td>
<td>15 1/4 x 12 3/4 x 9 1/8</td>
<td>85,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>60,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The usages above are based on historical data; these numbers do not guarantee a certain amount of business. The usage numbers can increase or decrease.

B. Description of Bidder – include locations of offices and persons responsible for services and point of contact for Houston Food Bank.

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

C. Statement of understanding of the services requested – include a narrative and work plan outlining an approach for addressing the requirements of the RFP
D. Quality of previous work – Examples of supplies requested as well as client testimonials and references

E. Statement of the bidder’s qualifications and financial capability as they relate to the scope of services – copies of recent audit, a current financial statement or a copy of the contractor’s federal income tax return with all amendments preferred. References from a minimum of 3 sources preferred.
F. Technical Expertise and Experience: Provide descriptions and documentation of staff technical expertise and experience

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

G. Additional services: Additional services outside the listed scope of services supplier will provide i.e. green initiative and social responsibility, inventory management, etc.

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

H. Additional information the bidder deems appropriate to assist in evaluating the proposal. Additional points will be awarded to Minority (MBE), HUB, Women-owned (WBE), Disadvantaged (DBE), Persons with Disabilities (PDBE), Veteran (VBE), Service Disabled Veteran (SDVBE) or Small (SBE) Business Enterprises with proof of these classifications.

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
Evaluation of Bidders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Each bidder will be evaluated on the following factors:</th>
<th>Total Possible Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 copy of the bid submitted by email with signatures</td>
<td>Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bidder representative signatures:</td>
<td>Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• RFP Solicitation – pg. 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Certificate of Independent Price Determination – pg.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Clean Air and Water Certification – pg. 23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Form AD-1048 – pg. 24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Certification Regarding Lobbying – pg. 27</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Cost of Goods and Services</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Description of Bidder</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Statement of Understanding</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Quality of previous work</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Statement of the bidders' qualifications and financial capability - higher points given to complete financial, tax or audit records and references from 3 sources.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Technical Expertise and Experience</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Additional Services</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Additional relevant information - higher points given to those with proof of certification.</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max Possible Points</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 6

General Conditions

1. **Length of Contract**

   This contract will be in effect for 12 months beginning October 1, 2021 or date of agreement approval by the Houston Food Bank and shall end September 30, 2022, with the option to renew for two (2) additional years.

2. **Payment**

   Invoices should be e-mailed to: AP@houstonfoodbank.org

   It is the Houston Food Bank's policy to pay in full in net 30 days.

3. **Termination Clause**

   The successful bidder's contract must include the following termination provisions:

   a) **For cause** - by Institution or contractor with thirty (30) days written notification.

   b) **The Institution’s right to terminate** - If the contractor fails to comply with any of the requirements of the contract. The Institution shall notify the contractor of specific instances of noncompliance, in writing. In instances where the contractor has been notified of noncompliance with the terms of the contract and has not taken immediate corrective action, the Institution shall have the right, upon written notice, of immediate termination of the contract and the contractor shall be liable for any damages incurred by the Institution. The Institution shall negotiate a repurchase contract on a competitive basis to arrive at a fair and reasonable price.

   c) The Institution shall, by written notice to the contractor, terminate the right of the contractor to proceed under this contract if it is found by the Institution that gratuities in the form of entertainment, gifts, favors, anything of monetary value or otherwise were offered or given by the contractor or contractor’s employees or subcontractors to any officer, employee or agent of the Institution.

   d) In the event this contract is terminated as provided in paragraph (b) hereof, the Institution shall be entitled: (i) to pursue the same remedies against the contractor as it could pursue in the event of a breach of the contract by the contractor;

   e) and (ii) as a penalty, in addition to any other damages in any amount which shall not be less than three, nor more than ten times the costs incurred by the contractor in providing any such gratuities to any such officer or employee.

   f) The rights and remedies of the Institutions provided in this clause, shall not be exclusive, and are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or under this contract.
Section 7

General Provisions

Equal Opportunity

(The following clause is applicable unless this contract is exempt under the rules, regulations, and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor [41 CFR ch. 60].)

