

I. BID FOR FOOD CONTRACTORS  
NOTICE TO CATERING OPERATORS RE: CATERING CONTRACT OPPORTUNITY  
UP TO 75,000 MEALS ANNUALLY  
PROJECT NOW, INC. SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAM

Project NOW, Inc.CAA (Project NOW) at 1830 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Rock Island, Illinois, 61201, is soliciting applications from firms and individuals who may be interested in submitting their qualifications and bid as a prospective caterer for the supply of hot and/or cold meals (Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals) and shelf stable meals. The meals will be delivered to presently established sites and any future sites in Rock Island County, for the period October 1, 2026, to September 30, 2027, for the Elderly Nutrition Program funded under Title III-C of the New Revised Older American’s Act, September 1, 1980.

The accompanying Prospectus provides a bid form and application forms together with a digest of salient lease terms and further descriptive data on the physical properties involved with this contract.

It is the intent of Project NOW to award this contract as promptly as possible after the deadline. The bid deadline date is hereby identified as Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 A.M., C.S.T.

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Michelle Dyer  
Senior Services Director  
Project NOW, Inc.

## II. IDENTIFICATION AND OPERATING DATA

The Title III-C-Elderly Nutrition Program is a program designed to meet the basic nutritional needs of persons age 60 or older living in Rock Island County.

The official title is Congregate Meal Program and Home Delivered Meal Program for Older Persons in Rock Island County. It is a Title III-C Nutrition Program, developed from the Older American's Act, as stated in Section 701 of the Act.

Project NOW, Inc. CAA at 1830 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Rock Island, Illinois 61201 is hereby identified as the "Granting Agency" for Title III-C Nutrition Program in Rock Island County. It is the duty and responsibility of this agency to receive all Federal funds allotted for this program and to see that the program fulfills all Federal, State, and Local guidelines.

The Lessee is hereby identified as the caterer or third party who will be entering into this initial contract with the Elderly Nutrition Program and Project NOW. It shall be a specific responsibility of the Lessee to specifically identify the exact location(s) of the total operation. The objective of this contract is to secure one (1) base price for Congregate Meals, one (1) base price for Home-Delivered Meals, and one (1) base price for shelf stable meals for all sites, as per the specification of this total document.

Use of commodity foods used by the Lessee in Title III-C programs may be required. Should the commodity food program become available, the Lessee agrees to participate in the NSIP Commodity program in lieu of the cash program at a level established by Project NOW.

## III. CONTRACT SELECTION PROCEDURE

Eligibility to submit and be reviewed as a competitive bid proposal of this contract will be established by Project NOW on the basis of an objective review of each application received within the following framework:

- A. Total response to this solicitation effort, from both qualitative and quantitative aspects.
- B. Nature and extent of applicant's experience and demonstrated expertise in operating similar or related type properties in the hospitality and public accommodations field.
- C. Extent of applicant's ability to carry out the initial investment and continuing working capital requirements of this contract.
- D. Reputation of the applicant among peers, suppliers, and the public in general.
- E. Extent of applicant's apparent grasp and understanding of full market and public service potential of this contract as well as the responsibilities assumed by the caterer.
- F. Assistance to enhance, intensify, and promulgate public usage, hence enjoyment of the project and continued success.

It is anticipated that selection of the Lessee and final award and execution of the contract lease will be accomplished as promptly as possible after Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026, subject to the conditions and reservations covered in these documents.

Project NOW reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to waive formalities in the bidding. Final judgement in determining the best and most responsible bidder rests with the Project NOW Board of Directors.

#### IV. DIGEST OF LEASE TERMS

1. The period of the contract will be twelve (12) months, commencing October 1, 2026, until September 30, 2027, with the provision that Project NOW reserves the right to terminate this contract (or significantly reduce the number of meals) subject to a 60-day notice, if Project NOW should start its own food preparation program or if an act of nature or a wide spread pandemic halts delivery option. No sublease will be permitted without the consent of the Nutrition Program and Project NOW Board.
2. Future renewals of this contract are dependent on the Title III Grant renewal.
3. The period of operation is five days a week, with meals delivered and served in the approximate noontime range.
4. There shall be no guarantee that all special occasions will be handled and catered by the Lessee of this contract.
5. The Lessor reserves the right to cancel meals for a specific site or sites on a given day or days. This will be done with one (1) week advance notice except in the case of an emergency, such as blizzards, and other extreme conditions beyond the control of the Lessor.
6. The statement 75,000 annual meals is not a specific guarantee of a minimum number of meals.
7. Delivery of all meals shall be the full responsibility of the Grantee.
8. Compliance with all local, state and federal laws with the Illinois Department on Aging rules and regulations and those of Project NOW must be observed.
9. Cater caddies and the necessary stainless steel pans will be purchased and replaced, when necessary, by the Nutrition Program.
10. Bi-monthly "Adventures in Dining" ethnic meals at some sites and monthly birthday cakes will be provided at each site.
11. Where feasible and appropriate, make arrangements for the availability of shelf stable meals that follow the recommended nutritional guidelines to older persons in weather related emergencies or prolonged closure of delivery services.
12. Meals will meet the nutritional guidelines set forth in this bid.

