

Food & Nutrition Program



Your Foodservice Solution

RPS and Equalis Group partnered to grow the USDA-compliant Food & Nutrition Program nationwide, secure aggressive discounts from food and supplies manufacturers, and provide school districts data and proprietary analytics to identify ongoing savings opportunities. There are no costs, dues, or obligations to join RPS & Equalis.

Rockies Procurement Services (**RPS**) formed as a foodservice purchasing cooperative in 2009. RPS delivers significant procurement efficiency and savings on food and supplies for urban, suburban, and rural member school districts.

Equalis Group is a cooperative purchasing organization that delivers USDA-compliant, publicly procured cooperative agreements school districts across the country utilize to: *i*) quickly acquire the products and services they need; *ii*) receive better pricing through the collective buying power of Equalis Group members; and, *iii*) save time through Equalis Group's legal and compliant alternative to conducting their own resource-consuming solicitation process.

Benefits of Membership

Cost Savings

The Food & Nutrition Program provides significant cost savings to member school districts by:

- Establishing USDA-compliant contracts with distributors and manufacturers across the country.
- Leveraging members' combined buying power to establish direct contracts with manufacturers and achieve additional savings.
- Actively managing manufacturer agreements to ensure the best price is always loaded for members.
- Utilizing proprietary analytics to identify ongoing savings opportunities for each member.

Reduced Administrative Burden

RPS and Equalis Group manage every aspect of the Food & Nutrition Program, including RFP development, procurement, contracting, USDA compliance, analytics, and continuous contract management.

USDA Compliance

All contracts are procured by a school foodservice authority (**SFA**) and follow the requirements set by the USDA food and nutrition service (**FNS**), consistent with 2 CFR Part 200.318-.326.

Member Influence Over Product Selection

Participating members provide direct input to RFP development, vendor selection, and products stocked.

Dedicated Distributor Support

Awarded distributors provide dedicated account executives and support personnel.

Relationships

Member school districts have the opportunity to connect throughout the year, build relationships, and learn from each other. Long-standing members provide mentoring for new participants.

Getting Started

Join the Food & Nutrition Program at Equalisgroup.org/Member-Registration-RPS. Contact Bradley Brown, Equalis Group's Senior Director of Supplier Development, to learn more. Email BBrown@EqualisGroup.org or dial direct 407.902.4302.





Network Distribution® & Equalis Group Publicly Procured Master Agreement Contract #RPS-1020-A

Rockies Procurement Services (**RPS**) is an Equalis Group Lead Agency for the Equalis Group and RPS Food & Nutrition Program (**Food & Nutrition Program**). RPS issued RFP #RPS-1020 for Non-Consumable Foodservice Supplies & Equipment on April 26, 2024 and subsequently entered into Contract # RPS-1020-A with Network Distribution®.

Additional information regarding the procurement process and contract award can be found on the [Network Distribution® page](#) at the Equalis Group website, including the Network Distribution® products and services available through the Master Agreement, RFP and scoring documents, the Master Agreement between RPS and Network Distribution®, and pricing/discount model.

Entities Eligible to Purchase through the Master Agreement

This contract is immediately available to Food & Nutrition Program Members.

Not yet a Member? Any educational institution in the country can join the Food & Nutrition Program and begin utilizing any Equalis Group competitively solicited master agreement by completing the [Food & Nutrition Program membership registration form](#). New Members receive a fully executed copy of their completed membership form via email immediately and will receive their Equalis Group membership number within one-to-two days. There are no dues, fees, or obligations and completing the form takes less than five minutes.

Help with Membership, Procurement Questions & Navigating Our Contract Portfolio

Equalis Group's dedicated Member Engagement Team exists to support our Members. The team is readily accessible and is prepared to answer questions about membership, public sector purchasing compliance, Equalis Group's procurement and contracting processes, and our expansive portfolio of already-procured contract vehicles. Current and prospective Members can find their Member Engagement Team point person and direct contact information [here](#).

View all Equalis Group contracts and download a sortable Excel file with key information about each contract in our ever-expanding portfolio [here](#).

About Equalis & RPS

Equalis Group is a cooperative purchasing organization that delivers USDA-compliant, publicly procured cooperative agreements school districts across the country utilize to: *i*) quickly acquire the products and services they need; *ii*) receive better pricing through the collective buying power of Equalis Group members; and, *iii*) save time through Equalis Group's legal and compliant alternative to conducting their own resource-consuming solicitation process.

Rockies Procurement Services (**RPS**) is a Colorado political subdivision and a public corporation established pursuant to [C.R.S. 29-1-203](#) and [C.R.S. 29-1-203.5](#).

Equalis Group partnered with RPS because of its rigorous and transparent competitive public sector procurement processes for critical products and services. RPS selects winning suppliers, distributors, and manufacturers based on both qualitative criteria and pricing. RPS then establishes compliant already-procured Master Agreements with the winning vendors available to all agencies that join the Food & Nutrition Program.



A Better Distributor For Any Business



Rockies Procurement Services, Equalis Group & Network Distribution®

Publicly Procured Contract Vehicle

Network Contract Highlights

- **USDA Compliant Contract** – Aggressively discounted pricing based on USDA compliance, product mix, volume, and additional incentives.
- **Full Line of Foodservice Equipment & Packaging, Janitorial & Related Supplies** – Comprehensive, customized foodservice equipment, small wares and tabletop, and facility cleaning solutions. Supplies including industry-leading paper products, cups & cutlery, cleaning supplies, chemicals, equipment, and cafeteria necessities.
- **Local Market Specialists** – 7,500+ responsive, on-site consultants, there, in-person when needed.
- **Geographic Reach** – 800+ distribution centers throughout North America, enabling Network to service Equalis Group members in all 50 states.

Who is Network?

Network Distribution®, founded in 1968, is a leading B2B distributor. The company is designed to deliver supply management solutions at critical points in the supply chain. From janitorial supplies to foodservice disposables and industrial packaging, Network provides customers innovative product solutions supported by the power of local service and expertise. With over 1,100 distribution centers globally, Network improves lives and creates value by enabling local, regional, and global businesses to be their best.

Who is Rockies Procurement Services?

RPS is a group of Colorado/Wyoming school districts large and small who formed a cooperative purchasing group in 2009 to bring the first Group Purchasing Organization (GPO) to schools in our region. In doing so, RPS has driven savings in significant ways when purchasing food and supplies and has built a network of like-minded industry peers. Now with 45 members across the Colorado Front Range, Western Slope and Southern Wyoming, RPS understands the unique needs of districts in both rural and urban communities, the realities of rugged terrain, and the taste preferences of students here in the West.

Explore the full portfolio of Equalis Group contract vehicles at EqualisGroup.org/contracts.

Save Time... we've done the procurement work so you don't have to.

Save Money... your dollar goes further with the collective buying power of Equalis Group.

Stay Legal... our competitive procurement process delivers statutory compliance in every state.

Contract #: RPS-1020-A

Lead Agency: RPS

Get Started



Learn more about how we can help you achieve your procurement goals while Saving Time, Saving Money & Staying Legal. Email Engage@EqualisGroup.org or visit EqualisGroup.org/Map to connect with your dedicated Member Engagement Resource today.