



RFSI

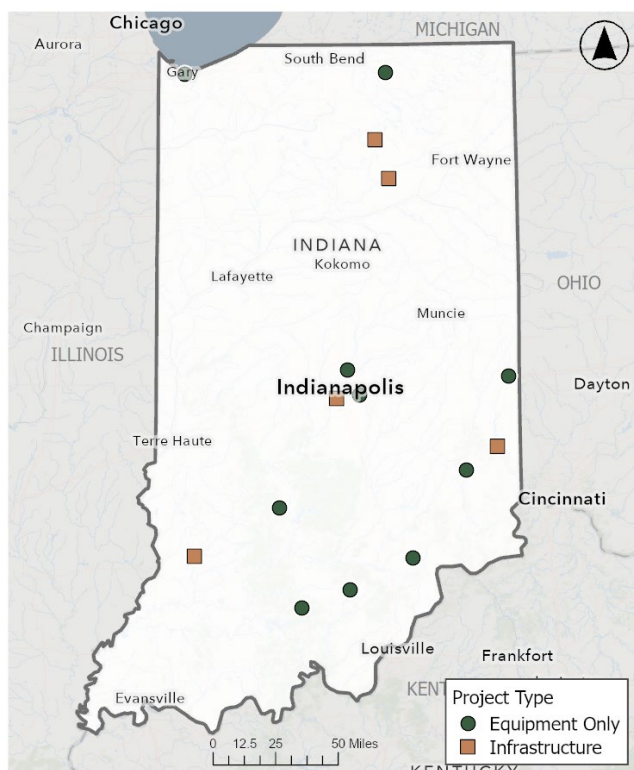
Resilient Food Systems
Infrastructure Program

Indiana



State Overview

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) awarded the Indiana State Department of Agriculture **\$8 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 15 Indiana infrastructure and equipment projects increasing access to new market opportunities, benefiting local and regional producers and processors.



Project Highlights

- **Construct a new produce-processing** facility that will aggregate, wash, and process sweet corn, tomatoes, watermelons, and cantaloupes from more than 30 local producers.
- **Purchase specialty cider equipment** to double an orchard and cidery's capacity to process and distribute carbonated sweet cider, ice cider, and hard cider from local heirloom apples to 11 farm markets and co-ops.
- **Acquire a refrigerated vehicle** to pick up local fruits, vegetables, and eggs from seven regional producers to distribute up to 1.5 million pounds of food annually.

Anticipated Outcomes*

238

Local/Regional
Producers Benefited

98

New Market Outlets
Established

6

Distribution Vehicles
Purchased

4

New Facilities
Constructed

56

Storage/Aggregation
Units Purchased

97

New Value-Added
Products Developed

76

Processing Equipment
Purchased

33

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.

Indiana invested more than **\$5.4 million** across 5 Infrastructure projects benefiting 124 local and regional producers. These projects include:

- Constructing two new facilities in northeast and southwest Indiana, totaling over 12,000 square feet in hard infrastructure, to improve cold storage, aggregation, and processing capacity in support of new market opportunities;
- Developing a food hub in southeastern Indiana to fill gaps in infrastructure, improve food-distribution networks for 50 regional farmers, and increase access to value-added processing services; and
- Installing an egg pasteurizer and hard-cook packaging line to create shelf-stable egg products and help local and regional egg producers through in-state processing.

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.

Indiana invested more than **\$700,000** across 10 Equipment Only projects, purchasing more than 26 pieces of aggregation, processing, storage, and distribution equipment—including refrigerated distribution vehicles, commercial freezers, forklifts, and food processors. The state expects 114 local and regional producers will benefit from reduced harvest loss, increased product quality and shelf life, and access to 50 new markets.

Statewide Standouts



Approximately 80 percent of Indiana's projects focus on produce—allocating over \$4.7 million toward apples, watermelon, tomatoes, herbs, and others.



Indiana is investing more than \$1.4 million to support egg processing, storage, aggregation, and distribution.



More than 40 percent of Indiana's projects establish mobile cold storage for dairy products, eggs, and produce such as leafy greens.



Two Indiana projects focus on increasing distribution of local mushrooms to regional and wholesale market outlets.