13. We reserve the right to extend the contract upon mutual agreement.

The Lessee will fully comply with all of these terms. Before submitting a bid, the applicant should be thoroughly familiar with all such laws, rules and regulations.

V. NATURE OF CONTRACT

The nature of this contract is an exclusive contract for a period of twelve (12) months, commencing October 1, 2026, to supply all regular meals for the Elderly Nutrition Program, and be hereby identified as the “Lessor” and to include the preparation of said meals to all present and future sites.

Project NOW hereby identifies below the present site locations and the planned number of meals for each site during the twelve (12) month period starting October 1, 2026.

<u>PRESENT SITES</u>	<u># MEALS</u>	<u>DAYS OPEN</u>
COLONA HOUSE, EAST MOLINE	4,800	Mon through Fri = 5
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, EDGINGTON	1,600	Mon through Fri = 5
1 <sup>ST</sup> METHODIST CHURCH, PORT BYRON	280	Tues and Thurs = 2
ROCK ISLAND COUNTY SENIOR CENTER, R.I.	2,720	Mon through Fri = 5
WESTWOOD TERRACE, MOLINE	4,800	Mon through Fri =5
HOME DELIVERED MEALS	58,000	Mon through Fri
SHELF STABLE MEALS	2,800	Bi-Annually
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>75,000</b>	

The moving and/or addition of any site are not to reflect any price changes in the contract. Future sites, not specifically identified in this exhibit are considered part of this contract, with the provision that they do not exceed specific boundary lines.

It is hereby identified that a one-month sample menu will be furnished with the final bid presentation.

The statements: 75,000 annual meals are hereby identified as, “no specific number of meals guaranteed.” 75,000 is the number of meals the present cost per meal is to be bid upon. Additional or less meals may be required during the program year.

Future and present sites shall have an option of on site preparation.

VI. MEAL PREPARATION AND DELIVERY

Applicant agencies must have the capability to operate a kitchen in one or more of the individual counties of the Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging’s Planning and Service Area or in a location that is accessible to the service area.

Applicant agencies who intend to sub-contract with other vendors to provide the meals must follow these specifications when determining costs under this section of the grant application and when letting bids should you receive a Title III-C Grant Award from the Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging.

## Packaging & Packaging Standards-Home Delivered Meals

- a. All meals packaged at nutrition sites must be individually packaged first (before congregate meals are served) and packed in secondary insulated food carriers with tight fitting lids and transported or frozen immediately.
- b. Containers must be designed to maintain the integrity and safety of the food.
- c. Cold and hot foods must be packaged and packed separately.
- d. All food delivery carriers must maintain the proper temperature for the required time that the food will be in the carrier.
- e. Cold food sacks must be packaged in bags that will not be compromised by condensation or leaking. (i.e. plastic sacks)

Only divided containers can be used for hot foods. The lids must provide a tight fitting seal. Bread must not be placed on the top of other food.

Appropriate individual containers with tight fitting lids must be used for all cold food. "Sandwich" type bags which can be sealed may be used for bread.

Temperature checks of bulk food should be taken on a daily basis, immediately prior to the packaging procedure. **The food should be at least 180° F.**

## VII. FOOD REQUIREMENTS

Food Standard. The food service provider, when purchasing food and preparing and delivering meals must follow appropriate procedures to preserve nutritional value and food safety.

