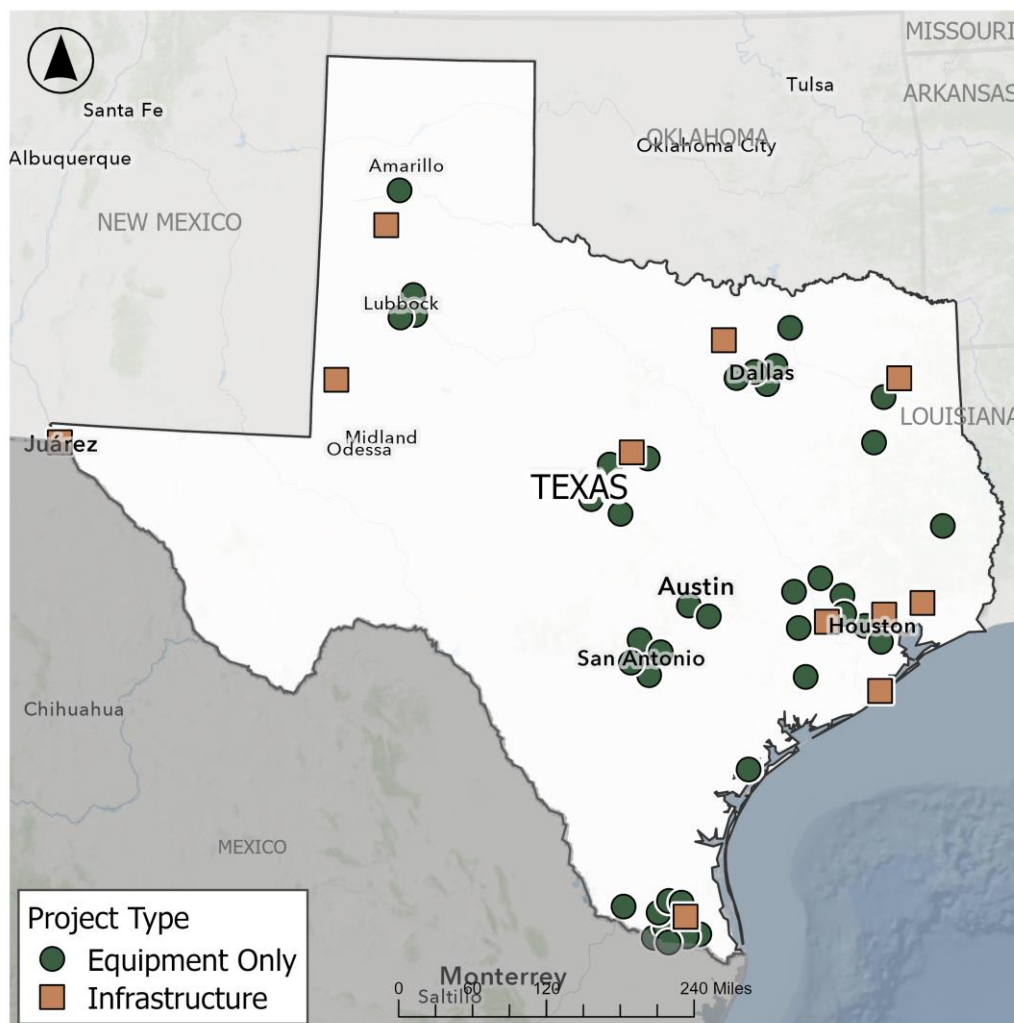




RFSI

Resilient Food Systems
Infrastructure Program

Texas



State Overview

USDA awarded the Texas Department of Agriculture **\$12.2 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 53 Texas infrastructure and equipment projects increasing access to new market opportunities, benefiting local and regional producers and processors.

Project Highlights

- **Construct a new rice processing and packaging facility** to process four new rice varieties to support 40 Texas rice farmers.
- **Install a grain cleaner, a vacuum sealer, a semi-automatic bagging unit, and a powered pallet stacker** to improve capacity, safety, and efficiency of heritage grain storage, aggregation, processing, and manufacturing into bagged flour.
- **Purchase a delivery van, commercial-grade labeling machine, and high-capacity honey pump** to streamline production and increase distribution of locally sourced honey products from five regional producers.

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.

Anticipated Outcomes*

1,064 Local/Regional Producers Benefited	1,458 New Market Outlets Established	241 New Value-Added Products Developed	4 New Facilities Constructed
156 Storage/Aggregation Units Purchased	19 Distribution Vehicles Purchased	163 Processing Equipment Purchased	54 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.

Texas invested more than **\$7.7 million** across 11 Infrastructure projects benefiting 416 local and regional producers. These projects include:

- Modernizing storage, power, and processing infrastructure of food aggregation facilities to process 87 new agricultural products, including fruits, vegetables, leafy greens, eggs, and rice from at least 51 agricultural producers;
- Expanding a pecan facility with sorting, dehulling, and drying equipment, benefiting seven local producers;
- Renovating a commercial kitchen facility with specialized equipment to enable processing, aggregating, storing, and distributing at least 16 new fruit and vegetable products;
- Building a new peanut aggregation facility, creating new market opportunities for at least 27 organic peanut producers in the panhandle region; and
- Constructing a new commercial kitchen and food hub facility to aggregate, process, and store fruits, vegetables, and other crops such as tree nuts, from at least 100 agricultural producers.

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.

Texas invested more than **\$3.6 million** across 42 Equipment Only projects purchasing more than 217 pieces of aggregation, processing, storage, and distribution equipment— including a baby carrot maker, cheese vat and curd mill, walk-in cooler, and stone flour mill. The state expects 648 local and regional producers will benefit from reduced harvest loss, improved product quality and shelf life, and access to 1,340 new markets.

Statewide Standouts



More than 50 percent of Texas' projects focus on the aggregation, storage, and distribution of fresh produce, such as lettuce, mushrooms, peaches, collard greens, and root vegetables.



Texas is investing over \$2.8 million into equipment and infrastructure to support cleaning and distribution of Texas pecans and peanuts.



More than \$700,000 of Texas' RFSI funding improves honey processing projects with specialized equipment such as flash heaters, bottling tanks, storage containers, and a mechanical seal kit.



Texas is investing more than \$1.5 million in processing equipment and infrastructure for whole grains such as wheat and rice.