

**Questions Received for Agriculture Workforce Development RFI
RFI0316-EX**

Q: Is there an allocated budget? Is the funding reoccurring?

A: Because this Request for Information (RFI) is not a solicitation for actual bids, a budget has not yet been determined. A budget of \$1,000,000 is expected to be allocated when a Request for Proposals is developed and bids are solicited at a later date. Responders are encouraged to provide an estimated annual budget for providing the project services as part of their response to question #3 in the RFI.

Q: Is it expected that the program will be self-sustaining?

A: The proposed project scope states the vendor will be, or become, an agricultural workforce association that financially supports and sustains its organization using a blend of a membership fee structure and state and federal funding.

Q: Is there a matching requirement?

A: There is no matching requirement stated in the RFI; however, the RFI is not a solicitation for actual bids.

Q: Will administrative fees be available within the approved budget?

A: Because this Request for Information (RFI) is not a solicitation for actual bids, eligible and ineligible expenses have not yet been determined.

Q: Who will administer the program after the development? Are you expecting the developer to administer the program, or will there be a hand-off?

A: The expectation is for the vendor to provide all phases of the project – development, engagement, and delivery, and continue to sustain the development of a food and agricultural pipeline thereafter.

Q: Are educational institutions eligible to apply?

A: Nonprofit educational institutions, including nonprofit college and universities, are eligible to apply.

Q: What is the anticipated RFP Award time, decision timetable, and length of award?

A: Because this Request for Information (RFI) is not a solicitation for actual bids, funding will not be awarded. Award information and a timeline will be determined when a Request for Proposals is developed and bids are solicited at a later date.

Q: When do you expect the RFP to be posted and the money awarded?

A: When the RFP is developed at a later date, complete information will be included in the RFP document and posted to the Department's website and the NYS Contract Reporter website.

Q: Would the New York Department of Agriculture consider apprenticeship program administration for agricultural maintenance technicians within the RFI scope?

A: While registered apprenticeships is an example of a program that is part of a comprehensive workforce development pilot program, the proposed project scope in the RFI details the need for a vendor to create and execute a strategic vision that attracts and engages with New York's future agriculture and food supply workforce using a variety of different programs, which include but may not be limited to youth programs, agricultural education programs, training workshops or bootcamps, apprenticeship programs, certificate and credentialing programs, internships, and mentor programs, to connect job seekers or the existing workforce with jobs within food and agriculture.