

RFSI

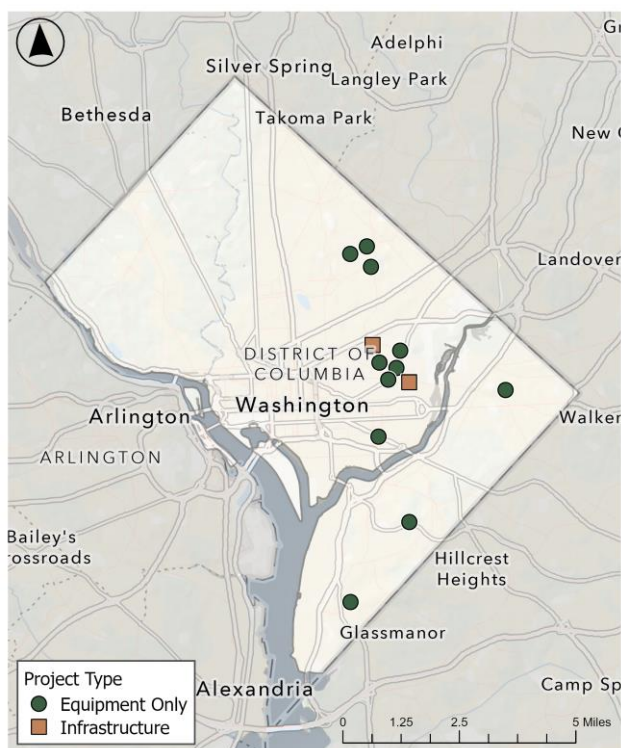
Resilient Food Systems
Infrastructure Program

District of Columbia



State Overview

USDA awarded the District of Columbia Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Development **\$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 13 District of Columbia infrastructure and equipment projects increasing access to new market opportunities, benefiting local and regional producers and processors.



Project Highlights

- **Purchase storage, cooling and packaging equipment** to support the creation of new ice pop flavors with ingredients from 15 local fruit and dairy producers.
- **Expand a facility to house a new processing line, cold storage, and packing space** for local, farm-raised fish.
- **Obtain a new mobile hood system to support emerging food businesses** and increase milk, vegetable, and fruit value-added processing for 45 local producers.

Anticipated Outcomes*

318 Local/Regional Producers Benefited	286 New Market Outlets Established	257 New Value-Added Products Developed	18 Jobs Created
15 Storage/Aggregation Units Purchased	3 Distribution Vehicles Purchased	76 Processing Equipment Purchased	

**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.

The District of Columbia invested more than **\$440,000** across 2 Infrastructure projects, benefiting 60 local and regional producers. These projects are:

- Developing a new technology system to alert buyers of product availability from over 40 local farms with available dairy, egg, produce, and grain; and
- Expanding a facility with a new processing line for local aquaculture fish, benefiting 10 local farmers.

Equipment Only Projects: Snapshot

Equipment Only projects are intended to purchase special purpose equipment such as cold/dry storage, distribution vehicles, and processing and packaging equipment.

The District of Columbia invested more than **\$960,000** across 11 Equipment Only projects by purchasing more than 91 pieces of aggregation, processing, storage, and distribution equipment—including delivery vehicles, labeling machines, slicing machines, and a mobile hood system. The District expects that 258 local and regional producers will benefit from reduced harvest loss, improved product quality and shelf life, and access to 273 new markets.

Statewide Standouts



All 11 Equipment Only projects use locally sourced ingredients to develop value-added products, such as pasta, paletas, ice cream, juices, and smoothies.



District of Columbia is investing over \$600,000 in local aquaculture by expanding a fish processor to establish a new market outlet for local salmon, rainbow trout, and catfish from five regional producers to community buyers.



More than 20 percent of District of Columbia's program funding enables producers to develop new consumer packaged goods with purchases of labeling equipment and cold storage units for nuts, seeds and legume products, such as pumpkin seeds, flax seeds, and mixed nuts.