



# **RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM**

**LISTENING SESSION, JULY 21, 2023**



The purpose of the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program (RFSI) is to develop and administer state coordinated initiatives to build resilience across the middle of the State's food supply chain for food crops (including aquaculture).

*Program is not for meat, poultry or wild-caught fish.*

Funds will support expanded capacity for the aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, and distribution of locally and regionally produced food products.



- MDA will work in partnership with USDA to make competitive subaward investments in middle of the supply chain infrastructure (Infrastructure Grants) to domestic food and farm businesses and other eligible entities.
- MDA has been awarded \$3.8 million for this program.
- MDA will submit a State Plan to USDA by August 23.
- Funded projects must be completed before May 24, 2027.





- Infrastructure Grant 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 businesses such as 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.

## Can be used for ...

- Expanding capacity for processing, aggregation and distribution of agricultural products to create more and better markets for producers.
- Modernizing manufacturing, tracking, storage, and information technology systems.
- Enhancing worker safety through adoption of new technologies or investment in equipment or facility improvements.
- Improving the capacity of entities to comply with federal, state, and local food safety requirements.
- Improving operations through training opportunities.



## Con't...

- Modernizing or expanding 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.
- Supporting construction of a new facility.
- Modernizing processing and manufacturing equipment; and
- Developing, customizing, or installing equipment that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, increases efficiency in water use, improves air and/or water quality.



**What should our priorities be?**

Online, give your comments through: <https://bit.ly/44nUyvP>.



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**THANK YOU!**