



RFSI

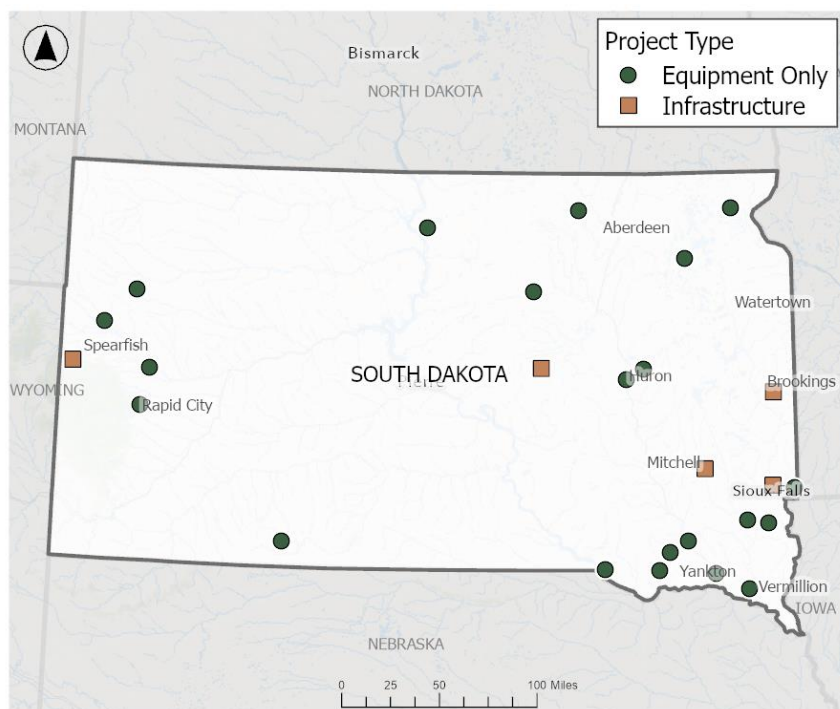
Resilient Food Systems
Infrastructure Program

South Dakota



State Overview

USDA awarded the South Dakota Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources **\$3.3 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 26 South Dakota infrastructure and equipment projects increasing access to new market opportunities, benefiting local and regional producers and processors.



Project Highlights

- **Purchase processing and cold storage equipment** to create value-added products that extend the shelf life of in-season produce and reduce food waste from vegetables considered cosmetically unfit for sale.
- **Establish a mobile freeze-drying facility** to develop value-added products such as frozen broccoli and soups.
- **Improve a leafy greens wash and pack station, on-farm cold storage, and cold transport** to improve safe food processing and increase access to new markets.

Anticipated Outcomes*

413

Local/Regional
Producers Benefited

258

New Market Outlets
Established

415

New Value-Added
Products Developed

4

New
Facilities
Constructed

38

Storage/Aggregation
Units Purchased

5

Distribution
Vehicles Purchased

115

Processing Equipment
Purchased

26

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 Dakota invested more than **\$1.4 million** across 5 Infrastructure projects benefiting 56 local and regional producers. These projects include:

- Building a commercial kitchen and warehouse to expand processing, storage, bottling, and distribution capacity for honey-based products, supporting five local honey farmers;
- Constructing a cold storage facility with root washing and greens processing equipment to improve the quality of local carrots, beets, lettuce, chicories, and herbs from seven local and regional producers; and
- Developing a warehouse and processing facility to expand production, extend product shelf life, reduce waste, and improve food safety of local fruit and vegetable products for retail and institutional markets.

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 Dakota invested more than **\$1.5 million** across 21 Equipment Only projects purchasing more than 120 pieces of aggregation, processing, storage, and distribution equipment—including cold storage, freeze dryers, vacuum sealers, and bottling equipment. The state expects 357 local and regional producers will benefit from reduced harvest loss, improved product quality and shelf life, and access to 207 new markets.

Statewide Standouts



More than \$2 million in South Dakota's RFSI funding supports 22 projects investing in equipment that expands the development of value-added products such as sauces, salsas, juices, and jams.



Two South Dakota projects invest nearly \$300,000 to expand value-added honey production and purchase equipment that improves processing, bottling, and market access.



South Dakota is investing more than \$450,000 in five grain and edible seed projects to expand aggregation, processing, and value-added production equipment such as sunflower seed roasters.