



RFSI

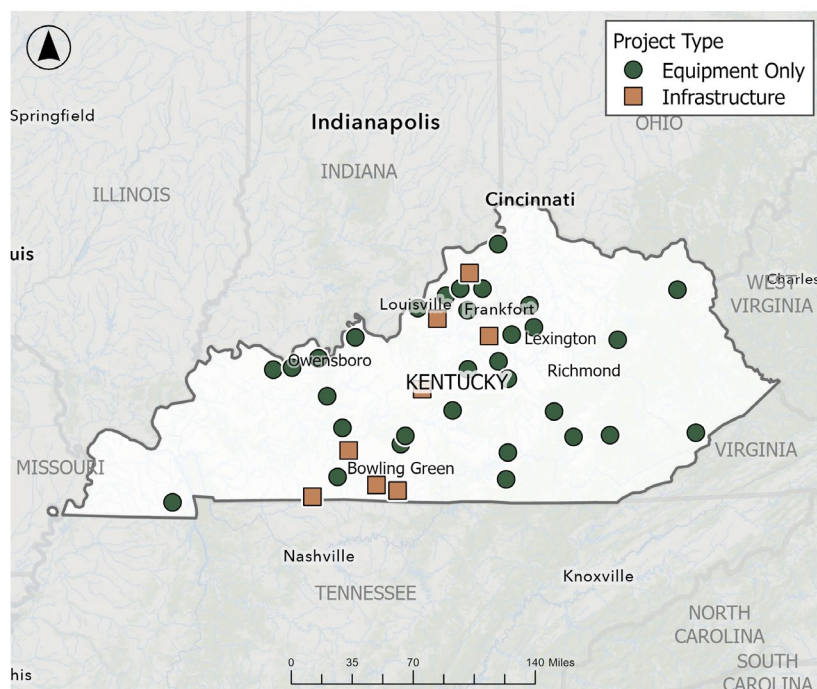
Resilient Food Systems
Infrastructure Program

Kentucky



State Overview

USDA awarded the Kentucky Department of Agriculture **\$8.7 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 45 Kentucky infrastructure and equipment projects increasing access to new market opportunities, benefiting local and regional producers and processors.



Project Highlights

- **Expand infrastructure and equipment to produce individually quick-frozen meals**, increasing access to 200 new markets and benefiting 70 Kentucky producers.
- **Build a shared-use commercial kitchen** to increase production capacity, developing 10 new value-added products, such as minimally processed vegetables, salsa, sauces, jams, and pickles, creating new market opportunities for 22 local and regional producers.
- **Construct an aggregation and distribution facility and purchase a distribution vehicle** to increase year-round sales of Kentucky-grown fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products, grains, nuts, and value-added products to wholesale and retail markets.

Anticipated Outcomes*

986

Local/Regional
Producers Benefited

897

New Market Outlets
Established

273

New Value-Added
Products Developed

4

New
Facilities
Constructed

309

Storage/Aggregation
Units Purchased

9

Distribution
Vehicles Purchased

183

Processing Equipment
Purchased

35

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.

Kentucky invested more than **\$3.7 million** across 9 Infrastructure projects benefiting 107 local and regional producers. These projects include:

- Constructing a new processing facility with hydrocooling equipment to improve product quality and food safety of fresh produce, such as cucumbers, zucchini, and squash;
- Modernizing equipment and infrastructure to increase ice cream production and packing options, creating 75 new markets for Kentucky dairy producers;
- Expanding a milling facility with additional storage and distribution space and an on-site laboratory to test grain and bean products such as rye, barley, chia, pinto, and black beans; and
- Building a new packing warehouse with expanded cold storage at an existing facility to improve efficiency of sorting, washing, and storing fresh fruits and vegetables for retail and wholesale markets and value-added 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.

Kentucky invested more than **\$2.7 million** across 36 Equipment Only projects purchasing more than 458 pieces of aggregation, processing, storage, and distribution equipment—including a butter churn, a grain burr mill, an egg washer and grader, and commercial dehydrators. The state expects 809 local and regional producers will benefit from reduced harvest loss, improved product quality and shelf life, and access to 516 new markets.

Statewide Standouts



Kentucky is investing \$190,000 into honey extraction, processing, and packaging projects that benefit 40 local producers.



\$500,000 of Kentucky's RFSI funding improves milling, packaging, fermentation, and baking of local grains and legumes, such as corn, buckwheat, oats, and wheat.



More than 65 percent of Kentucky's projects fund value-added production equipment and infrastructure to develop more than 250 new products.



Kentucky is investing over \$2.4 million into infrastructure and equipment to aggregate, clean, process, and distribute vegetables, including herbs, greens, roots crops, tomatoes, and peppers.