During the performance of the contract, the contractor agrees as follows:

a) The contractor will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin. The contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, age or national origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited to, the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the Contracting Officer setting forth the provisions of this Equal Opportunity clause.

b) The contractor will, in all solicitation or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, disability or national origin.

c) The contractor will send to each labor union or representative of workers with which he has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice, to be provided by the agency Contracting Officer, advising the labor union or workers' representative of the contractor’s commitments under this Equal Opportunity clause, and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.

d) The contractor will comply with all provisions of Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended by Executive Order No. 11375 of October 13, 1967, and of the rules, regulations, and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor.

e) The contractor will furnish all information and reports required by Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended by Executive Order No. 11375 of October 13, 1967, and by the rules, regulations, and orders of the Secretary of Labor, or pursuant thereto, and will permit access to his books, records, and accounts by the contracting agency and the Secretary of Labor for purposes of investigation to ascertain compliance with such rules, regulations, and orders.

f) In the event of the contractor’s noncompliance with the Equal Opportunity clause of this contract or with any of the said rules, regulations, or orders, this contract may be canceled, terminated, or suspended, in whole or in part, and the contractor may be declared ineligible for further Government contracts in accordance with Procedures...
authorized in Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended by 
Executive Order No. 11375 of October 13, 1967, and such other sanctions as may 
be imposed and remedies invoked as provided in Executive Order No. 11246 of 
September 24, 1965, as amended by Executive Order 11375 of October 13, 1967, 
or by rule, regulations, or order of the Secretary of Labor, or as otherwise provided 
by law.

g) The contractor will include the provisions of paragraphs a) through g) in every 
subcontract or purchase order unless exempted by rules, regulations, or orders of 
the Secretary of Labor issued pursuant to Section 204 of Executive Order No. 11246 
of September 24, 1965, as amended by Executive Order No. 11375 of October 13, 1967, 
so that such provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or Institution. 
The contractor will take such action with respect to any subcontract or purchase 
order as the contracting agency may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions, 
including sanctions for noncompliance: Provided, however, that in the event the 
contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor 
or Institution as a result of such direction by the contracting agency, the contractor 
may request the United States to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of 
the United States.

Clean Air and Water

(Applicable only if the contract exceeds $100,000 or the Contracting Officer has 
determined that the orders under an indefinite quantity contract in any one year will 
exceed $100,000, or a facility to be used has been the subject of a conviction under the 
Clean Air Act [42 USC 7413(c)(1) or the Federal Water Pollution Control Act [33 USC 
1319(c)] and is listed by EPA, or the contract is not otherwise exempt.)

a) The contractor agrees as follows:

i) To comply with all the requirements of Section 114 of the Clean Air Act, as 
amended [42 USC 7414] and Section 308 of the Federal Water Pollution Control 
Act [33 USC 1251, et seq.], respectively, relating to inspection, monitoring, entry, 
reports and information as well as other requirements specified in Section 114 
and Section 308 of the Air Act and the Water Act, respectively, and all 
regulations and guidelines issued hereunder before the award of this contract.

ii) That no portion of the work required by this contract will be performed in a facility 
listed on the Environmental Protection Agency List of Violating Facilities on the 
date when this contract was awarded unless and until the EPA eliminates the 
name of such facility or facilities from such listing.

iii) To use his best efforts to comply with clean air standards and clean water 
standards at the facilities in which the contract is being performed.

iv) To insert the substance of the provisions of this clause in any nonexempt 
subcontract, including this paragraph (a)(4).

b) The terms used in this clause have the following meanings:
i) The term “Air Act” means the Clean Air Act, as amended [42 USC 7401, et seq.].

ii) The term “Water Act” means Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended [33 USC 1251 et seq.].

iii) The term “Clean Air Standards” means any enforceable rules, regulations, guidelines, standards, limitations, orders, controls, prohibitions, or other requirements which are contained in, issued under, or otherwise adopted pursuant to the Air Act or Executive Order 11738, an applicable implementation plan as described in Section 110(d) of the Clean Air Act [42 USC 7410], an approved implementation procedure or plan under Section 111(c) or Section 111(d), respectively, of the Air Act [42 USC 7411] or Section 111(d), respectively, of the Air Act [42 USC 7412], or an approved implementation procedure under Section 112(d) of the Air Act [42 USC 7412].

