



RFSI

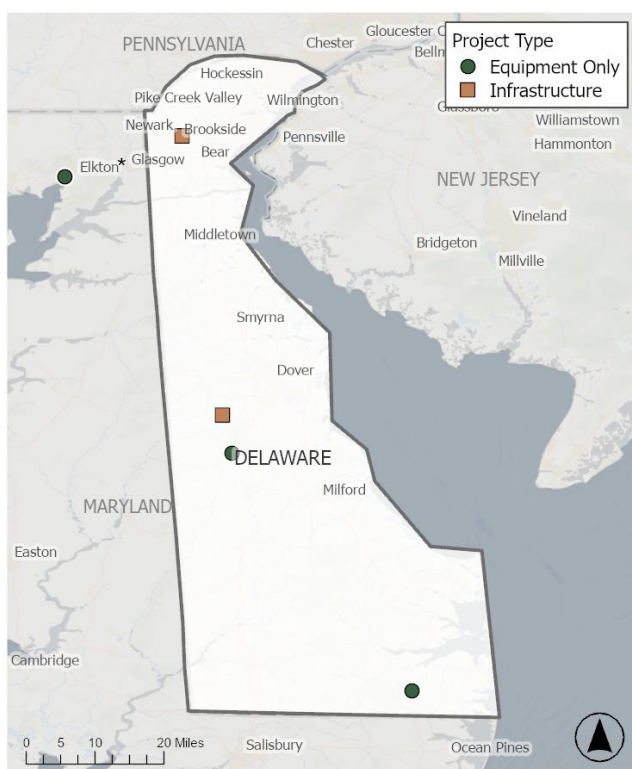
Resilient Food Systems
Infrastructure Program

Delaware



State Overview

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) awarded the Delaware Department of Agriculture **\$2.1 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 five Delaware infrastructure and equipment projects increasing access to new market opportunities, benefiting local and regional producers and processors.



* This entity is serving Delaware producers and processors.

Project Highlights

- **Cold storage expansion for an orchard** to aggregate local apples from 60 small farms to distribute to schools, food pantries, and restaurants.
- **Food bank renovation to increase its aggregation** capacity to handle significantly more local produce from ten Delaware farmers.
- **Purchase of vegetable washing and packing machinery** for a small farm to improve food safety standards and deliver fresh produce to local schools, hospitals, and farmers markets.

Anticipated Outcomes*

87

Local/Regional
Producers Benefited

17

New Market
Outlets
Established

1

Distribution Vehicle Purchased

5

Storage/Aggregation
Units Purchased

1

Processing Equipment
Purchased

10

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.

Delaware invested more than **\$1.4 million** across 2 Infrastructure projects benefiting 70 local and regional producers. These projects include:

- Expanding a commercial cooler facility that will aggregate fresh produce from 60 small farms and expand distribution to more food pantries, schools, and markets; and
- Renovating a food bank's aggregation space to house more local produce for distribution to food pantries.

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.

Delaware invested more than **\$140,000** across three Equipment Only projects purchasing four pieces of aggregation, processing, storage, and distribution equipment—including a refrigerated vehicle, a fruit and vegetable washing and packing line, and a new cooling unit. The state expects 17 local and regional producers will benefit from reduced harvest loss, improved product quality and shelf life, and access to 25 new markets.

Statewide Standouts



Four out of the five projects will aggregate local fruit and vegetables including peaches, blueberries, broccoli, radishes, and leafy greens.



One of Delaware's only dairy providers at local farmers markets will reach new markets and increase distribution for more than 25 different products, including cheese, cream, butter, and milk.



All projects will deliver fresh produce or dairy to local schools and food pantries.