



RFSI

Resilient Food Systems
Infrastructure Program

Washington



State Overview

USDA awarded the Washington Department of Agriculture **\$9.46 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 seven Washington infrastructure projects increasing access to new market opportunities, benefiting local and regional producers and processors.



Project Highlights

- **Construct a processing facility with cold storage and a commercial kitchen** to transform local fruits into chutneys, jams, and syrups.
- **Expand processing capacity** by installing a wash and pack line, a dehydrator, and slicing and dicing equipment to develop over 150 products from local fruits and vegetables.

Anticipated Outcomes*

293

Local/Regional
Producers Benefited

194

New Market Outlets
Established

207

New Value-Added
Products Developed

2

New
Facilities
Constructed

30

Storage/Aggregation
Units Purchased

1

Distribution Vehicle
Purchased

50

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.

Washington has invested more than **\$7.3 million** across seven projects to support infrastructure needs. The State's infrastructure grant recipients are collectively building resilience within the middle of the food supply chain by constructing 2 new facilities, modernizing 5 existing facilities, and purchasing and installing more than 50 pieces of equipment to expand processing, packaging, labeling, and related capacity. The state expects projects will train 45 employees on specialized equipment and worker safety, providing workforce benefits.

Of the seven projects:

- All expand processing systems, such as a new canning system, packaging line, and a fruit processing system to create value added products from local fruits;
- Four purchase specialized equipment such as an individual quick freeze system, a specialized slicing machine, and a new malting system;
- One installs a grape hauling and processing system to ferment and settle local grapes to support three local fruit producers; and
- Two construct new facilities with cold storage, packaging lines, dry storage, and processing space for local products such as apples, pears, fruit butters, and black currant powder.

Statewide Standouts



More than 85 percent of Washington's RFSI funding supports projects enhancing storage, aggregation, processing, and distribution of local and regional produce such as apples, pears, squash, grapes, and lettuce.



Washington is investing nearly \$3 million into processing local fruits and grains into alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages with new equipment such as hauling equipment.



More than \$1 million of Washington's RFSI funding supports projects handling local and regional stone fruits such as plums and peaches.