

RFSI

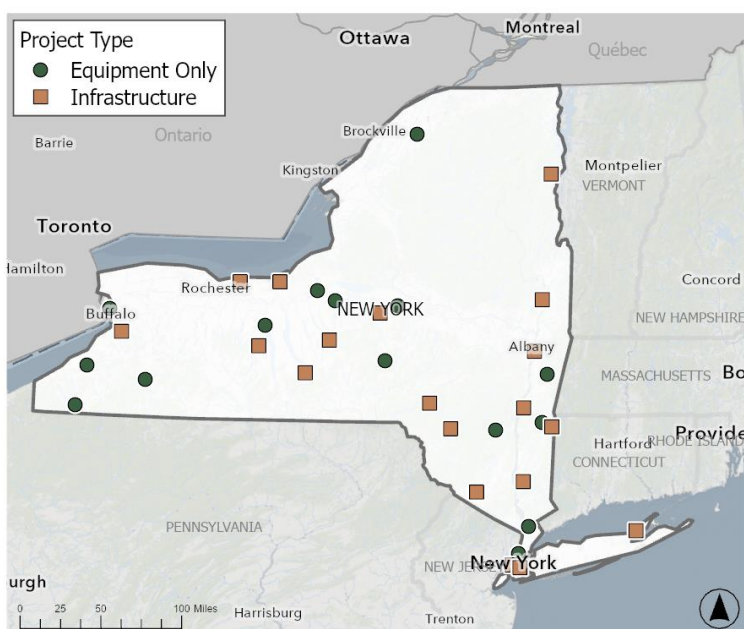
Resilient Food Systems
Infrastructure Program

New York



State Overview

USDA awarded the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets **\$19.4 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 34 New York infrastructure and equipment projects increasing access to new market opportunities, benefiting local and regional producers and processors.



Project Highlights

- **Strengthen connections between Hudson Valley growers and New York City markets** through 2 produce aggregation hubs that will increase access to community meal programs, institutions, and retail channels, benefiting 30 producers.
- **Construct a new granary** for Certified Organic grain producers to provide critical aggregation, storage, co-packing, and distribution services—distributing grain from at least 44 regional organic farms to 30 markets including bakers, chefs, and other buyers.
- **Produce ready-to-eat snacks in pre-portioned containers** with an automated tray sealer for packaging cut and minimally processed produce, benefiting 15 local produce growers with access to new schools and hunger relief program markets.
- **Install a high-speed labeling machine for 8-oz apple cider and juice boxes** for elementary schools across the state, opening a new market opportunity for 50 apple growers to utilize over 100,000 bushels of apples annually.

Anticipated Outcomes*

4,602

New Market Outlets Established

125

Jobs Created

1,316

Local/Regional Producers Benefited

77

Storage/Aggregation
Units Purchased

9

New Facilities
Constructed

631

New Value-
Added
Products
Developed

121

Processing Equipment
Purchased

9

Distribution Vehicles
Purchased

**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 York invested more than **\$13.2 million** across 19 Infrastructure projects benefiting 946 local and regional producers. These projects include:

- Constructing a multi-use warehouse in the Western Catskills, featuring storage space, wash/pack equipment, and a commercial kitchen that will support at least 28 partner farms;
- Installing cold and palletized dry storage to increase produce shelf-life and quality, reduce food loss, and support 40 Western New York small-scale specialty crop producers with an estimated three times the revenue;
- Expanding a cleaning and storage facility for dry beans and other staple crops in the Finger Lakes region through the construction of a new 50 x 70-foot uninsulated facility for shared use by at least 15 small- and medium-scale organic farmers; and
- Constructing a new 2,000 square foot processing and storage facility to aggregate and process farm-raised oysters, clams, scallops, and organic vegetables by 5 farmers on Long Island.

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 York invested more than **\$1.3 million** across 15 Equipment Only projects purchasing more than 39 pieces of aggregation, processing, storage, and distribution equipment—including blast chillers, fermentation tanks, stone mills, and refrigerated vehicles. The state expects 370 local and regional producers will benefit from reduced harvest loss, improved product quality and shelf life, and access to 3,886 new markets.

Statewide Standouts



New York is investing \$10.5 million in supply chain solutions for locally grown fruits and vegetables to improve access to new markets including school meal programs and other institutional buyers.



Over one-third of New York projects build dairy storage, processing, and/or distribution capacity to support products such as cheese, yogurt, sour cream, and chocolate milk.



New York projects are developing 631 local value-added products, including pesto, sunflower butter, granola, fruit leather, applesauce cups, and portioned, ready-to-eat fruit and vegetable snacks.



Nearly \$5.5 million of New York's RFSI funding supports grain farmers to expand storage facilities and install new milling and commercial baking equipment to process wheat and other grains into value-added products, such as puffed barley, flour, bread, muffins, and pot pies.