

SOURCES SOUGHT

The purpose of this synopsis is to gain knowledge of potential qualified sources and their size classification (hubzone, 8(a), small, small disadvantage, service disabled veteran owned small business, or large business) relative to NAICS 311511.

Responses to this synopsis will be used by the Government to make appropriate acquisition decisions. After review of the responses to this sources sought synopsis, a solicitation announcement may be published on FBO and/or ebuy. Responses to this sources sought synopsis are not considered adequate responses to the solicitation announcement.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

STATEMENT OF WORK

Provide Milk and Dairy Products listed in the Schedule for the period of December 1, 2018 through September 30th, 2023, one (1) 10-month base year and four (4) 12-month option periods.

- **VA Central Iowa Health Care System Des Moines, IA**

1. **AUTHORIZATION FOR CHANGES.** The contractor shall contact the Contracting Officer on all matters pertaining to administration. Only the Contracting Officer is authorized to make commitments to issue changes which will affect the price, quantity and quality or delivery of this contract.
2. **PACKAGING, PACKING AND LABELING.** All packaging and packing shall be in accordance with good commercial practice. Labeling shall be in accordance with commercial labeling complying with the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and regulations promulgated there under.
 - a. All items must be identified with readable dates (open code dates), or coded dates. Contractors who do not use open dating will provide a product code number key listing to each customer facility. The product code number key listing shall explain the actual date of production or processing. Copies of key-codes will be furnished to each destination receiving officer and each destination inspection agency with the first delivery.
 - b. Evaluation of offers will be based on capability to meet the Government requirements, past performance, and price. Preference may be given to offers that provide prices for product in containers as specified. However, vendors may offer alternate container (packaging) options and pricing. Award will be made to the offeror that is determined to be the best value for the Government. Alternative methods, (i.e. hormone free milk) are encouraged. If presenting alternative methods, please specify that in your bid.
3. **PRODUCT QUALITY AND FRESHNESS.**
 - a. All milk and dairy products shall be delivered to the requested destination as listed in the schedule. All milk and dairy products furnished under this contract shall be fresh and of the highest quality.
 - b. All products furnished under this contract shall be processed and packed under sanitary conditions in strict accordance with guidelines provided by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, using the best commercial practices that are standard for the industry. All containers shall be clean, sound and securely covered or sealed to provide adequate protection from dirt, filth or contamination.

- c. Unless otherwise specified in the item specification or solicitation, marking shall be in accordance with best commercial practice.
 - d. Any commercial or additional labeling as specified which complies with the U.S. Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and regulations promulgated there under, is acceptable.
 - e. Products manufactured to metric dimensions will be considered on an equal basis with those manufactured using inch-pound units, providing they fall within the tolerances specified using conversion dimensions and those dimensions exceed the tolerances specified in the inch-pound units, a request should be made to the Contracting Officer to determine if the product is acceptable. The COTR, in accordance with the Contracting Officer, will accept or reject the product.
4. FRESHNESS REQUIREMENTS FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS. Fluid dairy and other products shall have a minimum of ten (10) days shelf life remaining at the time of delivery commensurate with good commercial practice and at a minimum, maintain grade A standards.
5. DELIVERIES OR PERFORMANCE.
- a. The Contracting Officer shall authorize VA Central Iowa personnel to place delivery orders for products listed in the schedule of pricing.
 - b. If an item has been ordered and is not available at the time of delivery, it will be the vendor's responsibility to obtain the necessary product that day.
 - c. All delivery tickets and invoices referencing the purchase order number must show the total items delivered for each line item.
 - d. Orders shall be placed no less than 1 work day prior to the required delivery date, upon delivery at the receiving location, items ordered shall be less than 24 hours old.
 - b. Orders will be placed by phone or electronically sent in to the Contractor.
 - a. Deliveries shall be made between 5:30am and 10:30AM, local time, on Monday through Friday, as requested by the COTR or his/her designee, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and federal holidays.
 - b. Deliveries shall be made within the premises at the following locations
- 1. VA Health Care System
Dept 120 – Nutrition and Food Service
3600 30th St
Bldg 2 Dock
Des Moines, IA 50310
6. INSPECTION OF PLANTS: All product furnished under the awarded contract shall be processed at plants that have been inspected by the Federal Government. Approved inspection reports of another VA Facility or other Federal Government agency will be accepted as satisfactory evidence that the facilities/plants meet these requirements, provided that the inspection was made not more than six (6) months prior to the proposed contract period. The Contracting Officer or his/her designee reserves the right to make pre-award, on-site survey and inspection of the plant, personnel, equipment and processes of the offeror prior to making award and conditions found will be considered in awarding the contract. Inspection(s) may also be made at any time during the life of the contract and, if it is found that the contractor is not complying with specifications, deliveries will be rejected and the products covered by this contract will be procured in the open market. Any excess cost occasioned by this action will be charged against the contractor's account.
7. DESCRIPTION OF SUPPLIES/SCHEDULE OF PRICE/COSTS: Contractor shall provide the estimated milk and dairy requirements as described in the schedule to the VA Central Iowa, in accordance with specifications contained herein, for a 10-month base year. The Government anticipates

award of a Firm Fixed-Price Estimated Requirements contract for the period December 1, 2018 through September 30, 2023. The Government does not guarantee the estimated yearly quantity. Any proposed alternate items shall meet the requirements of the Government specifications as cited in the Index of Federal Specifications/Standards (FED) and or commercial Item Description (CID). A-A-20052B and A-A-20053B. The awarded contract shall constitute the entire agreement including all terms and conditions applicable to the contract.

December 1, 2018 through September 30th, 2023

Please complete information on next page and submit to sherri.wakeman@va.gov

In response to this announcement, please complete the information below:

Company Name:
DUNS:
Contact Name:
Phone No:
Email:
Business size information
Select all that applies: <input type="checkbox"/> Small Business <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging Small Business <input type="checkbox"/> Small Disadvantaged Business <input type="checkbox"/> Certified under Section 8(a) of the Small Business Act <input type="checkbox"/> HubZone <input type="checkbox"/> Woman Owned <input type="checkbox"/> Vetbiz Verified Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business <input type="checkbox"/> Vetbiz Verified Veteran Owned Small Business

FSS/ GSA Contract Holder	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
FSS/ GSA Contract Number		
Effective Date / Expiration Date		

Will you be able to service all facilities?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
If No, which facilities will you be able to service:		

This notice is neither a request for competitive proposal or solicitation of offerors. This notice is to assist the VA in determining sources only and a solicitation is not currently available. If a solicitation is issued it will be announced at a later date, and all interested parties must respond to that solicitation announcement separately from this response. Responses to this sources sought is not a request to be added to a prospective bidders list or to receive a copy of the solicitation. Information received as a result of this notice will normally be considered solely for the purpose of determining whether to conduct a competitive procurement. This notice does not represent a commitment by the Government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of information or any other costs incurred as a response to this announcement. Inquiries will only be accepted in writing via email to sherri.wakeman@va.gov on or before **10/9/2108 by 10:00 AM CST.**