



Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) Grants

Overview

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Market Service (AMS) allocated Idaho \$6,184,920 in funding to expand capacity for the aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, and distribution of Idaho food products. ISDA will be passing through funds as **competitive grants** to support infrastructure in the middle-of-the-supply chain for Idaho food and farm businesses to improve the resilience of Idaho's supply chain.



There are two grant opportunities:

- **Simplified Equipment-Only Projects.** These projects offer a simplified application to fund smaller grants between \$10,000 and \$100,000 for equipment purchases only.
- **Infrastructure Grant** – the minimum award amount is \$100,000 and the maximum award amount of \$3,000,000.

The application deadline is **Friday, March 15, 2024.**

Who is Eligible?

This program is to support food system crops and products meant for human consumption (excluding meat and poultry products, which are funded through other USDA programs). Entities eligible for Infrastructure Grants are:

- 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.**
- 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.

What Projects are Eligible?

Grants will fund projects that expand capacity and infrastructure for the aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, or distribution of targeted agricultural products. Examples include:

- Expanding processing capacities, including adding product types, increasing production volumes, and supporting new wholesale/retail product lines;
- Modernizing equipment or facilities through upgrades, repairs, or retooling; (e.g., adapting product lines for institutional procurement or adding parallel processing capacity);
- Purchase and installation of specialized equipment, such as processing components, sorting equipment, packing and labeling equipment, or delivery vehicles;
- Modernizing manufacturing, tracking, storage, and information technology systems;

- Enhancing worker safety through adoption of new technologies or investment in equipment or facility improvements;
- Construction of a new facility;
- Increasing packaging and labeling capacities that meet compliance requirements under applicable laws (e.g. sealing, bagging, boxing, labeling, conveying, and product moving equipment);
- Increasing storage space, including cold storage;
- Develop, customize or install equipment that increases efficiency in water use or improves air and/or water quality;
- Modernize equipment or facilities to ensure food safety, including associated Hazard, Analysis, and Critical Control Points (HACCP) consultation, plan development and employee training; and
- Training on the use of all equipment purchased under the grant and associated new processes.

Projects must be Completed by February 28, 2027

Matching Requirements

- **Infrastructure Grants** - Recipients are required to contribute 50% of the total proposed project cost as a match to federal funding. For historically underserved farmers and ranchers, or for other businesses that qualify under SBA categories of small, disadvantaged business, women-owned small business, or veteran-owned small business, the required match funding contribution or cost share is reduced to 25% of the project cost.
- **Simplified Equipment-Only Projects** - No match is required.

Legislative Approval Required

The Idaho RFSI program is contingent upon approval of the Idaho Legislature. The spending authority for this program requires legislative approval. In order to meet USDA deadlines, ISDA will be accepting applications in advance. Grants will only be awarded if approved in ISDA's FY25 budget.

More Information

ISDA will conduct one webinar in January along with three question and answer sessions. The link to participate can be found on www.agri.idaho.gov/rfsi/.

Sessions will be recorded and posted on the website as well. Applicants are encouraged to participate.

- **Application Webinar**
 - January 31, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm Mountain Time
- **Question and Answer Sessions**
 - February 7, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Mountain Time
 - February 21, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Mountain Time
 - March 7, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Mountain Time

For questions, visit www.agri.idaho.gov/rfsi/ or email: Rfsi@isda.idaho.gov