### A. Food quality standards to be followed are:

Beef, Lamb and Veal	U.S.D.A. Choice
Pork	U.S.D.A. #1
Poultry	U.S.D.A. Grade A
Fish	Packed under the inspection of the U.S. Department of Interior.
Ground Beef	85/15 U.S.D.A. Choice
Turkey Roll	All meat 60% white /40% dark
Frankfurters, Wieners	Meet Federal or State Protein Content and Moisture limits.
Eggs, Butter, Margarine	U.S.D.A. Grade A Fresh
Milk 1%	U.S.D.A. Grade A
Fresh Produce	U.S.D.A. Grade 1
Canned & Frozen Fruits/Vegetables	U.S.D.A. Grade A

### B. Condiments and paper products to be provided by the food service provider at a minimum are:

Bulk Coffee, Tea and Milk

Butter or Oleo

Salt & Pepper

Ketchup, Mustard

Creamer which may be individual packets

Salad Dressing when salad is on the menu

Sugar and Sugar Substitute

Home Delivered Food Containers w/tight fitting lid, and three compartments, appropriate for separating hot and cold items

C. All Nutrition Service Providers Must:

1. Have procedures for obtaining the views of participants about the services they receive;

2. Solicit the expertise of an Illinois Licensed Dietitian Nutritionist (or Illinois licensed healthcare practitioner whose license includes nutrition services) based on the requirements of the state Dietetic and Nutrition Services Practice Act, Section 15. An individual licensed to practice dietetic or nutrition services in another state that has licensure requirements considered by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to be at least as stringent as the requirements for licensure under the Illinois Act, may review and approve menus.

Although nutrition service providers do not have to include licensed dietitians on staff, state rules do require that licensed dietitians are involved in the review and approval of menus. Menu planning and review can be arranged through subcontracts or volunteer agreements.

3. Solicit the advice and expertise of other individuals knowledgeable with regard to the needs of older individuals.

4. Follow appropriate procedures to preserve nutritional value and food safety in purchasing and storing food, and preparing, serving and delivering

5. Have available for use upon request appropriate food containers and utensils for persons with disabilities; and

6. The nutrition service provider must work with a consulting dietician in establishing and implementing procedures on handling foods prepared for a meal, but not served. The procedures shall address which foods may be saved, which foods need to be destroyed and instructions for cooling and storing foods for reuse.

D. All raw fruits and vegetables and other foods utilized must be free from spoilage, filth or contamination and must be safe for human consumption.

E. Foods prepared, canned or preserved in the home shall not be used. The use of hermetically sealed non-commercially packaged foods are prohibited because of the history of causing food borne illness.

- F. Standardized tested quantity recipes, adjusted to yield the number of servings needed, shall be used to achieve the consistent and desirable quality and quantity of meals.
- G. Leftover foods shall not be given away or sold.

VIII. PREPARATION, HANDLING AND SERVING

The food service provider must comply with applicable provisions of state or local laws regarding the safe and sanitary handling of food, equipment, and supplies used in the storage, preparation, service, and delivery of meals. All required licenses and permits must be posted at the place of food preparation.

IX. MEAL REQUIREMENTS:

Meals provided through the nutrition program must comply with the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans, published by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Agriculture; and provide each participant:

- 1. A minimum of 33 1/3 percent of the Dietary Reference Intakes (DRI) as established by the Food and Nutrition Board of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, if the participant is offered one meal per day.

X. MENU PLANNING:

Menus must be:

- 1. Planned in advance for a minimum of one month with repetition of entrees and other menu items kept at a minimum. If a cycle menu is utilized, there shall be at least three cycles per year. If the cycle is at least 6 weeks or greater in length, there shall be at least 2 cycles per year
- 2. All menus must be submitted to Project NOW, Inc. **six weeks prior to implementation**
- 3. Approved by the provider's licensed dietitian nutritionist as defined in VII (c)(2)
- 4. The certified menus may be modified occasionally if the provisions of this section are maintained and the staff of The Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging is consulted prior to the change
- 5. Posted with serving dates indicated in a location conspicuous to participants at each congregate meal site as well as in each preparation area
- 6. Legible and easy to read (It is recommended that menus be printed in the language(s) of the participant group.)
- 7. Adhered to subject to seasonal availability of food items
- 8. Kept on file with the **signed menu approval sheet, with any changes noted in writing, for at least three years.**

**For purposes of this Request for Proposal, we have developed a 12 week sample cycle of menus as an example of the type of menus that might be served at nutrition sites in our planning and service area. Applicant agencies are to use these sample menu approval sheets in developing the budget sections of the grant application.**

XI. SPECIAL DIET MENUS

- A. Provide special menus, where feasible and appropriate, to meet the particular dietary needs arising from the health requirements, religious requirements, ethnic or cultural backgrounds of eligible individuals.
- B. Special diet menus must be planned under the supervision of a licensed dietitian.
- C. A written physician's order for each individual requesting a special diet must be obtained prior to receipt of the meal and kept on file where the meal is prepared and served. The order must be renewed periodically by the physician as well as the consulting dietitian.

