



RFSI

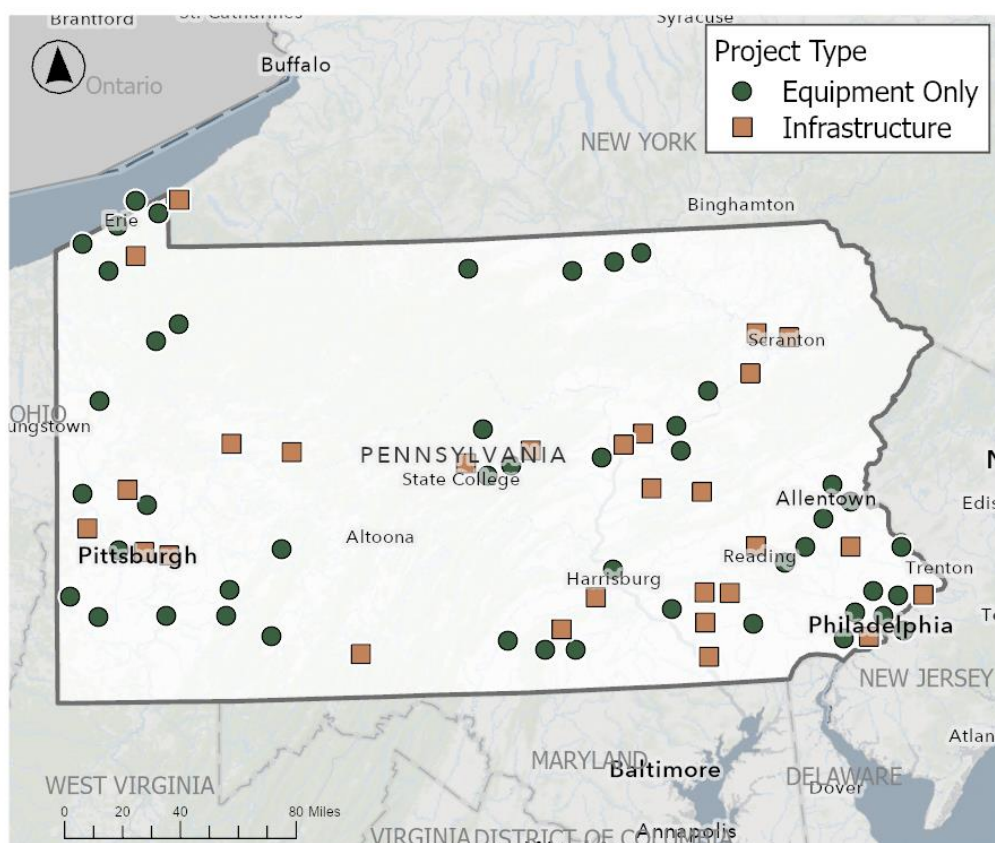
Resilient Food Systems
Infrastructure Program

Pennsylvania



State Overview

USDA awarded the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture **\$26.5 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 75 Pennsylvania infrastructure and equipment projects increasing access to new market opportunities, benefiting local and regional producers and processors.



Project Highlights

- **Improve critical processing, storage, and distribution capacity for expeller-pressed, non-GMO, organic vegetable oil**, expanding market opportunities for approximately 230 soybean farmers across Pennsylvania.
- **Process specialty crops deemed cosmetically unsuitable for retail into 78 new value-added products, such as prepared foods and meal components**, providing new markets for at least 54 local farmers, reducing food waste, and helping meet demand for ready-to-eat foods across Philadelphia.
- **Upgrade grain processing capabilities with an optical sorter that enables the sale of berry-grade wheat and dehulled buckwheat** benefiting 5 local producers with expanded wholesale and retail distribution channels for 43 pearled, rolled, and cracked grain value-added products.

Anticipated Outcomes*

3,100 Local/Regional Producers Benefited	3,068 New Market Outlets Established	11,938 New Value-Added Products Developed	10 New Facilities Constructed
264 Storage/Aggregation Units Purchased	32 Distribution Vehicles Purchased	328 Processing Equipment Purchased	302 Jobs Created

**These numbers are reported by states and subawardees.*

Infrastructure Projects: Snapshot

Infrastructure Grant projects can involve facility and equipment expansion and upgrades, new construction, and modernized information technology systems.

Pennsylvania has invested more than **\$17.1 million** across 28 Infrastructure projects benefiting 2,198 local and regional producers. These projects include:

- Constructing a new processing and distribution warehouse to clean, package, store, and distribute up to 3.6 million pounds of organic specialty potatoes each year;
- Building a post-harvest processing facility for heirloom grains that will benefit 16 regional grain growers;
- Updating 28 processing facilities across the state with new pasteurizers for dairy products and installing new processing lines to make salsas, sauces, preserves, and granola bars with local ingredients; and
- Improving inventory management and shipping accuracy with technology systems supporting more than 90 apple 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.

Pennsylvania invested more than **\$3.8 million** across 47 Equipment Only projects purchasing more than 346 pieces of aggregation, processing, storage, and distribution equipment—including refrigerated distribution vehicles, forklifts, commercial freezers, dehydrators, and juicers. The state expects 902 local and regional producers will benefit from reduced harvest loss, improved product quality and shelf life, and access to 516 new markets.

Statewide Standouts



More than one-third of Pennsylvania's projects and total funding focus on dairy products such as cheese, flavored milk, and yogurt.



Pennsylvania is investing over \$1 million in projects to improve grape aggregation, distribution, and processing to develop jellies, jams, juices, and other value-added products.



Six of Pennsylvania's projects fund processing, storage, aggregation, and/or distribution equipment for ciders, spirits, or wines produced with local fruit.



Pennsylvania is investing nearly \$995,000 into six grain projects that use locally grown wheat and other grains to develop value-added products, such as baking flours, bread, fresh pasta, and granola bar snacks.