



RFSI

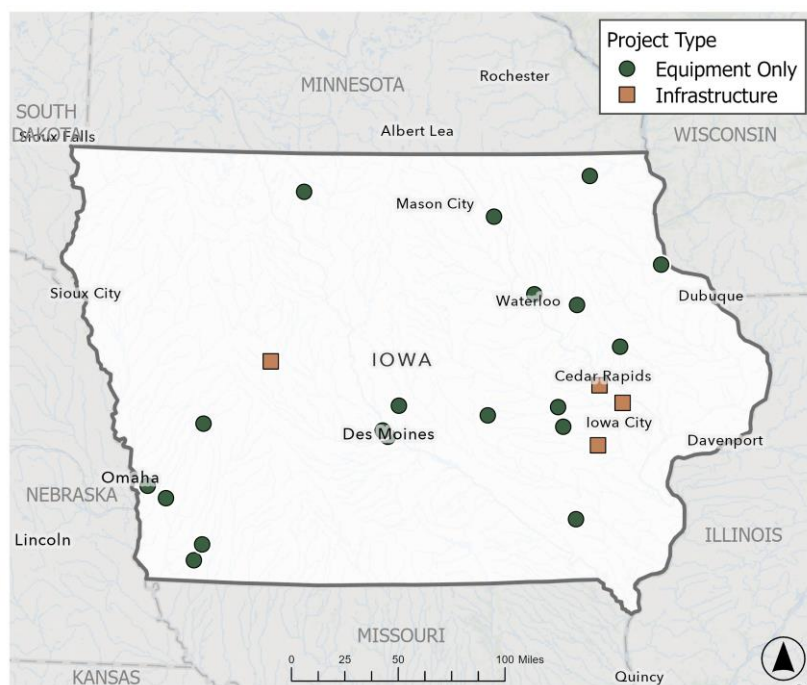
Resilient Food Systems
Infrastructure Program

Iowa



State Overview

USDA awarded the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship **\$5.2 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 24 Iowa infrastructure and equipment projects increasing access to new market opportunities, benefiting local and regional producers and processors.



Project Highlights

- **Purchase specialty dairy equipment** to expand critical processing, packing, and labeling capacity for milk by over 30 percent, benefiting 67 dairy farmers in the Kalona area.
- **Upgrade cold chain infrastructure** to improve distribution networks, storage, and aggregation capacity for local fruits and vegetables, increasing market access for 40 local producers in the Grinnell area.
- **Establish a specialized oat processing facility** to expand wholesale and retail distribution channels for oatmeal and oat groat value-added products, benefiting 50 local producers.

Anticipated Outcomes*

1,417

Local/Regional
Producers Benefited

270

New Market Outlets
Established

38

New Value-Added
Products Developed

29

Jobs
Created

87

Storage/Aggregation
Units Purchased

7

Distribution
Vehicles Purchased

92

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.

Iowa invested more than **\$1.5 million** across 4 Infrastructure projects, benefiting 712 local and regional producers. These projects include:

- Enhancing a facility with additional storage capacity and value-added production equipment to develop 25 value-added products, such as pumpkin purée and spice powders, benefiting 15 local farmers;
- Updating a corn processing facility with a high accuracy, robotic, bottom-up packing line to clean and increase packaging capacity to more than 1.4 million bags annually; and
- Converting a pre-existing farm building into a licensed, processing warehouse to make 5 new value-added products from fresh and frozen vegetables, helping more than 12 Iowa producers access new institutional markets.

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.

Iowa invested more than **\$1.6 million** across 20 Equipment Only projects purchasing more than 128 pieces of aggregation, processing, storage, and distribution equipment—including refrigerated vehicles, commercial freezers, generators, and kettles. The state expects 759 local and regional producers will benefit from reduced harvest loss, improved product quality and shelf life, and access to 127 new markets.

Statewide Standouts



More than one-third of Iowa's projects enhance dairy products such as cheese, flavored milk, and yogurt.



About one-third of projects fund egg processing, storage, aggregation, and distribution equipment for markets, including daycares, schools, restaurants, and hospitals.



More than 80 percent of Iowa's projects advance value-added processing for local produce, investing over \$1 million to increase market access for daikon radishes, sweet potatoes, squash, pumpkin, apples, and other crops.



Three of Iowa's projects invest in grain processing equipment to develop value-added products such as multigrain flour.