



RFSI

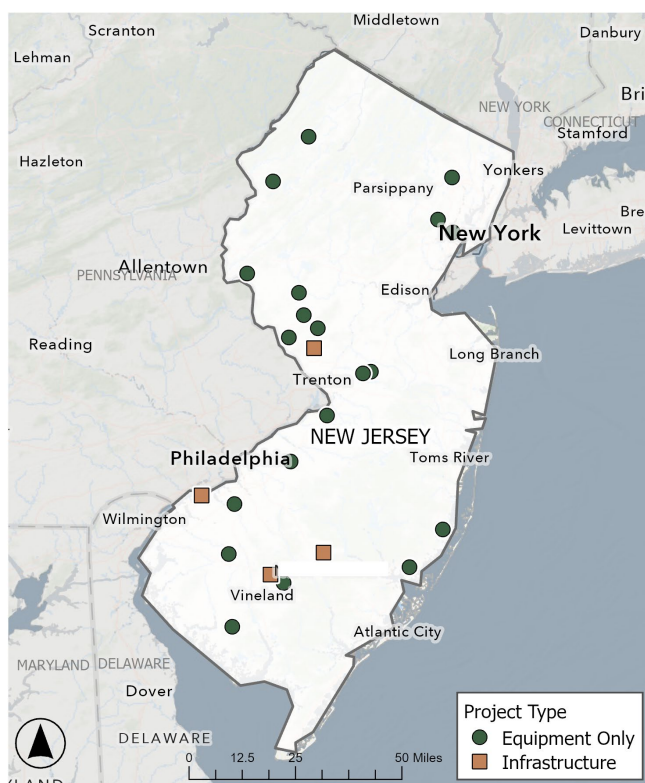
Resilient Food Systems
Infrastructure Program

New Jersey



State Overview

USDA awarded the New Jersey Department of Agriculture **\$3.4 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 28 New Jersey infrastructure and equipment projects increasing access to new market opportunities, benefiting local and regional producers and processors.



Project Highlights

- **Improve aggregation and distribution capacity for fresh produce**, expanding market opportunities for 37 New Jersey farmers.
- **Establish the first processing facility for New Jersey-grown hazelnuts**, with capacity to clean, sort, shell, and create new value-added products for 20 farms.
- **Expand processing capacity for aquaculture oysters and clams**, creating 20 new market outlets for New Jersey shellfish products.

Anticipated Outcomes*

649

Local/Regional
Producers Benefited

229

New Market Outlets
Established

131

New Value-Added
Products Developed

4

New
Facilities
Constructed

54

Storage/Aggregation
Units Purchased

16

Distribution
Vehicles Purchased

67

Processing Equipment
Purchased

42

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 Jersey invested nearly **\$1 million** across 5 Infrastructure projects benefiting 47 local and regional producers. These projects include:

- Constructing a produce processing and packing facility with cold storage for year-round product availability including winter-grown vegetables, fruit, and mushrooms, while expanding markets for 11 growers;
- Expanding preparation and distribution of New Jersey oysters and clams with the purchase of refrigerated delivery vehicles, washing and sorting equipment, and a labeling system that increases shellfish farmers' access to 20 new markets;
- Building a processing and storage facility for local vineyards to increase value-added products such as flavored Moscato wines and expand market opportunities for New Jersey growers; and
- Increasing cold storage capacity for New Jersey blueberries with new refrigeration equipment that will benefit 15 blueberry growers.

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 Jersey invested more than **\$2.1 million** across 23 Equipment Only projects purchasing more than 108 pieces of aggregation, processing, storage, and distribution equipment—including blast chillers, refrigerated distribution vehicles, cold storage, industrial food processors, and specialized packaging machines. The state expects that 602 local and regional producers will benefit from reduced harvest loss, improved product quality and shelf life, and access to 194 new markets.

Statewide Standouts



Half of New Jersey projects expand aggregation and distribution capacity through new refrigerated delivery vehicles.



New Jersey is investing over \$625,000 in aquaculture projects focused on cleaning, sorting, labeling and distributing shellfish products, such as oysters and clams.



About two-thirds of New Jersey's projects assist produce growers with equipment that cleans, processes, packages, and distributes products such as tomatoes, peppers, squash, greens, fruit, berries, and herbs.



More than \$650,000 of New Jersey's RFSI funding invests in enhanced processing and storage for local blueberry growers to expand access to new markets.