



Nevada Department of Agriculture

Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program 2025 *Request for Applications (RFA) – Equipment Only*

Application due:
August 26, 2025 at 3:00 pm PDT



Resilient Food System Infrastructure Grant Program

Division of Administrative Services

Introduction

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), has entered into a cooperative agreement with the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) to administer the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) cooperative agreement. The overall goal of RFSI is to create better processing options for local and regional producers across specialty crops, dairy, grain (for food), and other sectors by targeting gaps and opportunities in the pandemic assistance, Food Systems Transformation programs, and existing USDA grant programs that support the agricultural supply chain. Nevada has received \$2,214,973 for this program from USDA AMS. This amount is to be split to support the state through grant funding and technical support to help build resilience in the middle of the supply chain. This program aims to provide better markets to small farms and food businesses, support the development of value-added products for consumers, fair prices, and fair wages; and create new and safe job opportunities. The NDA, in cooperation with USDA, will conduct a competitive solicitation to award approximately \$250,000 in RFSI funds for projects that maintain and improve food and agricultural supply chain resiliency.

Projects should support infrastructure in the middle-of-the-supply-chain for Nevada food and farm businesses and other eligible entities. The food supply chain involves the following stages:

1. Production
2. Processing
3. Aggregation and Distribution
4. Markets and Consumers

Middle-of-the-supply-chain refers to stages 2) Processing and 3) Aggregation and Distribution. This program supports food system crops and products meant for human consumption, excluding meat and poultry products.

During this round of funding, only Simplified Equipment-Only grant awards are being offered.

Simplified Equipment-Only Grant

The Simplified Equipment-Only Grant is for on-site middle-of-the-supply-chain equipment. For example, an awardee can acquire a walk-in cooler or special purpose equipment. The minimum award amount for the Equipment-Only Grants is \$10,000 and the maximum award amount is \$100,000. There is no match required for the Equipment-Only Grants.

This RFA is subject to be amended to consistently align itself with USDA AMS and any new or existing requirements presented by the federal or state government. Questions may be sent to the RFSI Team by emailing RFSI@agri.nv.gov.

Applications are due August 26, 2025, by 3:00 p.m



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Nevada's Tentative RFSI Timeline

Activity	Tentative Date
Application period begins	August 19, 2025
Applications are due	August 26, 2025
Grant proposals sent to USDA for approval	August 31, 2025
Award Announcement & Grant Execution	Fall 2025

Funding Priorities

The funding priorities for Nevada have been established based on feedback from surveys, outreach, and previous data collection. The following priorities have been determined to support the state's agricultural needs:

- Expanded capacity for processing, aggregation, and distribution of agricultural products to create more and improved markets for producers, while following food safety protocols;
- Improvements to infrastructure on farms and within aggregation centers, including: coolers, dry storage areas, and produce wash/pack facilities;
- Construction of a new facility or new buildings at existing facilities;
- Equipment for processing and distribution businesses.

Based on the priorities that have been identified, projects aligned with the needs of the state are encouraged to apply.

How to Apply

Applicants are required to submit their application via email to the RFSI Grant Coordinator at RFSI@agri.nv.gov with the subject line "Simplified Equipment-Only Grant Application_ [last name or entity name]".

Applicants must use the required dynamic PDF template(s) and forms to apply. It is strongly encouraged to include all estimates, bids, or other documentation for the review committee to thoroughly understand direct costs being requested for Simplified Equipment-Only Grants. **For any equipment over \$5,000, applicants are required to submit 3 quotes or bids. Applicants must provide justification for which quote or bid selected. If your equipment is so specialized that three options do not exist, please include a detailed statement with backup documentation justifying and describing this. Only complete applications will be considered.**

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Eligible Entities

Entities eligible for RFSI Grants are listed below:

- Agricultural producers or processors, or groups of agricultural producers and processors
- Nonprofit organizations operating middle-of-the-supply-chain activities
- Local government entities operating middle-of-the-supply-chain activities
- Tribal governments operating middle-of-the-supply-chain activities
- Institutions such as schools, universities, or hospitals bringing producers together to establish cooperative or shared infrastructure or to invest in equipment that will benefit multiple producers' middle-of-the-supply-chain activities.

All applicant businesses, individuals, and/or organizations must be domestically owned, and applicant's facilities must be physically located within Nevada. Middle-of-the-supply-chain activities refers to activities in the processing and/or aggregation and distribution stages. Priority will be given to entities who conduct solely middle-of-the-supply-chain activities. During the application process, a thorough description of the entity and all activities is highly encouraged.

