

Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program





In May of 2023, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) was notified that Kentucky was being awarded \$8,688,111 in RFSI funding.

Based upon USDA's guidance, KDA solicited input from various stakeholders and submitted a State Plan for USDA approval on September 1, 2023.

USDA has responded and requested updates to the State Plan. Those updates are due January 11th.

KDA's proposal is to use \$1 million to further strengthen "Supply Chain Coordination" for locally and regionally produced foods.

KDA's Plan lists the Kentucky Center for Agriculture & Rural Development, Community Farm Alliance, and The Food Connection at the University of Kentucky as partners in this role.

KDA also plans to administer a RFSI Infrastructure and Equipment Only cost-share program open to applicants and for projects deemed eligible by USDA.

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE





RFSI Purpose:

- Build resilience in the middle-of-the-supply-chain;
- Strengthen local and regional food systems by creating new revenue streams for their state's producers;
- Support development of value-added products available to consumers;
- Support proposals that provide fair prices, fair wages and new and safe job opportunities that keep profits in rural communities;
- Increase diversity in processing options in terms of business model approaches, geography, and availability to underserved communities.

RFSI program will focus on funding Infrastructure Grant activities in each state that:

- Expand capacity for processing, aggregation and distribution of agricultural products to create more and better markets for producers;
- Modernize manufacturing, tracking, storage, and information technology systems;
- Enhance worker safety through adoption of new technologies or investment in equipment or facility improvements;
- Improve the capacity of entities to comply with federal, state, and local food safety requirements;
- Improve operations through training opportunities;
- Support construction of a new facility;
- Modernize or expand an existing facility (including expansion and modifications to existing buildings and/or construction of new buildings at existing facilities);
- Construction of wastewater management structures, etc.;
- Modernize processing and manufacturing equipment;
- Develop, customize, or install equipment that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, increases efficiency in water use, improves air and/or water quality, and/or meets one or more of USDA's climate action goals.





Upgrades or new facilities for processing specific agricultural products, such as:

- On-farm post-harvest processing, preservation, and storage/cold storage;
- Post-harvest cleaning and grading;
- Aggregator warehouse and storage, including cooperatives;
- Purchase of freezing equipment, freezer, or cold storage;
- Processing, canning, preserving and pasteurization;
- Preparation and packing;
- Drying, hulling, shelling, and milling;
- Cooking, baking, juicing, distilling, fermenting.





Entities Eligible for Infrastructure & Equipment Only Grants Include:

- Agricultural producers or processors, or groups of agricultural producers and processors;
- Nonprofit organizations operating middle-of-the-supply-chain activities such as processing, aggregation, distribution of targeted agricultural products;
 - For-profit entities operating middle-of-the-supply-chain activities such as processing, aggregation, or distribution of targeted agricultural products, whose activities are primarily focused for the benefit of local and regional producers, and that meet the eligibility requirements of the SBA small business size standards are eligible.
- For-profit entities must meet the eligibility requirements of the SBA small business size standards matched to industries described in the [North American Industry Classification System \(NAICS\)](#). For more information on these size standards, please visit [SBA's Size Standards webpage](#). For a quick check on whether your business qualifies, please use the [Size Standards Tool](#).
- Local government entities operating middle-of-the-supply-chain activities such as processing, aggregation, distribution of targeted agricultural products.
- Tribal governments operating middle-of-the-supply-chain activities such as processing, aggregation, distribution of targeted agricultural products.
- Institutions such as schools, universities, or hospitals bringing producers together to establish cooperative or shared infrastructure or invest in equipment that will benefit multiple producers middle-of-the-supply-chain activities such as processing, aggregation, distribution of targeted agricultural product.



Ineligible projects include:

- Meat and poultry;
- Wild-caught seafood;
- Exclusively animal feed and forage products;
- Fiber;
- Landscaping products;
- Tobacco;
- Dietary supplements;
- Pre-harvest equipment or infrastructure





Infrastructure Awards: \$100,000 to \$3,000,000

The Grant Recipients are required to contribute 50% of the total proposed project cost as a match to federal funding.

