

Single Source Exemption: Contract C011118
Term is 10/1/09 – 9/30/10 with 4 optional renewals
Cost - \$145,000.

The Department received an exemption from the “Contract Reporter” requirements to enter into a single source agreement with Health Research Inc. (HRI) for Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) Services.

Background

FERN is a coordinated initiative of the United States Department of Agriculture, Food Safety Inspection Service (USDA-FSIS) and the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration. It is an integrated laboratory network capable of responding to national food emergencies. Laboratories participating in FERN at the Federal, State, and local level, are responsible for detecting and identifying biological, chemical, and radiological agents in food.

NYSDAM operates the State Food Laboratory which, in part, analyzes and tests food samples for a variety of pathogens and is eligible to receive reimbursement funding pursuant to a Cooperative Agreement entered into with USDA-FSIS for the purpose of carrying out emergency laboratory response activities including collaborative multi-lab validation testing.

The State Health Department’s Wadsworth Laboratory had expressed a willingness to participate in carrying out certain collaborative emergency laboratory response activities for the program and we contracted with them last year under Contract C011075. NYSDAM will reimburse Health Research Inc. for Wadsworth’s services and other costs to support the following emergency laboratory response activities:

- Detection of *Francisella tularensis* in Food Matrices
- Matrix Extension Multi-lab Validation Studies for Clostridium
- MIM Protocol Safety Enhancement Studies
- MIM Protocol Sensitivity Enhancement Studies

Selection Rationale

The USDA FSIS cooperative agreement for multi-lab validation requires that cooperators continue and build on existing agreements utilizing FERN methods and that they have basic food analytic resources, including lab infrastructure and personnel as well as the appropriate Select Agent Registration and USDA-APHIS permits.

The Wadsworth Lab has processed thousands of samples for bioterror testing and has also participated in the FERN network through proficiency testing, food surveillance assignments, conferences, and workgroups for method development,

training course development as well as other activities. The Wadsworth Lab also maintains current CDC/USDA select agent registration and all applicable import and transport permits (both federal and state) necessary for working with select agents. Wadsworth is the only Lab locally that meets the USDA requirements and was suggested by FSIS as a partner in this project.

Reasonableness of Cost

HRI is a not-for-profit corporation affiliated with the New York State Department of Health, we compared the salaries and related costs to comparable state salaries and costs and found them to be reasonable.