## XII. MENU STANDARDS

**1.** Service providers who choose not to complete a nutritional analysis of their menus will follow the meal pattern described in this section.

Requirements for One or Two Meal(s) Daily

**\*Each meal must provide:**

- (1) Serving lean meat or meat alternate: 3 ounces of edible cooked meat, fish, fowl, eggs or meat alternate
- (2) Serving(s) vegetables: ½ cup equivalent – may serve an additional vegetable instead of a fruit
- (1) Serving fruit: ½ cup equivalent – may serve an additional fruit instead of a vegetable
- (2) Servings grain, bread or bread alternate, preferably whole grain: for example, 2 slices of whole grain or enriched bread 1 ounce each or 1 cup cooked pasta or rice
- (1) Serving fat free or low fat milk or milk alternate: 1 cup equivalent

**\*Margarine and dessert are optional and must be counted in the calories, fat and sodium totals, if served in addition to above components.**

### **Meat or Meat Alternate:**

Three ounces (providing at least 19 g protein) of lean meat, poultry, fish or meat alternate should generally be provided for the lunch or supper meal. Meat serving weight is the edible portion, not including skin, bone, or coating.

Meat (1 ounce) alternates include:

- 1 medium egg
  - 1 ounce cheese (nutritionally equivalent measure of pasteurized process cheese, cheese food, cheese spread, or other cheese product)
  - ½ cup cooked dried beans, peas or lentils
  - 2 tablespoons peanut butter or 1/3 cup nuts
  - ¼ cup cottage cheese
  - ½ cup tofu
  - 1 ounce of soy type burger
- A one ounce serving or equivalent portion of meat, poultry, fish, may be served in combination with other high protein foods.

Protein/lean meat /meat alternate items containing textured vegetable protein and providing at least 19 g protein in a (3 oz) serving may be served.

Except to meet cultural and religious preferences and for emergency meals, serving dried beans, peas or lentils, peanut butter or peanuts, and tofu for consecutive meals or on consecutive days should be avoided.

Imitation cheese (which the Food and Drug Administration defines as one not meeting nutritional equivalency requirements for the natural, non-imitation product) cannot be served as meat alternates.

To limit the sodium content of the meals, serve no more than once a week cured and processed meats (e.g., ham, smoked or Polish sausage, corned beef, wieners, luncheon meats, dried beef).

To limit the amount of fat, especially saturated fat, and cholesterol in meals, regular ground meat should be served no more than twice weekly when one meal is provided, four times weekly if two meals are provided, and no more than 6 times a week if three meals are provided.

### **Vegetables**

A serving of vegetable (including cooked dried beans, peas and lentils) is generally ½ cup cooked or raw vegetable; or ¾ cup 100% vegetable juice, or 1-cup raw leafy vegetable. For pre-packed 100% vegetable juices, a ½ cup juice pack may be counted as a serving if a ¾ cup pre-packed serving is not available.

Fresh, frozen or unsalted canned vegetables are preferred instead of canned vegetables containing salt.

Vegetables as a primary ingredient in soups, stews, casseroles or other combination dishes should total ½ cup per serving.

At least one serving from each of the five vegetable subgroups must be included in a weekly menu. The five vegetable subgroups include dark green vegetables, orange vegetables, cooked dry beans and peas, starchy vegetables, and “other” vegetables.

A serving of cooked legumes (dried beans, peas and lentils) must be included twice each week, if one meal is provided; 4 servings per week must be included, if two or three meals are provided.

### **Fruits**

A serving of a fruit is generally a medium apple, banana, orange, or pear; ½ cup chopped, cooked, or canned fruit; or ¾ cup 100% fruit juice. For pre-packed 100% fruit juices, a ½ cup juice pack may be counted as a serving if a ¾ cup pre-packed serving is not available.

