



Georgia Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) Grant Overview

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Historical Context



“To aid in the sale and distribution of farm produce is to benefit producer and consumer alike. The prosperity of every element and class of our people, depends upon the prosperity of farmers, and I take it that Georgia can certainly afford to expend a moderate sum in an effort to solve a most vital problem of agriculture.” J.J. Brown, Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture in 1917.

RFSI Overview

- New Program for Georgia and the USDA.
- Funded through the American Rescue Plan (ARP)
- Georgia will work USDA to make competitive subawards.
- To support infrastructure in the middle of the supply chain
- For domestic food and farm businesses and other eligible entities.
- Meat or wild-caught seafood projects are not eligible.



RFSI Overview (Cont)

- \$7.1million is available in subawards in Georgia.
- All Projects must be completed by February 28, 2027.
- Application deadline is March 29th.
- Awards will be announced June 1st, 2024
- Funding is available for **reimbursement only**.
- Producers, processors, nonprofits, local governments, and institutions are all eligible.



RFSI - Two Types of Grants

Equipment Only

- Used for the purchase of specific equipment.
- Up to \$100,000
- No Match Required
- Easier Application

Infrastructure

- Expand capacity and infrastructure for middle supply chain.
- \$100,000 to \$3million
- Require 50% match of total project cost.
- Certain “under-represented groups” can receive a 25% match requirement.
- Must be considered an SBA “Small Business”
- Must comply with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA).

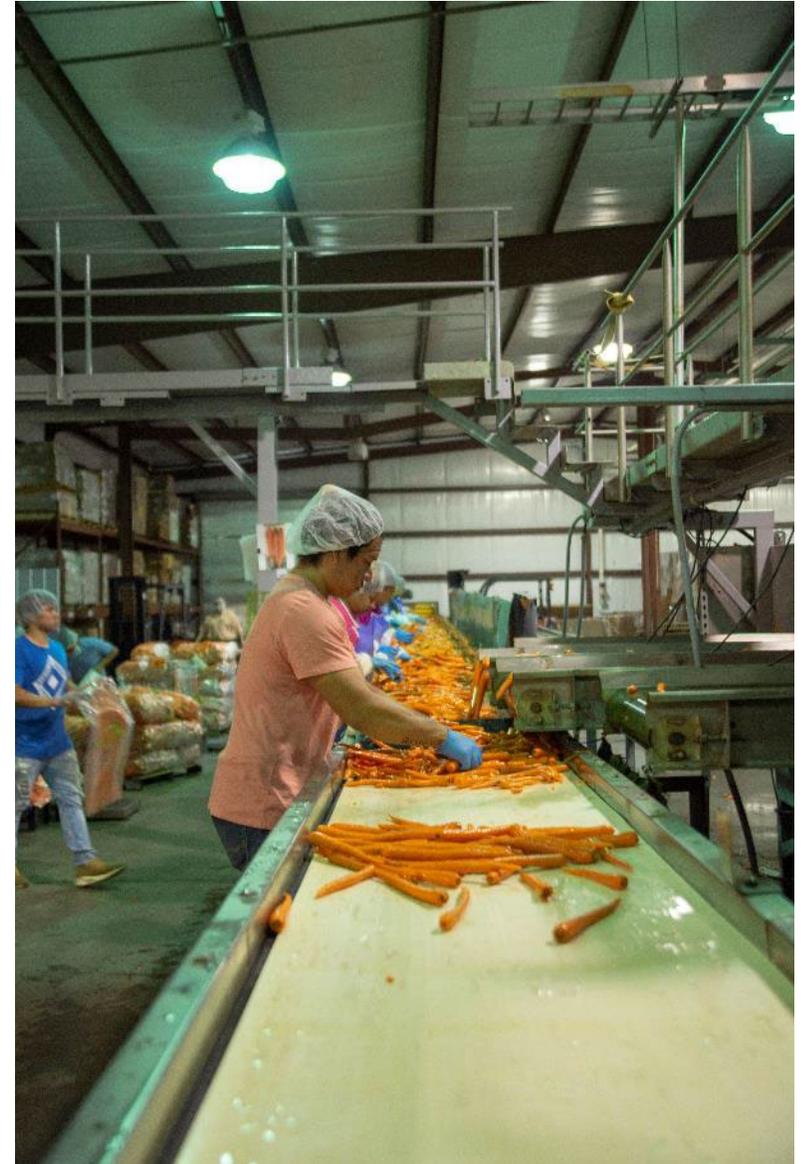
What is “Middle Supply Chain?”

*Remember PAD – Processing, Aggregation, Distribution



Eligible Projects

- **Packaging Operations:** This includes the grading, sorting, and labeling of products to prepare them for market.
- **Processing Techniques:** Activities such as canning, preserving, pasteurizing, and other processing methods that extend the shelf life and improve the safety of agricultural products.
- **Extraction Processes:** The extraction of juice, oil, nut meats, and other derivatives from agricultural products for further use or sale.
- **Crop Processing:** Tasks like chopping, washing, peeling, drying, hulling, milling, and shelling that are preliminary steps for further processing or direct sale.
- **Value-Added Product Creation:** The transformation of raw agricultural goods into products with increased market value through cooking, baking, juicing, fermenting, distilling, and other processing methods.
- **Logistics and Storage:** Activities related to the efficient tracking, storage (including cold storage), warehousing, and distribution of products to ensure they reach markets in optimal condition.



Performance Indicators

- 3.1 Number of new jobs created:
- 3.2 Number of local/regional agricultural producers who benefited from the new or improved processing/aggregation/storage or distribution capacity:
- 3.3 Number of new local/regional products processed, aggregated, stored or distributed:
- 3.4 Number of new value-added products developed:
- 3.5 Number of new market-outlets established:



Match Requirement

- Only required for the \$100,000+ Infrastructure Grant.
- 50% of **Total Project Cost**.
- Or 25% if you are an “Underserved Group” which are - Beginning; Socially Disadvantaged; Veterans; and Limited Resource.
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getting-assistance/underserved-farmers-ranchers>
- **Standard 50% Match:** For a project costing \$200,000, an applicant would need to secure \$100,000 in federal funds complemented by \$100,000 in non-federal matching funds or in-kind contributions.
- **Reduced 25% Match:** For a project with a total cost of \$133,333.33, the application would require \$100,000 in federal funds, supplemented by \$33,333.33 in non-federal matching funds or in-kind contributions.



Application Tips

- All Applicants Require a Federal Unique Entity Identification (UEI) number. <https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration>
- Must include your “Distressed Community Index” score. <https://eig.org/distressed-communities/2022-dci-interactive-map/?view=county>
- Remember PAD – Processing, Aggregation, Distribution





**Questions?
Visit GeorgiaRFSI.com to
Get Started!**