

RFSI

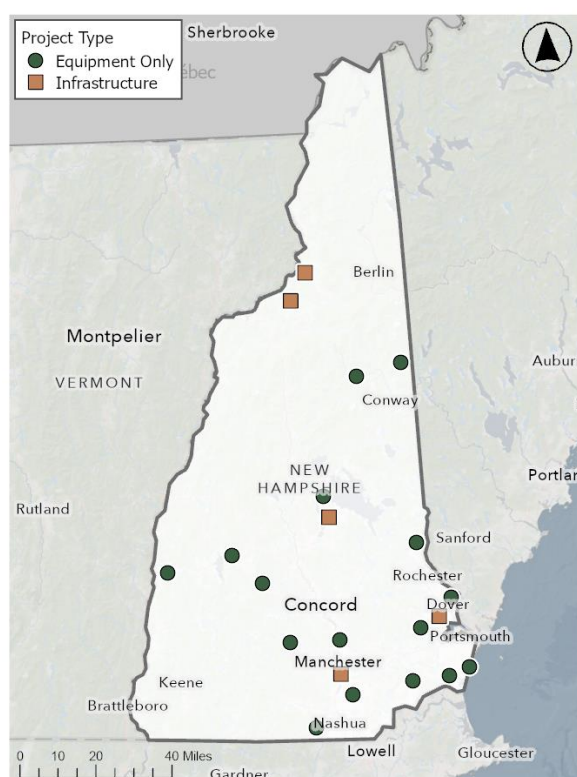
Resilient Food Systems
Infrastructure Program

New Hampshire



State Overview

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) awarded the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture **\$2.7 million** through the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) Program. The objective of RFSI is to expand capacity for the aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, and distribution of locally and regionally produced agricultural food products. These federal funds will support 21 New Hampshire infrastructure and equipment projects increasing access to new market opportunities benefiting local and regional producers and processors.



Project Highlights

- **Purchase aggregation and transportation equipment for regional products**, such as fiddleheads and maple syrup, supporting at least 50 New Hampshire food producers.
- **Outfit a shared-use processing hub** with a blast chiller, labeling machine, and freezer to develop value-added products from local produce and nuts.
- **Establish a shared-use commercial kitchen for 10 local farms** to produce value-added goods—including frozen vegetables, dips, and grain bars—for wholesale buyers and public institutions.

Anticipated Outcomes*

540

Local/Regional
Producers Benefited

137

New Market Outlets
Established

84

New Value-Added
Products Developed

2

New
Facilities
Constructed

77

Storage/Aggregation
Units Purchased

5

Distribution
Vehicles Purchased

59

Processing Equipment
Purchased

5

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.

New Hampshire invested more than **\$900,000** across five Infrastructure projects. These projects include:

- Expanding a shared-use kitchen's processing and frozen storage capacity to produce and store value-added products, such as soups and pickles, benefiting 17 local producers;
- Improving a central food hub facility's produce aggregation and post-harvest handling with additional storage and a vegetable washer;
- Strengthening storage and distribution capabilities between northern and southern New Hampshire growers with cold storage equipment and a vehicle, benefiting more than 50 farms and food producers;
- Building a produce storage and processing facility to enable wholesale and institutional market access; and
- Constructing a shared-use commercial kitchen as part of a community food hub to expand local growers' product offerings and market reach.

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.

New Hampshire invested more than **\$1.1 million** across 16 Equipment Only projects purchasing more than 136 pieces of aggregation, processing, storage, and distribution equipment. Equipment types include refrigerated distribution vehicles, forklifts, walk-in coolers, blast chillers, and labeling equipment. With this equipment, 278 local and regional producers will benefit from reduced harvest loss, improved product quality and shelf life, and access to 126 new markets.

Statewide Standouts



Two of New Hampshire's projects include fruit and vegetable washing equipment to meet food safety regulations and create access to new markets for local fruits and vegetables.



New Hampshire invests \$200,000 into processing equipment such as blast chillers, quick freezers, and freeze dryers to extend product shelf life and create new value-added products.



Two of New Hampshire's projects support aquaculture products such as farm-raised shellfish and oysters.



New Hampshire invests over \$1.6 million in projects supporting regional fruits, including grapes, strawberries, pears, and apples.