

RFSI

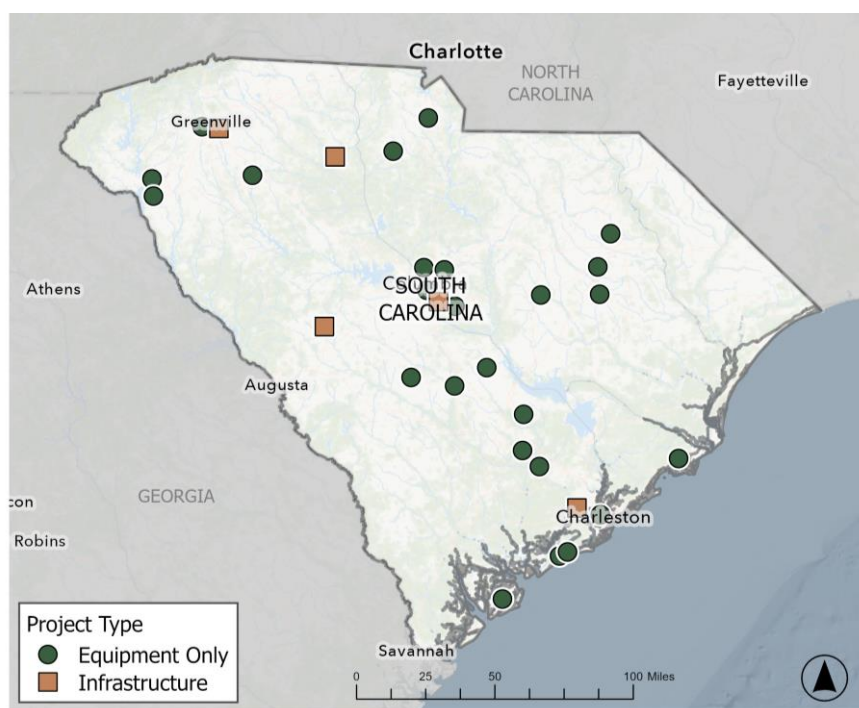
Resilient Food Systems
Infrastructure Program

South Carolina



State Overview

USDA awarded the South Carolina Department of Agriculture **\$4.9 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 30 South Carolina infrastructure and equipment projects increasing access to new market opportunities, benefiting local and regional producers and processors.



Project Highlights

- **Install a new drain-table, butter kneader, and brine tanks** to boost production of artisan cheese and cultured butter, benefiting four local dairy farms with increased milk sourcing.
- **Construct a seafood cross-dock and distribution center** to enhance efficiency, reduce transportation costs, and minimize food waste for 20 local and regional oyster and seafood producers.
- **Upgrade a commercial kitchen with new equipment** to develop artisan jams, jellies, and marmalades from South Carolina-grown fruit such as peaches, strawberries, and blueberries, benefiting 34 local producers.

Anticipated Outcomes*

743

Local/Regional
Producers Benefited

321

New Market Outlets
Established

120

New Value-Added
Products Developed

3

New
Facilities
Constructed

59

Storage/Aggregation
Units Purchased

19

Distribution
Vehicles Purchased

68

Processing Equipment
Purchased

87

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.

South Carolina invested more than **\$1.8 million** across five Infrastructure projects. These projects include:

- Constructing a new wash and pack line to clean and process organic leafy greens produced by 10 local farmers to meet a higher food safety standard and scale-up production for new markets;
- Building a commercial kitchen outfitted with equipment such as a freezer and commercial ice cream maker to develop 60 new products such as jams, pickles, and frozen desserts, benefitting 80 local and regional producers; and
- Modernizing a pecan cleaning facility and storage warehouse by adding cold storage as well as pecan cleaning and drying equipment, benefitting 10 local producers from increased purchases of South Carolina pecans.

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.

South Carolina invested more than **\$2 million** across 25 Equipment Only projects purchasing more than 94 pieces of aggregation, processing, storage, and distribution equipment—including steam jacketed kettles, commercial grader mixers, brine tanks, and a clam grader and bagger. The state expects 488 local and regional producers will benefit from reduced harvest loss, improved product quality and shelf life, and access to 276 new markets.

Statewide Standouts



More than \$600,000 of South Carolina's RFSI funding enables projects to improve processing of aquaculture products such as clams, oysters, and mussels.



South Carolina is investing over \$1 million into improved value-added production infrastructure and equipment to process and distribute products, including cheese, jams, jellies, mushroom coffee, and pickled vegetables.



Two-thirds of South Carolina's projects enhance aggregation, storage, and distribution of fresh produce such as leafy greens, peppers, sweet potatoes, and okra.



More than \$300,000 of South Carolina's RFSI funding improves storage and processing equipment for specialty grains, beans, and legumes, including Carolina Gold rice, Jimmy red corn, cow peas, and speckled butter beans.