



RFSI

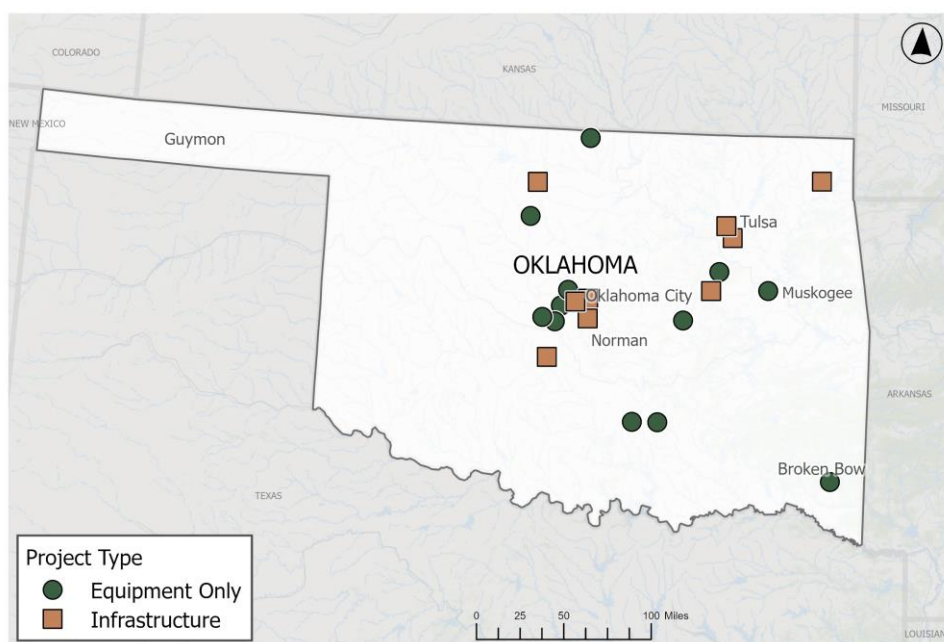
Resilient Food Systems
Infrastructure Program

Oklahoma



State Overview

USDA awarded the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry **\$6.4 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 21 Oklahoma infrastructure and equipment projects increasing access to new market opportunities, benefiting local and regional producers and processors.



Project Highlights

- **Acquire a multi-zone, hybrid cold storage system** to optimize packing capacity of fresh fruit and vegetables sourced from 20 local growers and support distribution to large grocery store chains and other markets.
- **Purchase a honey extractor and refinement tools** to expand raw honey processing capacity into bottles, buckets, and honey sticks to support 20 Oklahoma beekeepers and producers in better meeting local demand.
- **Modernize gluten-free grain processing with equipment such as stone mills and sifters** to produce over 400,000 pounds of value-added teff, rice, sorghum, and other flours sourced from Oklahoma grain producers.

Anticipated Outcomes*

625

Local/Regional
Producers Benefited

201

New Market Outlets
Established

15

Jobs
Created

23

New Value-Added
Products Developed

5

Distribution
Vehicles Purchased

136

Processing
Equipment
Purchased

27

Storage/Aggregation
Units Purchased

4

New Facilities
Constructed

**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.

Oklahoma invested more than **\$5.4 million** across 9 Infrastructure projects benefiting 356 local and regional producers. These projects include:

- Expanding capacity to clean, store and handle more than 12 million pounds of pecans annually in northeastern Oklahoma supporting more than 152 pecan growers;
- Improving efficiency at a regional food hub by purchasing a walk-in freezer, refrigerated truck, and blast freezer, enhancing aggregation, distribution, and processing capacity for local fruits, vegetables, nuts, dairy, and value-added products; and
- Upgrading warehouse racking to increase storage space and maintain food safety standards for fresh fruits and vegetables, supporting new market opportunities such as ready-to-use small packs for schools in south-central Oklahoma.

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.

Oklahoma invested more than **\$900,000** across 12 Equipment Only projects purchasing more than 130 pieces of aggregation, processing, storage, and distribution equipment—including refrigerated vehicles, commercial freezers, walk-in coolers, shellers, and slicers. The state expects 269 local and regional producers will benefit from reduced harvest loss, improved product quality and shelf life, and access to 125 new markets.

Statewide Standouts



Nearly 60 percent of Oklahoma's projects focus on produce, investing more than \$4.5 million in storage, processing, and distribution of local fruits and vegetables such as rhubarb, blueberries, squash, okra, and sweet potatoes.



Oklahoma is investing \$425,000 in the enhancement of grain processing facilities, improving market access for more than 60 producers.



Nearly \$100,000 of Oklahoma's RFSI funding supports processing peanuts, oats, and almonds to develop high-protein nutrition bars.



Two of Oklahoma's projects create new beverages with new equipment to process grapes, corn, and malted barley into sparkling wines, bourbon, and vodka.