

Although Florida Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried shared on June 8, 2021 that she would review Feeding South Florida's applications, some concerning and unfortunate information and comments have come to light over the past few days that cast further increased doubt on the transparency of the review process.

In the same June 9, 2021 Sun-Sentinel article that said Commissioner Fried's would review the applications, her spokesperson said, "... the scoring was reviewed and validated numerous times by multiple department divisions. We are confident that our transparent, impartial evaluation has led to the best-qualified vendors to feed South Florida's families."

Stating that the best qualified vendor was chosen after being validated numerous time seems to conflict with the idea that the applications would still be reviewed. What's why Feeding South Florida and nearly 200 supporters have written to Commissioner Fried requesting that a thorough review and accurate rescoring of the applications happen with an impartial third party.

Feeding South Florida is also requesting this because of a critical point that it has not yet been shared.

**The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) refused to share the score sheets when requested via a public records request. Score sheets were only obtained in a timely manner via Congressional oversight.**

The verifiable timeline of events is as follows:

- March 26, 2021: Three days after the application said results would be posted, FDACS posted its "Agency Decision" via a Tabulation Sheet on the Vendor Bid System.
- March 27, 2021: Feeding Florida, the state association for Feeding America food banks, submitted a public records request for all applications and score sheets for Regions 5, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19. Since this was a Saturday, assume the request was received on Monday, March 29.
- March 31, 2021: FDACS posted a "Revised Tabulation Sheet" via the Vendor Bid System, at which times the scores were changed, but the awardee did not.
- April 5, 2021: Only the Intended Contract Recipient (ICR)'s applications and score sheets were released.
- April 5, 2021: Feeding Florida submitted an amended request for all the applications and score sheets for those who weren't awarded the regions.
- May 3, 2021: Documents had not yet been released, Feeding Florida submitted another request since it had been 27 days since the request.
- May 27, 2021: FDACS released all information requested.

Only after posting a revised tabulation sheet did FDACS release the ICR's score sheets, which was an incomplete release of information. It took only eight days to release the ICRs scores but took two months to receive the other information. Note, these are electronic records requests.