Fresh, frozen, or canned fruit will preferably be packed in juice, without sugar or light syrup

### **Grain, Bread or Bread Alternate**

A serving of grain or bread is generally 1 slice (1 ounce), whole grain or enriched; ½ cup cooked whole grain or enriched pasta or grain product; or 1 ounce of ready-to-eat cereal. Priority should be given to serving whole grains. Grain, bread and bread alternates include:

1 small 2-ounce muffin, 2” diameter

2 mini muffins  
2" cube cornbread  
1 biscuit, 2" diameter  
1 waffle, 4" diameter  
1 slice French toast  
½ slice French toast from —Texas toast  
½ English muffin  
1 tortilla, 4-6" diameter  
1 pancake, 4" diameter  
½ bagel  
1 small sandwich bun (<3" diameter)  
½ cup cooked cereal  
4-6 crackers (soda cracker size)  
½ large sandwich bun  
¾ cup ready to eat cereal  
2 graham cracker squares  
½ cup bread dressing/stuffing  
½ cup cooked pasta, noodles or rice  
prepared pie crust, 1/8 of an 8" or 9" two-crust pie  
½ cup cooked grain product in serving of fruit "crisp" or cobbler  
A variety of enriched and /or whole grain products, particularly those high in fiber, are recommended.

Two servings whole grain products must be served at least twice a week when one meal is provided; 4 servings whole grain products must be served per week when 2 meals are provided; 6 whole grain products must be served per week when 3 meals are provided.

Grain/bread alternates do not include starchy vegetables such as potatoes, sweet potatoes, corn, yams, or plantains. These foods are included in the vegetable food group.

### **Milk or Milk Alternates**

One cup skim, low fat, whole, buttermilk, low-fat chocolate milk, or lactose-free milk fortified with Vitamins A and D should be used. Low fat or skim milk is recommended for the general population. Powdered dry milk (1/3 cup) or evaporated milk (½ cup) may be served as part of a home-delivered meal.

### **Milk alternates for the equivalent of one cup of milk include:**

1 cup fat free or low fat milk  
1 cup yogurt, fat free or low fat  
1 cup fortified soymilk  
1 ½ cups cottage cheese, low fat  
8 ounces tofu (processed with calcium salt)  
1½ ounces natural or 2 ounces processed cheese

## **2. Nutrient Values for Meal Planning and Evaluation**

The table below presents the most current DRIs and other nutrient values to use when planning and evaluating meals. Values are provided for serving 1, or a combination of 2 or 3 meals for 1-day consumption for the average older adult population served by nutrition programs.

Menus that are documented** as meeting the nutritional requirements through menu analysis must have written documentation, which supports the following nutrients, are provided: Nutrient	Amount Required	Notes
Calories (cal)	685 calories per meal averaged over one week	No one meal may be less than 600 calories
Protein (gm)	19	
Carbohydrate (gm)	43	
Fat (gm)	15-23 ≤ 30% calories averaged over one week	No one meal may be more than 35% fat
Fiber (gm)	10	
Vitamin A (ug)	300	
Vitamin C (mg)	30	
Vitamin E (ug)	5	
Vitamin B6 (mg)	.6	
Folate (ug)	133	
Vitamin B12 (ug)	.8	
Calcium (mg)	400	
Magnesium (mg)	140	
Zinc (mg)	3.7	
Potassium (mg)	1567	
Sodium (mg)	<800, averaged over one week	No one meal more than 1000 mg

\*\*Menu Approval Sheets (IDoA Meal Pattern & IDoA Nutritional Analysis) are provided to Nutrition Services providers for the licensed dietitian nutritionist (as defined in VII (c)(2) of this section) to use in documenting that nutritional requirements are met by the menu through meeting the meal pattern requirements or through carrying out a nutritional analysis of menus.

### 3. Specific Nutrient Sources

#### a. Vitamin A\*\*\*

Each day each meal must provide at least 300 mg vitamin A through foods served.

To ensure this amount of vitamin A is provided when the meal pattern is followed, vitamin A rich foods must be served 2 to 3 times per week for one meal per day.

One rich source or two fair source servings may be used to meet the requirements.

Some examples of rich sources of vitamin A include:

Apricots, Cantaloupe, Collard Greens  
Kale, Mango, Spinach  
Turnip Greens & other dark greens  
Winter Squash (Hubbard, Acorn, Butternut)  
Carrots and Sweet Potatoes

Some examples of fair sources of vitamin A include:

Apricot Nectar, Broccoli  
Tomato Sauce, Pumpkin, Vegetable Juice

b. Vitamin C\*\*\*

Each day each meal must provide at least 30 mg vitamin C through foods served.

To ensure this amount of vitamin C is provided when the meal pattern is followed, vitamin C may be provided as one serving of a rich source, 2 half servings of rich sources or 2 servings of fair sources.

When serving one meal per day, 1 rich or 2 fair sources must be served.

Fortified, full-strength juices, defined as fruit juices that are 100% natural juice with vitamin C added, are vitamin C-rich foods.

Partial-strength or simulated fruit juices or drinks, even when fortified, may not count as fulfilling this requirement, except cranberry juice.