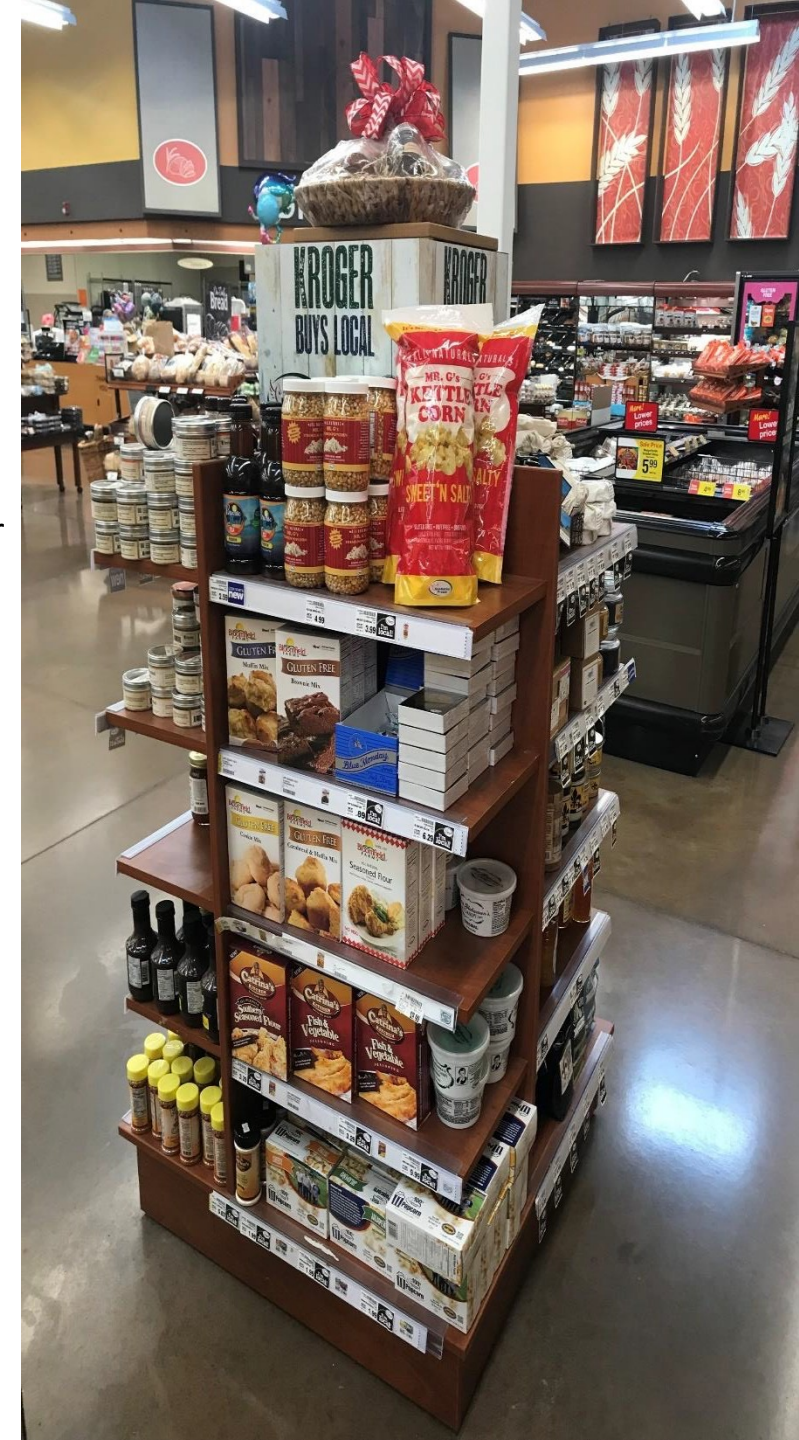
This applies to all applicants except other businesses that qualify under SBA categories of small-disadvantaged business, women owned small business, or veteran-owned small business. For these classifications, the required match funding for a RFSI contribution or cost share is reduced to 25% of the project cost.

All Infrastructure projects must adhere to the [National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\)](#) review process.

Equipment Only Awards: \$10,000 to \$100,000

The Simplified Equipment-Only option is a Fixed Price Grant, meaning it will fund only equipment purchases (and not associated facility upgrades, staffing, or other costs), and the amount awarded will be equal to the cost of the equipment up to \$100,000.

Applicants may only apply within one category.





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For questions, please visit:

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/rfsi>

Or contact:

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