

Older Adult Food Access Program
Frequently Asked Question Submissions #4

- 1. The amount per meal estimates provision of 1/3 of the DRIs. Use of the meal pattern does not necessarily ensure that meals meet 33 1/3% of the DRIs and the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Meals are likely to require specific types of fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and high fiber foods in order to ensure the key nutrients are met per USDA ChooseMyPlate.gov.**

We are doing most of this but saying that the meals need to provide 1/3 of the DRI's (daily recommended intake) is really broad and can include many nutrients not even mentioned. We need to know if this is a general guideline or if you want us to document those nutrients and how much of each is provided. It was NOT added to the meal plan worksheet, so we are unsure if this has to be done.

The Meal Nutrition Requirements in Section 5 of the solicitation includes a note section that is intended to provide some background information to explain some of the reasoning behind the requirements for this Emergency Older Adult Food Access Program. This includes an explanation of how the amounts per meal relate to Dietary Reference Intakes (DRIs). Vendors are not required to provide information on nutrients outside of what is requested on the meal plan worksheet.

- 2. In Section 5: Meal Nutrition Requirements of the Bid Booklet, the saturated fat requirement states: "Saturated Fat < 10% of total calories." Is this correct? If so, how is this calculated? Should this be "Saturated Fat < 10% of total fat?"**

It is correct that saturated fat should be less than 10% of total calories. The formula to calculate percent of calories from saturated fat is: (saturated fat grams x 9) divided by total calories in meal (1 gram of fat is approximately 9 calories).

To use, take the grams of saturated fat in the meal and multiply by 9 (1 gram of fat is approximately 9 calories). Take that number and divide by the total calories in the meal.

- 3. It takes a considerable amount of time to prepare a bid. Many applicants will need to collaborate due to the protracted shutdown of normal business which forced many to lay off employees.**

Beyond a limited access to trusted talent we require, conditions to borrow money are not necessarily the same as before the pandemic was announced about four months ago. Many of us will need to borrow about \$150k to make and fulfill two weeks'

worth of food. It is too much to ask suppliers, i.e., farmers, who are already under profound financial challenge, to take most of their money later.

There is no guarantee our bids will be accepted. That is too much time and effort shared between many to be flippantly discounted as (1) “non-responsive” by a bid reviewer or (2) too expensive when realistically we must build risk into the price.

What do you say to applicants who need some kind of “indirect guarantee” to rationalize a serious investment of their time and effort to participate in this bid?

Yes, it does take time to prepare a bid and determine the capabilities of your operations. This may require that Bidders discuss potential arrangements with subcontractors that will aid the Bidder in meeting the requirements of the proposed bid. However, we are not asking Bidders to take out loans, borrow money, or enter into final agreements with subcontractors until DSNY issues the Bidder a Notice of Award. The City cannot guarantee any Bidder, either directly or indirectly, that it will be awarded a contract pursuant to this solicitation; doing so would be a violation of the City’s procurement rules, which are designed to ensure a fair and equitable competition for public funds. DSNY will award contracts to the lowest responsive and responsible Bidders that submit bids in response to this solicitation.