



RFSI

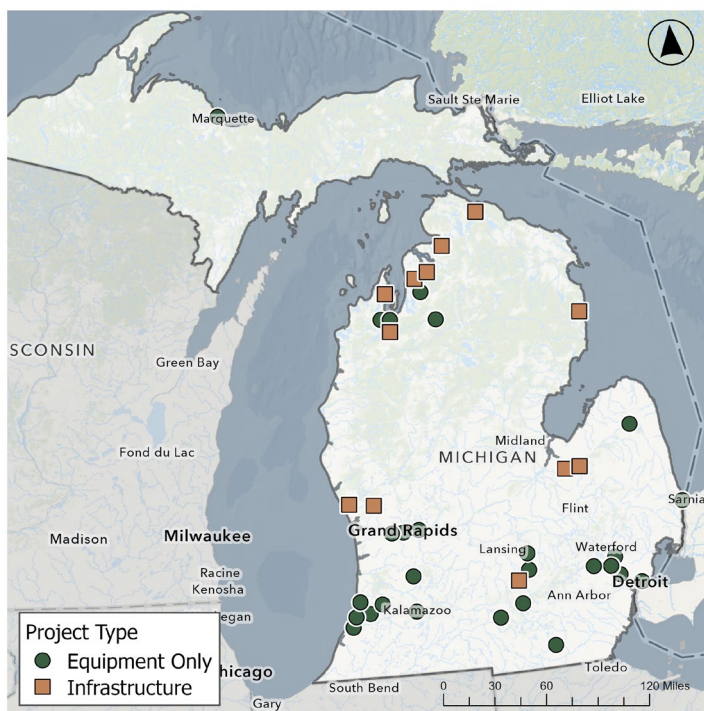
Resilient Food Systems
Infrastructure Program

Michigan



State Overview

USDA awarded the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development **\$10 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 44 Michigan infrastructure and equipment projects increasing access to new market opportunities, benefiting local and regional producers and processors.



Project Highlights

- **Install a new dual-zone refrigeration system** to aggregate regional fruits, vegetables, and value-added products from at least 72 local growers for distribution to wholesale and institutional market channels.
- **Purchase equipment for improved processing, packaging, and labeling** of jams, cocktail cherries, and custom co-packed goods made exclusively with Michigan-grown fruit from 15 local producers.
- **Construct a processing facility for regional grains** with a new granite stone mill, wet mill, and filling machine to grind and process local wheat, rye, corn, and rice into flour for use by artisan bakeries and consumers.

Anticipated Outcomes*

727

Local/Regional
Producers Benefited

692

New Market Outlets
Established

198

New Value-Added
Products Developed

11

New
Facilities
Constructed

5

Storage/Aggregation
Units Purchased

11

Distribution
Vehicles Purchased

79

Processing Equipment
Purchased

6

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.

Michigan invested almost **\$4 million** across 12 Infrastructure projects, benefitting 210 local and regional producers. These projects include:

- Constructing a processing facility to create 40 new value-added products from farmed fish, produce, honey, pastry, and mushroom ingredients from 5 local and regional producers;
- Building a cheese processing facility to produce 200,000 pounds of cheese curds, blocks, and quark annually from milk supplied by six local farms;
- Expanding a sweet cherry packing facility with new cold storage and a bagging equipment line to aggregate over 250,000 pounds of fresh sweet cherries; and
- Constructing a climate-controlled storage facility for locally produced wine to increase processing and storage capacity for 10,000 cases of wine from seven Northern Michigan wineries and cideries.

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.

Michigan invested more than **\$2.5 million** across 32 Equipment Only projects, purchasing more than 91 pieces of aggregation, processing, storage, and distribution equipment— such as walk-in coolers, refrigerated trucks, flash pasteurizers, and a glass bottling line. The state expects 517 local and regional producers will benefit from reduced harvest loss, improved product quality and shelf life, and access to 610 new markets.

Statewide Standouts



More than 50 percent of Michigan's projects focus on aggregating, processing, and distributing fresh produce, such as berries, rhubarb, parsnips, greens, beets, and herbs.



More than \$1.5 million supports the aggregation, processing, and storage of Michigan-grown cherries, including fresh sweet and tart cherries.



Michigan is investing more than \$1 million in equipment and infrastructure to produce unique, shelf-stable products, such as smoked fish, maple candies, wine, pickles, and cocktail cherries.



More than \$900,000 in Michigan's RFSI funding improves the milling and processing of local grains, such as wheat, rye, barley, rice, and corn into flour.