Some examples of rich sources of vitamin C include:

Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cantaloupe, Cauliflower, Fruit Juices (Fortified), Grapefruit, Grapefruit Juice, Green Pepper, Honeydew, Kale, Kiwi, Mango, Mandarin Oranges, Oranges/Orange Juice, Strawberries, Sweet Potatoes, Yams, Sweet Red Pepper, Tangerines

Some examples of fair sources of vitamin C include:

Asparagus, Cabbage, Collard Greens, Mustard Greens, Pineapple, Potatoes, Spinach, Tomato/Tomato Juice/Sauce, Turnip Greens, Watermelon

\*\*\*These are a few examples of vitamins A and C sources.

### XIII. Food Preparation Recommendations

1. When cooking use salt sparingly or eliminate entirely by using spices, herbs or other seasoning. To flavor foods, use salt-free seasoning, lemon juice, lime juice or vinegar
2. Minimize the use of fat in food preparation. Fats should be primarily vegetable sources and in a liquid or soft (spreadable) form that is low in hydrogenated fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol. Limit fat to no more than 20-35 percent of the calories average for the week
3. Each meal should contain at least 10 grams of dietary fiber. Use whole grains, meat alternatives, and fruits and vegetables to increase the fiber content of the menus. A listing

of fiber content of grains, vegetables and fruits is available to service providers. By consulting this listing and ensuring that a minimum of 10 g fiber is included through foods served on a daily basis, providers will meet the fiber requirements

4. Reflect seasonal availability of food

5. Plan so that food items within the meat and meat alternatives, vegetable, fruit and grain/bread groups are varied within the week and menu cycle

6. Include a variety of foods and preparation methods with consideration for color, combinations, texture, size, shape, taste and appearance

7. Do not provide vitamin and/or mineral supplements, except as specified in Item Q below

8. Use low-sodium meats, flavorings, and seasonings

9. Use low-fat salad dressing, spreads, cheese and gravies (made without drippings and fats)

10. Bake, broil, steam or stew foods in place of frying food in fat

11. Provide drinking water to encourage fluid intake. Dehydration is a common problem in older adults. Other beverages such as soft drinks, flavored (preferably sugar-free) drinks, coffee, tea and decaffeinated beverages may be used, but cannot be counted as fulfilling any part of the meal requirements. Nonnutritive beverages do not help meet nutrition requirements but can help with hydration.

12. Desserts may be provided as an option to satisfy the caloric requirements or for additional nutrients. Desserts such as fruit, whole grains, low fat or low sugar products are encouraged. Fresh, frozen, or canned fruits packed in their own juice are encouraged often as a dessert item, in addition to the serving of fruit provided as part of the meal. However, if a dessert contains at least ½ cup of fruit it may be counted as a serving of fruit. A dessert containing at least ½ cup enriched/whole grain product may be counted as a serving of grain. For example, a serving of two-crust (approx. 1/8 of 8 || or 9 || pie) fruit pie that contains at least ½ cup fruit is counted as one serving fruit and one serving grain.

13. Ethnic or religious menus must approximate as closely as possible (given religious requirements or ethnic background) the regular meal pattern and nutrient content of meals as previously stated.

14. Meals served in accordance with the meal standards are appropriate for persons with chronic disease, such as diabetes, heart disease and hypertension.

#### XIV. Nutrition Supplements

Nutrition supplements, including liquid or bars, may be made available to participants based on documented, assessed need as determined by a licensed dietitian, nutritionist or a physician. Such products cannot replace conventional meals unless a physical disability warrants their sole use. Nutrition supplements are not reimbursable under the Older Americans Act or by AoA.

## XV. Foods Taken from Nutrition Sites

1. Unserved leftover foods shall not be taken from kitchens or sites by employees, volunteers, or participants.

## XVI. Food Borne Illness Complaint Reporting Requirements

1. In the event that a nutrition service provider receives a complaint or report of symptoms of food borne illness, the nutrition provider shall:
  - a. Notify the local health department immediately to initiate an investigation; and
  - b. Notify Project NOW, Inc. within 24 hours of the investigative procedures in progress.
2. Western Area Agency on Aging shall notify the Department within three working days of a reported food borne illness. Thereafter, periodic updates shall be provided regarding the progress and findings of the investigation.

## XVII. Food Service Requirements

Nutrition service providers must comply with applicable provisions of state or local laws regarding the safe and sanitary handling of food, equipment, and supplies used in the storage, preparation, service, and delivery of meals to an older individual.

