



RFSI

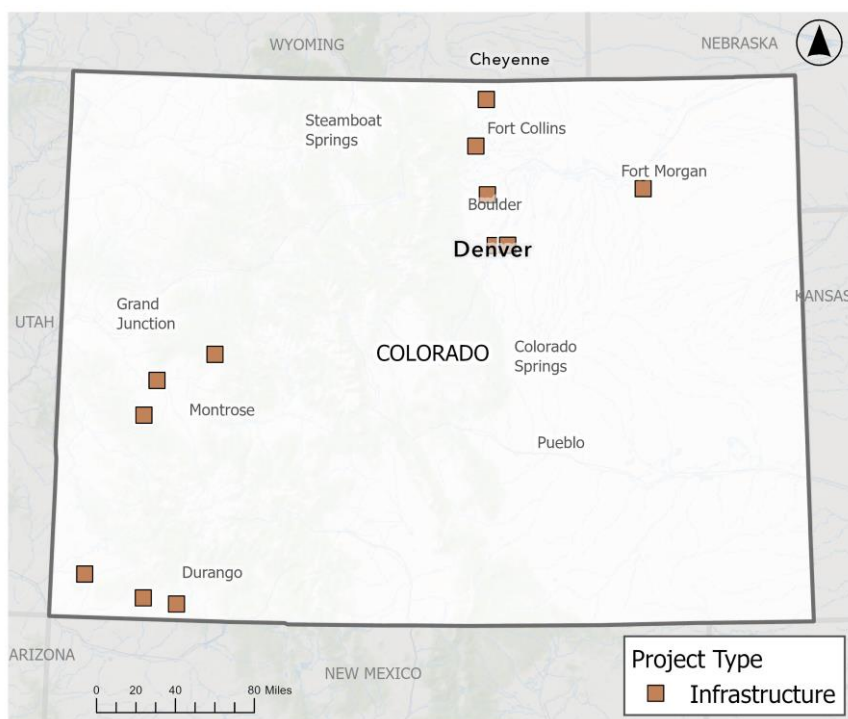
Resilient Food Systems
Infrastructure Program

Colorado



State Overview

USDA awarded the Colorado Department of Agriculture **\$4.2 million** through the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) Program. The objective of RFSI is to expand capacity for aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, and distribution of locally and regionally produced agricultural food products. These federal funds will support 14 Colorado infrastructure projects increasing access to new market opportunities, benefiting local and regional producers and processors.



Project Highlights

- **Improve an existing grain facility with additional storage bins and cleaning equipment** to handle organic edible seeds and grains and provide transloading services for northeast Colorado producers.
- **Expand cheese production capacity with modernized processing equipment** to increase market access for 17 local dairies.
- **Establish an individual quick freeze (IQF) processing line** to extend the market season and enable new, year-round markets for Colorado sweet corn.

Anticipated Outcomes*

425

Local/Regional
Producers Benefited

408

New Market Outlets
Established

170

New Value-Added
Products Developed

3

New
Facilities
Constructed

31

Storage/Aggregation
Units Purchased

1

Distribution
Vehicles Purchased

97

Processing Equipment
Purchased

93

Jobs Created

**These numbers are reported by states and subawardees.*

RFSI was awarded to the 56 States and Territories in May 2023. Each state conducted a competitive grant review and selection process. States identified their funding priorities through extensive outreach with key industry stakeholders, which guided their selection process to ensure a robust state and local food system representation. Selected projects fund locally and regionally produced food products, including specialty crops, dairy, grains for human consumption, aquaculture, and other food products, excluding meat and poultry.

Infrastructure Projects: Snapshot

Infrastructure Grant projects can involve facility and equipment expansion and upgrades, new construction, and modernized information technology systems.

Colorado has invested more than **\$3.3 million** across 14 projects to support infrastructure needs. The State's awardees are collectively building resilience within their middle of the food supply chain by constructing 3 new facilities, modernizing 12 existing facilities, and purchasing and installing 128 pieces of equipment to expand processing, packaging, labeling, and related capacity. The state expects projects will train more than 100 employees on specialized equipment and worker safety, providing workforce development benefits.

Of the 14 projects:

- More than 90 percent focused on specialized processing needs, such as a facility that will wash, dry, then slice and dice Colorado-grown produce for institutional food service markets, including K-12 schools;
- Eleven expand storage space to preserve product quality, meet food safety standards, increase aggregation capacity for local and regional producers, and enable access to new markets;
- Ten expand value-added processing capacity by adding new product types and creating wholesale or retail product lines, developing at least 170 value-added products; and
- Two construct on-farm facilities with equipment to wash, pack, and store fresh fruits, vegetables and storage crops for retail and wholesale markets, benefiting 42 local and regional producers.

Statewide Standouts



Colorado is investing \$400,000 in projects that focus on dairy products, such as cheese, fluid milk, and others.



\$850,000 of Colorado's RFSI funding enables four projects to build infrastructure for specialty grain and legume storage, processing, and distribution.



More than 60 percent of Colorado's total funding improves the aggregation, storage, and value-added processing of fresh fruits and vegetables, such as peppers, melons, peaches, and grapes.