



RFSI

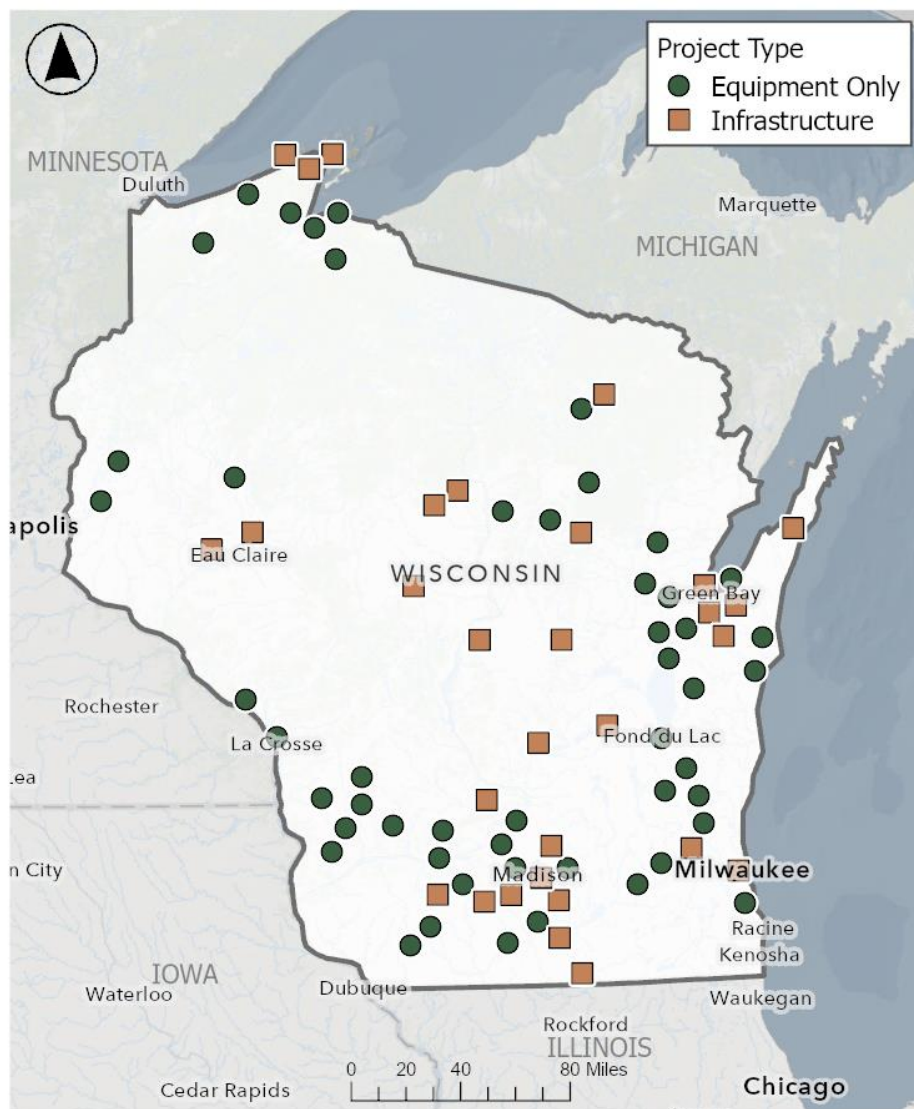
Resilient Food Systems
Infrastructure Program

Wisconsin



State Overview

USDA awarded the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection **\$28.2 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 80 Wisconsin infrastructure and equipment projects increasing access to new market opportunities, benefiting local and regional producers and processors.



Project Highlights

- **Delivery and refrigeration vehicle purchases** to improve cold storage, aggregation, and transportation of products from rural producers to markets in cities such as Athens, De Pere, La Farge, and La Crosse.
- **Critical processing and storage equipment for manoomin (wild rice)** to increase processing volumes from 1,500 to 5,000 pounds, benefiting at least 20 producers and Tribal communities near Crandon.
- **Increase processing and dry storage capacity of food-grade specialty grains** with specialized cleaning and blending equipment, benefiting organic farms in Ridgeway and Oconomowoc.

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*

5,258 Local/Regional Producers Benefited	1,192 New Market Outlets Established	603 New Value-Added Products Developed	26 New Facilities Constructed
227 Storage/Aggregation Units Purchased	42 Distribution Vehicles Purchased	349 Processing Equipment Purchased	273 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.

Wisconsin invested more than **\$23.6 million** across 30 Infrastructure projects benefiting 4,088 local and regional producers. These projects include:

- Constructing a new processing and distribution warehouse to clean, package, and distribute up to 24 million tons of organic ingredients each year;
- Building a post-harvest processing facility for heirloom corn that will benefit 61 regional corn growers;
- Updating over 20 facilities by installing destoners or grain drying and color sorting equipment;
- Assembling fruit and vegetable processing lines with peel and slicing capabilities; and
- Installing a planetary mixer for value-added production within commercial kitchens.

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.

Wisconsin invested more than **\$3.8 million** across 50 Equipment Only projects purchasing more than 227 pieces of aggregation, processing, storage, and distribution equipment—including refrigerated distribution vehicles, forklifts, dehydrators, and juicers. The state expects 1,170 local and regional producers will benefit from reduced harvest loss, improved product quality and shelf life, and access to 543 new markets.

Statewide Standouts



Wisconsin is investing more than \$22 million into projects to develop 70 value-added products, including ready-to-eat frozen produce, sparkling ciders, canned goods, and smoked trout.



More than \$5 million of Wisconsin's RFSI funding supports 11 apple and berry projects across the state, including regional elderberries and aronia berries.



Thirteen of Wisconsin's projects include infrastructure or equipment to increase production of dairy products such as cheese, butter, and yogurt.



More than \$4 million of Wisconsin's RFSI funding improves the local grain supply chain with infrastructure and equipment to expand processing, storage, and distribution of wheat, rye, and buckwheat for human consumption.