DETERMINATION AND FINDINGS
FOR A
SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT

AGENCY: District of Columbia Public Schools, Office of the Chief Operating Officer (OCOO), Food and Nutrition Services (FNS)

CAPTION: FreshFarm Food Prints for Sustainable Agriculture and Improved Food Access and Equity.

CONTRACT NO.:   GAGA-2021-C-0007

CONTRACTOR: FreshFarm Marketing, Inc.

FINDINGS

1. **AUTHORIZATION:**

   D.C. Official Code: §2-354.04, and 27 DCMR 1304, 1701.

2. **MINIMUM NEED:**

   DCPS has a need to establish a contract with FreshFarm Marketing, Inc., to create a partnership effective November 20, 2020 to develop and expand FoodPrints, a program that integrates gardening, cooking, and nutrition education into the curriculum, in nine DCPS elementary schools.

3. **ESTIMATED REASONABLE PRICE:**

   The estimated annual not to exceed price for DCPS is $300,000.00 from November 20, 2020 to September 30, 2021.

4. **BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:**

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   > Food Service Equipment Needs,
   > Staffing Needs,
   > Nutrition, Gardening and Cooking program; and
   > Kitchen and Cafeteria Improvements.

In addition to the minimum needs described above, the following core are critical needs, steps and approach to satisfy the "Five-Year Strategic Improvement Plan" set by USDA. The plan was developed in accordance with the following:

A. Contractual Requirement of Food Service Management Contract

Food Service Management Company (FSMC) solicitation and resultant contracts required contractors to promote school gardens in coordination with DCPS and utilize the garden in nutrition education activities, including "working directly with or supporting a school garden coordinator as well as other community-based or DCPS contracted programs such as Food Prints". This contract will allow DCPS to continue with the federal funding requirement for Food Nutrition Services (FNS).

B. Close Partnership with DC Public School

FRESHFARM first started working with Rudolph Elementary School until it closed in 2008. In 2009, the FoodPrints program (run by FRESHFARM) at Watkins Elementary School was launched and has since expanded to total of nine schools. FoodPrints has developed a robust partnership at each school, and credits much of its success to the support of the administration, teachers, staff, and families. This work lasting nearly a decade, has created a unique and intimate relationship between FreshFarm and DCPS. FoodPrints provides expertise in implementing effective garden programs within the district and at the DC Public Schools it resides in.

C. Partnership will Meet Immediate Needs

Nine schools have expressed an immediate need for continuing/implementing a garden program in their schools. FRESHFARM is prepared to begin work almost immediately to ensure the continuation of the program for the balance of SY 2020-2021, programming is in place for the successful rollout of the program.

D. Proven Track Record of Success in DCPS

In a recent evaluation of FoodPrints in DCPS, researchers from George Mason University found:
> FoodPrints lessons are focused on real world application of core subject matter concepts in math, science and language arts, and students have regular opportunities to apply math and science concepts in a real-world setting. FoodPrints educators encourage students to work collaboratively and engage students by involving them in every step of the process.
> o Classes offer child-centered, active learning opportunities.
> The program has a positive impact on children's knowledge of nutritious foods and their willingness to eat these foods at home; their interest in cooking nutritious food at home; and their nutrition and cooking knowledge and skills.

E. Supporting a Local Business

FRESHFARM is a DC-based non-profit organization that promotes sustainable agriculture in the Mid-Atlantic Region. As part of this work, they support local farmers through purchases at farmer's markets and direct connections with schools. They have also developed several key local partnerships, including:

6. **CERTIFICATION BY DCPS PROGRAM:**

I hereby certify that the above findings are true, correct and complete, and the