



RFSI

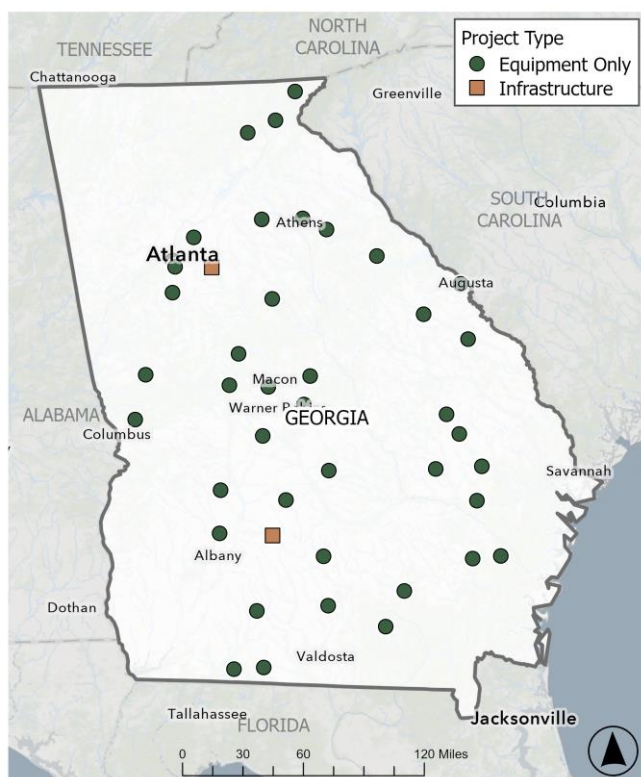
Resilient Food Systems
Infrastructure Program

Georgia



State Overview

USDA awarded the Georgia Department of Agriculture **\$8.5 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 50 Georgia infrastructure and equipment projects increasing access to new market opportunities, benefiting local and regional producers and processors.



Project Highlights

- **Purchase a pecan blower, cracker, bagger, conveyor and sheller** for farmers in Southeast Georgia to develop 2 new value-added products and expand market access for 10 farmers.
- **Increase storage and distribution capacity with a refrigerated truck and cold storage** purchases to safely store and transport dairy beverages.
- **Invest in a vegetable cutting machine, automatic packaging machine, and cold storage** to equip 332 local and regional vegetable producers for processing and delivery systems improvements.

Anticipated Outcomes*

1,283

Local/Regional
Producers Benefited

6,232

New Market Outlets
Established

570

New Value-Added
Products Developed

12

Jobs
Created

152

Storage/Aggregation
Units Purchased

18

Distribution
Vehicles Purchased

213

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.

Georgia invested more than **\$1.3 million** in 2 Infrastructure projects, benefiting 118 local and regional producers. These projects are:

- Installing an instant freezing tunnel and puree processing equipment to convert peaches and persimmons into value-added products for local and regional markets.
- Expanding blanching, freezing, and creaming capabilities to ensure a steady, year-round supply of local, nutritious vegetables such as corn, butterbeans, and peas from 10 local producers.

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.

Georgia invested more than **\$3.8 million** across 48 Equipment Only projects, purchasing more than 565 pieces of aggregation, processing, storage, and distribution equipment—including refrigerated trucks, nut shellers, automated packing machines, and produce dehydrators. The state expects 1,183 local and regional producers will benefit from reduced harvest loss, improved product quality and shelf life, and access to 6,230 new markets.

Statewide Standouts



Fourteen Equipment Only projects improve storage, aggregation, processing, and/or distribution of local nuts, such as pecans, peanuts and cashews.



Georgia is investing over \$1 million in processing and storage equipment to support value-added jams, spreads, and juices.



\$200,000 of RFSI funds support three projects engaging in Georgia's local honey industry.