



RFSI

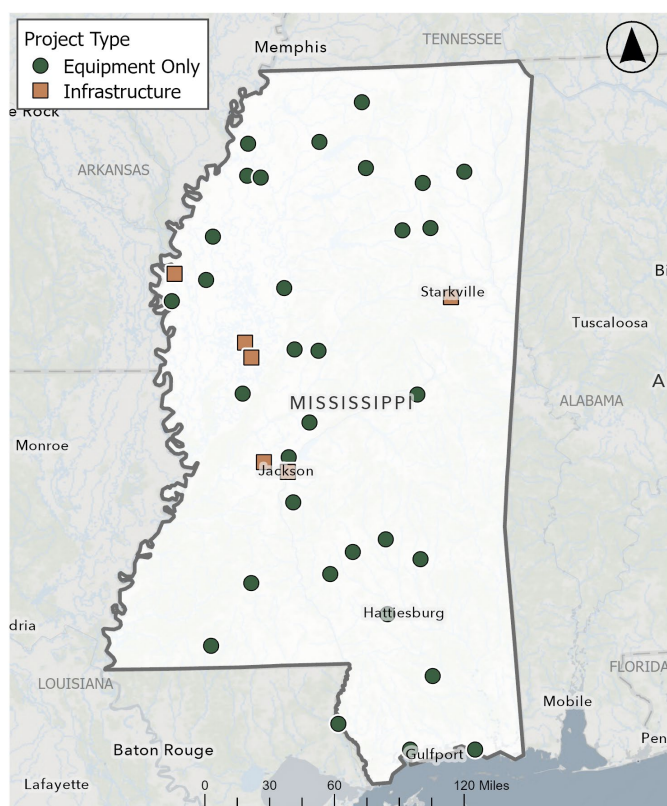
Resilient Food Systems
Infrastructure Program

Mississippi



State Overview

USDA awarded the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce **\$6.2 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 46 Mississippi infrastructure and equipment projects increasing access to new market opportunities, benefiting local and regional producers and processors.



Project Highlights

- **Invest in fresh vegetable processing equipment** to improve market access to schools, hospitals, restaurants, and grocery stores for 75 local and regional producers.
- **Modernize facilities with new cold storage, pea shellers, and distribution vehicles** to expand market access for 200 cooperative vegetable growers across the state.
- **Improve distribution capabilities** with the purchase of two refrigerated vehicles to transport fresh produce from 15 local and regional producers to schools and food banks.

Anticipated Outcomes*

1,847

Local/Regional
Producers Benefited

456

New Market Outlets
Established

293

New Value-Added
Products Developed

2

New
Facilities
Constructed

101

Storage/Aggregation
Units Purchased

24

Distribution
Vehicles Purchased

149

Processing Equipment
Purchased

110

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.

Mississippi invested more than **\$2.5 million** across 6 Infrastructure projects benefiting more than 1,520 local and regional producers. These projects include:

- Enhancing facilities to process farmed catfish with a new evaporator condenser and offal auger;
- Purchasing a new cold storage facility for local purple hull peas and corn;
- Investing in cold storage and processing equipment for fresh produce to increase market access for farmers across Mississippi; and
- Constructing a pecan shelling, processing, and storage facility to increase producer access to five new markets statewide.

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.

Mississippi invested more than **\$2.6 million** across 40 Equipment Only projects purchasing more than 206 pieces of aggregation, processing, storage, and distribution equipment—including refrigerated trucks, forklifts, cold storage units, vegetable shellers, and automatic bagging machinery. The state expects 1,520 local and regional producers will benefit from reduced harvest losses, improved product quality and shelf life, and access to 434 new markets.

Statewide Standouts



Mississippi is investing nearly \$1.5 million to expand sweet potato processing, distribution, and cold storage, benefiting 125 local producers.



Producers in the Mississippi Delta region benefit from more than \$490,000 in supply chain improvements for local products, including rice, purple hull peas, pecans, and fresh produce.



More than \$930,000 of Mississippi's RFSI funding is directed to farmed catfish projects to enhance local and regional market access.