



# DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and NATURAL RESOURCES

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## **SOUTH DAKOTA RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM**

### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA AMS) is partnering with states to invest in food supply chain resilience, farm and food business market access, and value-added agriculture industry development. Through this Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure program (RFSI), the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) will bolster the South Dakota food system and support South Dakota's agriculture industry through strategic partnerships and financial and technical assistance. A more resilient, secure, and diversified local food system benefits producers, consumers, and rural communities.

As a targeted investment in the middle of the food supply chain, RFSI aims to fill supply chain gaps. Producers and businesses can receive grant funds for projects aiming to expand capacity and infrastructure for the aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transportation, wholesaling, or distribution of agricultural products. Project activities might address supply chain infrastructure gaps from a variety of angles such as processing capacity expansion, equipment and facilities modernization, worker safety, packaging and labeling, and storage space.

RFSI also offers DANR the opportunity to complement the industry's grant projects through a state-led supply chain coordination project such as coordination of industry development planning, individual technical assistance, data gathering, or a needs assessment.

### **QUICK FACTS**

- **South Dakota Funding:** \$3,267,865
- **Project Awards:**
  - Infrastructure project awards will be at least \$100,000 with an equal applicant match. Historically underserved producers and small disadvantaged businesses contribute 25%.
  - Equipment-only project awards may be \$10,000 - \$100,000 for amounts equal to the cost of the equipment (no associated costs). Applicants must substantiate equipment costs through quotes/contracts/etc. No match is required for this grant type.
- **Eligible Industry:** Specialty crops, dairy, grains for human consumption, aquaculture, and other food products, excluding meat and poultry
- **Eligible Infrastructure Grant Recipients:** Agricultural producers or processors, nonprofits, local and tribal governments operating middle of the supply chain activities like product processing, aggregation, and distribution. Institutions such as schools, universities or hospitals that facilitate producer cooperation to share infrastructure may also apply.



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## NEXT STEPS

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) signed a Cooperative Agreement with the USDA AMS in May 2023. The next steps include:

• South Dakota agriculture industry identifies RFSI program priorities for South Dakota	(July-August 2023)
• DANR submits South Dakota State Plan to USDA conveying the priorities identified by SD industry and outlining DANR's plan for a state-led supply chain coordination project	(August 23, 2023)
• DANR initiates state-led supply chain coordination project and releases opportunity for infrastructure grant project applications following USDA approval of State Plan	(Fall 2023)
• Infrastructure grant proposals due to DANR	(Winter 2023/2024)
• Expert review panel recommends project selections	(Winter 2023/2024)
• DANR proposes project selection portfolio to USDA	(Spring 2024)
• DANR awards infrastructure project subgrants following USDA approval	(by May 2024)
• Infrastructure projects period of performance	(May 2024-2027)
• Program concludes	(May 2027)

## How Can I Participate?

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources is accepting comments from South Dakota agriculture industry stakeholders to identify priority food system needs for infrastructure grant funding and state supply chain coordination in South Dakota. Please contact DANR for more information or take our online survey.

Comments can also be submitted to DANR using the contact information provided below. We want to hear what food system infrastructure needs to prioritize in south dakota's RFSI program.

Contact [DANRMail@state.sd.us](mailto:DANRMail@state.sd.us) with the subject line "RFSI", or call (605) 773-5559.

For more information please visit the DANR RFSI webpage.