### 1. Training

- a. Training in sanitation, health, fire and safety regulations must be provided during the orientation of staff new to the program and, at a minimum, once a year thereafter. The training will include but not be limited to: safe food handling, food borne illnesses, hygienic practices of personnel, equipment sanitation, dish washing procedures, facility sanitation, rules for safe work, and fire and safety regulations. Where feasible or possible, state or local public health officials should be involved in the development of training materials and programs. In situations where regulations do not exist, or their applicability is questioned, the provider shall contact the appropriate State agency that establishes fire, health, or safety standards (e.g., State Fire Marshall, etc.).
- b. The meal site supervisor or designee must successfully complete the Illinois Department of Public Health's Food Service Sanitation Manager Certification training, and have a current registration. This is a Department on Aging requirement, and is also required by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

## XVIII. MEAL COST

All applicant agencies are required to detail the cost of the meals they intend to provide according to the instructions in the Grant Application. Please ensure pricing of meal packaging materials are included in cost per meal. All applicant agencies are required to use the format provided in the Grant Application to present their meal cost breakdown.

## XIX.. OTHER PROVISIONS FOR FOOD SERVICE PROVIDERS

### Meal Site Menu Substitutions

In the event that the food service provider fails to provide meals in quantities ordered or if meals do not meet prescribed requirements, the nutrition site must contact the food service provider and the food service provider must provide for a satisfactory remedy.

### Availability of Food Service Provider Staff

Management staff of the food service provider must be available to handle complaints and problems. Staff will also be asked to participate in menu planning, Project Council meetings and other meetings as appropriate. Staff of the food service provider must be available to the Grantee up to 12:00 p.m., Mon. – Fri. to ensure expedition of all meals.

Any additional information the food service provider wishes to make available regarding proposed service delivery and meal costs will be reviewed by The Western Area Agency on Aging.

XX. CATERERS ACCOUNTING RECORDS, AUDITS, AND REPORTS

- A. Auditors representing Project NOW and the Elderly Nutrition Program will have free access to all books and records maintained by the caterer relative to the contract.
- B. The Lessee agrees that the records are to be kept in a manner specified by auditors representing the Elderly Nutrition Program and the Illinois Department on Aging, and that failure to follow written instructions as to record keeping requirements will be cause for cancellation of the contract agreement.

XXI. INSURANCE

The Lessee will provide compensation insurance and see that compensation is paid to all employees of their company sustaining injury (including death) as a result of employment at, on, or in, any structure, device, apparatus, enclosure, or any activity, by reason of this agreement, such compensation is made in accordance with the “Illinois Workmen’s Compensation Act.”

The Lessee will maintain Public Liability Insurance in an amount sufficient to protect against all risks for damage or injury, including death, to persons or property, wherever located, resulting from any action or operation under the contract or in connection with the work. Minimum coverage for Public Liability shall be:

<u>BODILY &amp; PERSONAL INJURY</u>	
Each person	\$ 500,000
Each occurrence	\$1,000,000
 <u>PROPERTY DAMAGE</u>	
Each occurrence	\$ 500,000
Aggregate	\$1,000,000

The Lessee will maintain Automobile Liability Insurance, including property damage, covering all owned or rented equipment used in connection with the work. Minimum coverage for Public Liability shall be:

<u>BODILY &amp; PERSONAL INJURY</u>	
Each person	\$ 500,000

Each occurrence \$1,000,000

PROPERTY DAMAGE

Each occurrence \$ 100,000

Aggregate \$ 100,000

All insurance policies are to be issued by companies authorized to do business under the laws of the State of Illinois, and certificates of insurance must be available to Project NOW for review.

Project Liability shall be included under Public Liability and specifically identified in the Insurance Contract.

XXII. INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

All forms must be fully and accurately completed and signed by the applicant. The application and sealed bid are to be submitted to the Project NOW, Inc. Chief Financial Officer by 11:00 A.M. C.S.T. Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Beginning immediately after the above date, Project NOW will carefully and objectively review all properly completed applications received within the time specified and will notify each said applicant as promptly as possible thereafter as to the result of the review process.

Bids will be publicly opened and tabulated Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 1:00 PM, C.S.T., at Project NOW, Inc., CAA, 1830 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Rock Island, Illinois 61201.

MAILING INSTRUCTIONS:

Bids must be marked **SEALED BID** and mailed to:

Steve Morenz  
Chief Financial Officer  
Project NOW, Inc.  
1830 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave  
Rock Island, Illinois 61201

APPLICATION FORMS

All of the forms in this package must be completed and signed by the individual or individuals who will execute the contract if so awarded.