iv) The term “Clean Water Standards” means any enforceable limitation, control, condition, prohibition, standard, or other requirement which is promulgated pursuant to the Water Act or contained in a permit issued to a discharger by the Environmental Protection Agency or by a State under an approved program, as authorized by Section 402 of the Water Act [33 USC 1342] or by local government to ensure compliance with pretreatment regulations, as required by Section 307 of the Water Act [33 USC 1317].

v) The term “compliance” means compliance with clean air or water standards. Compliance shall also mean compliance with a schedule or plan ordered or approved by a court of competent jurisdiction, the Environmental Protection Agency or an Air or Water Pollution Control Agency in accordance with the requirements of the Air Act or Water Act and regulations issued pursuant thereto.

vi) The term “facility” means any building, plant, installation, structure, mine, vessel, or other floating craft, location or sites of operations, owned, leased or supervised by a contractor or subcontractor to be utilized in the performance of a contract or subcontracts. Where a location or site of operations contains or includes more than one building, plant, installation, or structure, the entire location or site shall be deemed to be a facility except where the Director, Office of Federal Activities, Environmental Protection Agency, determines that independent facilities are co-located in one geographical area.
Clean Air and Water Certification

The bidder certifies as follows:

a) Any facility to be utilized in the performance of this proposed contract has □, has not □ been listed on the Environmental Protection Agency List of Violating Facilities.

b) He will promptly notify the Contracting Officer, prior to award, of the receipt of any communication from the Director, Office of Federal Activities, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, indicating that any facility which he proposes to use for the performance of the contract is under consideration to be listed on the EPA List of Violating Facilities.

c) He will include substantially this certification, including this paragraph c) in every nonexempt subcontract.

______________________________________________
Signature of Authorized Representative, Bidder     Date

Energy Policy and Conversation Act (42 USC 6201, et seq.)

The contractor shall comply with all mandatory standards and policies relating to energy efficiency which are contained in the State energy conservation plan issued in compliance with the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 USC 6201, et seq.)

Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act-Overtime Compensation

The contractor shall comply with Sections 103 and 107 of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (the "Act"), 40 USC 3702, 3704, as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations, 29 CFR, Part 5. Under Section 103 of the Act, contractor shall be required to compute the wages of every laborer on the basis of a standard workweek of 40 hours. Work in excess of the standard workweek is permissible provided that the worker is compensated at a rate of not less than 1 ½ times the basic rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of 40 hours in any workweek. Section 107 of the Act provides that no laborer or mechanic shall be required to work in surroundings or under working conditions, which are unsanitary, hazardous or dangerous to his health and safety as determined under construction, safety and health standards promulgated by the Secretary of Labor.
This certification is required by the regulations implementing Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension, 7 CFR Part 417, Section 417.332, Participants’ responsibilities.

(BEFORE COMPLETING CERTIFICATION, READ INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE)

1) The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.

2) Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

Organization Name
Name

PR/Award Number or Project

Name(s) and Title(s) of Authorized Representative(s)

Signature(s)  Date

Form AD-1048 (1/92)
Instructions for Certification

1. By signing and submitting this form, the prospective lower tier participant is providing the certification set out on the reverse side in accordance with these instructions.

2. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

3. The prospective lower tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the person to which this proposal is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.

4. The terms “covered transaction”, “debarred”, “suspended”, “ineligible”, lower tier covered transaction”, “participant”, “person”, “primary covered transaction”, “principal”, “proposal”, and “voluntarily excluded”, as used in this clause, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of rules implementing Executive Order 12549. You may contact the person to which this proposal is submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations.

5. The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this form that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency with which this transaction originated.

6. The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this form that it will include this clause titled “Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transactions”, without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.

7. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the Non-Procurement List.

8. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.
9. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 5 of these instructions, if a
participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered
transaction with a person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily
excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available
to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction
originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

Form AD-1048 (1/92)
Section 9

PROCUREMENT
Certification Regarding Lobbying

Applicable to Grants, Sub-grants, Cooperative Agreements, and Contracts exceeding $100,000 in Federal funds.

Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction and is imposed by section 1352, Title 31, U.S. Code. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than $10,000 and not more than $100,000 for each such failure.