RFSI Activities

As the grant opportunities are extensive, the lists below are not exhaustive to the options that are allowable under this grant. However, they should serve as guidelines of what can be accomplished. To ensure an entity can align themselves with the RFSI Program, please refer to the list below, as it is meant to provide clarity for "middle-of-the-supply-chain" entities and the eligible activities:

- Hiring term-limited personnel to assist with project implementation
- Purchasing special purpose equipment, defined in AMS General Terms and Conditions
- Analyzing potential facility upgrades and changes that meet regulatory requirements, obtaining design or architectural services, etc.
- Planning for Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) or other food safety or worker safety measures or equipment recommendations
- Packaging, including grading, sorting, and labeling
- Processing, canning, preserving, or pasteurizing crops
- Extraction of juice, oil, nut meat, etc. from crops
- Processing crops, such as chopping, washing, peeling, drying, hulling, milling, shelling, etc.
- Creating value-added products via cooking, baking, juicing, fermenting, distilling, processing, etc.
- Processes or activities involving tracking, storage, cold storage, warehouse, and/or distribution of crops and/or products
- Enhancing worker safety and/or education in the above or similar activities
- Modernizing, developing, or expanding equipment or facilities used for the above or similar activities



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- 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, and fermenting

Equipment-Only Grant Activities

Allowable activities under the Equipment-Only Grant include purchasing/renting/leasing and shipping of special purpose equipment to achieve projected outcomes for the entity's proposal. Special purpose equipment must have a technical use and must have a useful life of more than one year.

Equipment is required to be tangible and nonexpendable while being used only for technical activities

that bolster the middle-of—the-supply-chain activities. Equipment that will be used by multiple producers or entities are allowable and must be noted in the application. Examples of special purpose equipment includes, but aren't limited to:

- Canners
- Hulling processors
- Reverse osmosis systems
- Roasters
- Packing and labeling equipment
- Delivery vehicles
- Wash tables

The purchase of general equipment is not allowed under this award. General equipment is considered not technical or specific enough for the use of RFSI program activities, such as general use motor vehicles, office furniture, printers, copiers, and etc.

Equipment must be purchased and funds expended by December 31st, 2025. If necessary, the delivery and installation activities may occur after December 31st, 2025. Awardee is required to communicate the dates of the purchase, delivery and installation of all equipment.

UEI Requirements

All applicants must be registered in the federal system for award management (www.SAM.gov) database and provide a UEI number. To receive a UEI number, visit the following www.SAM.gov to begin the process. All applicants must also have a TIN/EIN (Employer

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Identification Number) or if the applicant is the sole proprietor, a social security number. It is advised to begin the process to register for a UEI as soon as possible.

Evidence of Critical Resources

Evidence of Critical Infrastructure is required if critical resources and/or infrastructure are necessary for the completion of the proposed Infrastructure Grant project. The NDA requires applicants to submit evidence, using the required form, that critical resources and infrastructure necessary to support the initiation and completion of a project are in place. Land, structures, and other critical resources must be in place and in working condition at the time of application submission.

Awardee Requirements

Those who are awarded grant funds under this program must:

- Agree to on-site visits from the RFSI team,
- Respond to communications from the RFSI team or NDA,
- Provide updates on project progress or as requested by the RFSI Team, and
- Submit annual reports using templates provided within the timeframe requested.

RFSI Checklist

- ☐ UEI registration – *Start as soon as possible, as the process can take time*
- ☐ Equipment-Only Application
- ☐ Evidence of Critical Resources Letter
- ☐ Small business size standards verification

Table of Acronyms & Abbreviations

- ☐ AMS – Agricultural Marketing Service
- ☐ BABA - Build America, Buy America Act
- ☐ CEQ - Council on Environmental Quality
- ☐ CFR - Code of Federal Regulations
- ☐ CWA - Clean Water Act
- ☐ EA - Environmental Assessment
- ☐ EIS - Environmental Impact Statement
- ☐ EO - Executive Order
- ☐ EPA - Environmental Protection Agency
- ☐ ESA - Endangered Species Act
- ☐ FONSI - Finding of No Significant Impact
- ☐ MTDC - Modified Total Direct Cost
- ☐ NDA – Nevada Department of Agriculture
- ☐ NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act
- ☐ NICRA - Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement

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- ☐ PEA - Programmatic Environmental Assessment
- ☐ RFA - Request for Application
- ☐ RFSI - Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure
- ☐ ROD - Record of Decision