Note:

It is a condition of these bid specifications that the Project NOW Elderly Nutrition Program has authority to verify any and all information submitted on these forms.

Please break down the cost per meal as follows: **Home Delivered Meals**

**RAW FOOD** \_\_\_\_\_

**LABOR** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADMINISTRATION** \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER COSTS** (commodity, storage, supplies, meal packaging materials, etc)  
\_\_\_\_\_

**DELIVERY COSTS** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANTICIPATED PROFIT** \_\_\_\_\_

Please break down the cost per meal as follows: **Congregate Meals**

**RAW FOOD** \_\_\_\_\_

**LABOR** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADMINISTRATION** \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER COSTS** (commodity, storage, supplies, etc) \_\_\_\_\_

**DELIVERY COSTS** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANTICIPATED PROFIT** \_\_\_\_\_

Please break down the cost per meal as follows: **Shelf Stable Meals**

**RAW FOOD** \_\_\_\_\_

**LABOR** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADMINISTRATION** \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER COSTS** (commodity, storage, supplies, etc) \_\_\_\_\_

**DELIVERY COSTS** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANTICIPATED PROFIT** \_\_\_\_\_

Unless otherwise specified, portions for products listed below are:

PRODUCT

SERVING

Soups (Chili)

8 oz

Casseroles	6 oz
Chicken	1 qtr cut
Pies (10 inch)	10 cut
Sheet Cakes	2" x 2"

MEAL PROGRAM FOR OLDER PERSONS IN ROCK ISLAND COUNTY, IL.

PROJECT NOW, INC.  
1830 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave  
Rock Island, Illinois 61201  
(309)793-6391

1. General Information — (If additional space is needed, attach schedule)

A. By whom is the Catering Lease to be executed (if awarded)?

1. Individual? Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Partnership? \_\_\_\_\_ Corporation? \_\_\_\_\_  
(List names, addresses, titles, and percent of ownership)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ %Ownership \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ %Ownership \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ %Ownership \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ %Ownership \_\_\_\_\_

B. Have you (or your authorized agent) inspected the present sites and reviewed all pertinent operating and maintenance records with the Project Director? \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Inspection \_\_\_\_\_

Conducted by: (Name & Title) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

C. Have you thoroughly investigated all Local, State, and Federal laws, and \*DOA rules and regulations governing the operation of this contract and, if selected as it's Caterer, do you agree to operate the Contract in full accordance therewith: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Department on Aging

II. Personal Information – (One completed copy required for each individual named in Form 1, Part A-1, or A-2)

Principal's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Present Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Principal's Bank \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bank Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type of Account: Saving \_\_\_\_\_ Checking \_\_\_\_\_  
 Marital Status \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Children \_\_\_\_\_

Any catering or restaurant experience? (Please furnish a few particulars)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a fraction or whole ownership in catering real estate at present? If so, please offer the following information: (If more space needed, attach schedule)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ % Ownership \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ % Ownership \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

Give three (3) bank and/or business references:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Give three (3) personal references:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

**THE PRINCIPAL'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION.**

The statements contained in this application are true and complete and nothing has been suppressed affecting my moral and credit stability.

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

WITNESS \_\_\_\_\_

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ Day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_ .

**MEAL PROGRAM FOR OLDER PERSONS IN ROCK ISLAND COUNTY, IL**

**PROJECT NOW, INC.  
1830 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave  
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61201  
(309) 793-6391**

**SUBMITTED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date**\_\_\_\_\_

**NAME**\_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS**\_\_\_\_\_

Street

City

State

Zip Code

To: Project NOW, Elderly Nutrition Program

Having carefully examined all bid documents as well as the Program's records and existing sites, the undersigned proposes to furnish **each meal** for the sum of:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Congregate Meals:**

Dollar (\$\_\_\_\_\_)

**Home Delivered Meals:**

Dollar (\$\_\_\_\_\_)

**Shelf Stable Meals:**

Dollar (\$\_\_\_\_\_)

In addition to the original three (3) pages of necessary bid forms, we are including \_\_\_\_\_ pages of additional documentation, and request that these pages be considered as part of our documentation.

Included with the additional pages is our "Sample Menu".

The undersigned agrees that he can start said service on or before

\_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY\_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE\_\_\_\_\_

(Seal)

TITLE\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE\_\_\_\_\_