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, an employee of a Member of Congress, or any Board Member, officer, or employee of [Name of Institution] in connection with the awarding of a Federal contract, the making of a Federal grant, the making of a Federal loan, the entering into a cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of a Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, an employee of a Member of Congress, or any Board Member, officer, or employee of [Name of Institution] in connection with this Federal grant or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, “Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying”, in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all covered sub-awards exceeding $100,000 in Federal funds at all appropriate tiers and that all sub-recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

_______________________________________  ________________________
Name/Address of Organization        Signature             Date

_______________________________________
Name/Title of Submitting Official

Signature

Date
## Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

Complete this form to disclose lobbying activities pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1352

(See next page for public burden disclosure.)

Approved by OMB

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>0348-0046</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Type of Federal Action:</strong></td>
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<td>___ a. contract</td>
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<td>___ b. grant</td>
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<td>___ c. cooperative agreement</td>
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<td>___ d. loan</td>
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<td>___ e. loan guarantee</td>
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<td>___ f. loan insurance</td>
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<td><strong>2. Status of Federal Action:</strong></td>
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<td>___ a. bid/offer/application</td>
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<td>___ b. initial award</td>
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<td>___ c. post-award</td>
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<td><strong>3. Report Type:</strong></td>
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<td>___ a. initial offering</td>
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<td>___ b. material change</td>
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<td>For Material Change Only:</td>
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<td>Quarter ________</td>
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<td>Date of last report________</td>
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<td><strong>4. Name and Address of Reporting Entity:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ Prime</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ Sub-awardee, Tier _____, if known</td>
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<tr>
<td>__________ Congressional District, if known:</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5. If Reporting Entity in No. 4 is Sub-awardee, Enter Name &amp; Address Of Prime:</strong></td>
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<td>__________ Congressional District, if known:</td>
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<td><strong>6. Federal Department/Agency:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>7. Federal Program Name/Description:</strong></td>
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<td>CFDA Number, if applicable: ______________________</td>
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<td><strong>8. Federal Action Number, if known:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>9. Award Amount, if known:</strong></td>
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<td>10. a. Name and Address of Lobbying Entity (If individual, last name, first name, MI):</td>
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<td>(Attach continuation sheet(s) if necessary)</td>
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<td>11. Amount of Payment (check all that apply):</td>
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<td>12. Form of Payment (check all that apply):</td>
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<td>□ a. cash</td>
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<td>□ b. in-kind; specify:</td>
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<td>14. Brief Description of Services Performed or to be Performed and Date(s) of Service, including officer(s), employee(s), or member(s) contacted for Payment Indicated in Item 11:</td>
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<td>(Attach continuation sheet(s) if necessary)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15. Continuation Sheet(s) attached: □ Yes □ No</td>
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<tr>
<td>16. Information requested through this form is authorized by article 31 U.S.C. section 1352. This disclosure of lobbying activities is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed by the tier above when this transaction was made or entered into. This disclosure is required pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1352. This information</td>
</tr>
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<td>Signature:</td>
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<td>Print Name:</td>
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<td>Title:</td>
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<td>Telephone No: ___________ Date: ___________</td>
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will be reported to the Congress semi-annually and will be available for public inspection. Any person who fails to file the required disclosure shall be subject to civil penalty of not less than $10,000 and not more than $100,000 for each such failure.

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<tr>
<th>Federal Use Only:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Authorized for Local Reproduction of: Standard Form - LLL</td>
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</table>
We have received several inquiries about the 12 month fixed price requirement listed in the Box RFP. For transparency, we wanted to share some feedback.

- We understand there is great volatility in the market currently and that a 12 month fixed price may not be feasible.
- When bidding, we are open to alternate pricing formats and you may provide multiple pricing options:
  - If a fixed price is an option, we understand you may need to elevate the price up front to account for future increases, but please explain that thought process and how that could possibly mitigate risk for HFB.
  - If a variable price is bid, then we prefer that to be in a controlled process where we are notified of the increase/decrease in advance (i.e. a notification is sent explaining the change and that the change will take place beginning in 14 days)
- Other important factors to HFB
  - Timeliness of delivery – what process do you use to deliver quickly (i.e. high production capability, off site storage availability, etc).
  - Quality of product – boxes are delivered without damage

Previous drawings and specs for the Backpack Box showed it as a 32 ect, but the RFP request 275. Can you confirm which is correct?

- It used to be the 32 but was changed to the 275. We needed that box to be a lot stronger than the others because of its use & the way they stack it. It was also intended to be used for bananas, and those had to be much stronger than our others.