



# RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM



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Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands

# RFSI PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- CFVI will subaward \$1.5 million to build resilience in the middle of the supply chain and strengthen local and regional food systems by creating new revenue streams for our producers.
- CFVI will work in partnership with USDA to subaward competitive infrastructure grants to food and farm businesses and other eligible entities.



# RFSI PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- The purpose is to make competitive grants for projects to expand capacity and infrastructure for the **aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, or distribution** of targeted local agricultural products.
- This program is intended to support food system crops and products meant for human consumption, including specialty crops, dairy, and grains for human consumption.
- Ineligible products include meat and poultry products, wild-caught seafood, animal feed and forage products, fiber, landscaping products, tobacco, and dietary supplements.



# MIDDLE OF THE FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

- USDA defines the middle of the food supply chain as activities that take place after the production of the agricultural product but before the product is sold to consumers.
- These activities include the processing, aggregation, and distribution of agricultural products between leaving the field and entering the marketplace.
- Therefore, grant funds cannot be used for cultivation, harvest, or retail marketing of eligible food products.



# FUNDING PRIORITIES

Encourage projects that benefit:

- Underserved farmers and ranchers
- New and beginning farmers and ranchers
- Veteran producers
- Processors and other middle of the supply chain businesses owned by socially disadvantaged individuals

CFVI will prioritize funding projects that:

- Expand capacity for processing, aggregation and distribution of agricultural products to create more and better markets for producers;
- Improve the capacity of entities to comply with federal, state, and local food safety requirements;
- Improve operations through training opportunities; and
- Modernize processing and manufacturing equipment



# ELIGIBLE APPLICANT TYPES

- Agricultural producers or processors
- Nonprofit organizations
- For-profit entities that meet the eligibility requirements of SBA's small business size standards
- Local government entities
- Tribal governments
- 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



# INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

- Infrastructure Grants will range in value from a minimum award of \$100,000 and a maximum award of \$500,000.
- Infrastructure Grant recipients are required to contribute 50% of the total proposed project cost as a match to federal funding.
- Historically underserved farmers and ranchers or other businesses that qualify under SBA categories of small, disadvantaged business, women-owned small business, or veteran-owned small business qualify for a reduced match of 25% of the total proposed project cost.
- Matching funds can be cash and/or in-kind contributions.



# INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROJECT TYPES

- 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
- 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
- Increasing storage space, including cold storage
- Develop, customize, or install climate-smart equipment
- Modernize equipment or facilities to ensure food safety





# SIMPLIFIED EQUIPMENT-ONLY GRANTS

- Simplified Equipment-Only Grants will range in value from a minimum award of \$10,000 and a maximum award of \$100,000 and do not require cost sharing or matching.
- This grant is a fixed price grant, meaning it will fund only equipment purchases.
- The amount awarded will be equal to the cost of the equipment up to \$100,000.
- Applicants must submit documentation to substantiate the cost of each piece of equipment listed on their application.
- The cost of delivery and installation can be covered by the grant if they are listed in the official bid.



# APPLICATION PROCESS

- The application window will be open from October 21st to 5 pm VI Local Time on December 5th, 2024.
- Application documents are PDF documents and must be submitted via email along with supporting documentation to [rfsi@cfvi.net](mailto:rfsi@cfvi.net)
- All applicants are required to have a Unique Entity ID (UEI) through SAM.gov so please start that process now.



# COMPETITIVE REVIEW PROCESS

- RFSI program grants will be awarded through a competitive review process.
- This will include the following steps:
  - Internal eligibility review by CFVI staff.
  - External review by an external review committee.
  - Final federal approval by USDA Review Board.
- Funds will be awarded no earlier than March 1, 2025. Program must be finished and all funds spent by December 31, 2026.



# QUESTIONS?

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