



# RFSI

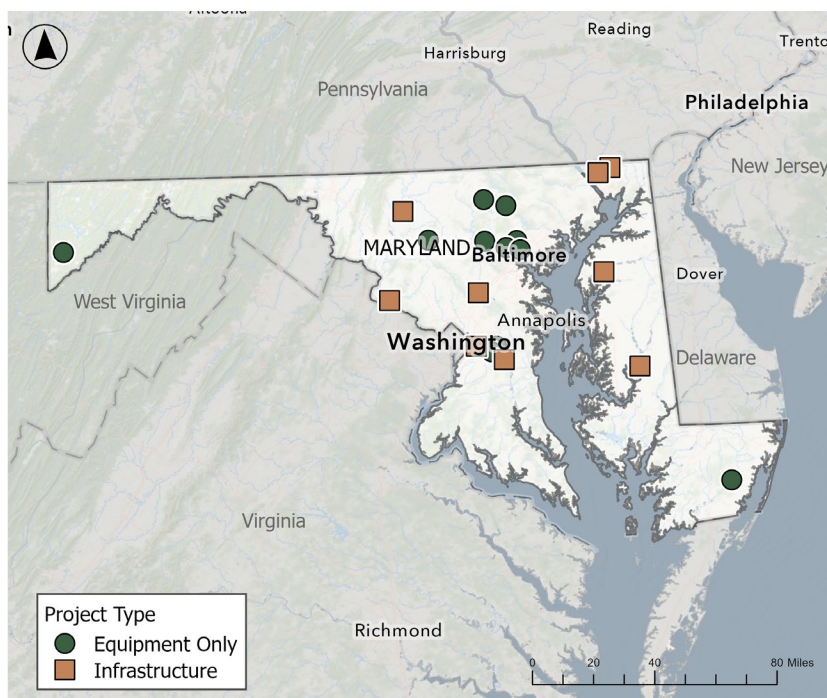
Resilient Food Systems  
Infrastructure Program

# Maryland



## State Overview

USDA awarded the Maryland Department of Agriculture **\$3.8 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 22 Maryland infrastructure and equipment projects increasing access to new market opportunities, benefiting local and regional producers and processors.



## Project Highlights

- **Construct a new facility to expand storage and processing capacity** for local products, such as mushrooms, fruits and eggs, supporting more than 14 farmers with improved product quality and the development of new product lines.
- **Improve scallop and oyster processing with a flash freezer** to extend product shelf life and increase access to grocery store buyers, benefiting 10 regional aquaculture producers.
- **Expand cold storage capacity with a 200 square-foot unit** to enhance aggregation of local produce, such as zucchini, cucumbers, carrots, beets, pumpkins, and tomatoes sourced from 70 farmers, and to access 12 new wholesale and restaurant markets.

## Anticipated Outcomes\*

**1,267**

Local/Regional  
Producers Benefited

**138**

New Market Outlets  
Established

**200**

New Value-Added  
Products Developed

**5**

New  
Facilities  
Constructed

**34**

Storage/Aggregation  
Units Purchased

**7**

Distribution  
Vehicles Purchased

**66**

Processing Equipment  
Purchased

**82**

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.**

Maryland invested more than **\$2.2M million** across 9 Infrastructure projects benefiting 1,122 local and regional producers. These projects are:

- Increasing aggregation and frozen storage capacity by 11,000 square feet for 72 local produce and cheese producers;
- Enhancing delivery capacity with a purchase of truck and trailer for at least 12 local vegetable and fruit producers; and
- Constructing a commercial kitchen for at least 33 dairy producers to access new local and regional school 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.**

Maryland invested more than **\$700,000** across 13 Equipment Only projects purchasing more than 25 pieces of aggregation, processing, storage, and distribution equipment—including coolers, a flash-freeze machine, refrigerated trucks, and grain milling equipment. The state expects 145 local and regional producers will benefit from reduced harvest loss, improved product quality and shelf life, and access to 69 new markets.

## Statewide Standouts



More than 35 percent of Maryland's RFSI funding improves dairy processing with new equipment, such as walk-in coolers and a clean-in-place system to develop cheese and yogurt products.



Maryland is investing \$2.2 million into projects that support storage, processing, and distribution of local produce, such as mushrooms, melons, berries, and legumes.



Maryland's projects support local grain producers with more than \$200,000 of new equipment, such as milling and processing equipment.