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Commissioner

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Department of
Natural Resources

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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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Alaskans Can Apply for Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Grants

(Palmer, AK) – Alaska’s food supply chain will be strengthened with \$2.2 million in grants available through the USDA’s Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) program. The RFSI program assists U.S. states and territories in building resiliency in the middle of the food supply chain by strengthening local and regional food systems, creating more diverse local and regional market options, increasing economic opportunities for communities, and opening new revenue streams for producers.

DNR’s Division of Agriculture will award competitive grants to support expanded capacity for the aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, and distribution of locally produced food products. Eligible products include specialty crops for human food consumption, dairy, grains for human consumption, aquaculture, and other food products. (Meat, poultry, wild caught seafood, animal feed, floriculture, and hemp are excluded from this program but may qualify for [other Division of Agriculture grant opportunities](#)). An emphasis will be made to fund projects that benefit historically underserved farmers and ranchers, as well as businesses that qualify under Small Business Association (SBA) categories of small, disadvantaged businesses, women-owned small businesses, and veteran-owned small businesses.

The application period for RFSI grants is open from Jan. 15, 2024, to 5pm on March 15, 2024. For detailed information, including the Request for Proposals and application documents, go to the Division of Agriculture’s [RFSI Grant Page](#).

Two types of projects are available under the RFSI grant program:

- **Simplified Equipment Only Grants:** \$10,000 - \$100,000 for equipment only purchases. The Simplified Equipment Only option is a fixed price grant, and the awarded amount will be equal to the cost of the equipment up to \$100,000. No match will be required.
- **Infrastructure Grants:** \$100,000 - \$1,000,000. Infrastructure grantees will be required to contribute 50% of the total proposed project costs as a match to federal funding unless they qualify for reduced matching funds under SBA categories of small, disadvantaged businesses and historically underserved farmers and ranchers.

“We would like to thank our partner USDA Agricultural Marketing Service for this grant opportunity as food security is critical in Alaska,” said Division of Agriculture Director Bryan Scoresby. “These funds will be available to provide our small to mid-size agriculture and food processors with essential infrastructure like increasing processing capacity, purchasing new

equipment, expanding current facilities, and improving storage. Alaska needs this infrastructure now more than ever as our agriculture production continues to grow and put more food on Alaskan tables.”

The RFSI program is targeted specifically for processing and aggregation/distribution stages of the food supply chain. Production activities are not eligible.

Questions from the public can be submitted to dnr.scbg@alaska.gov with “RFSI Grant” in the subject line.

Media Contact: Amanda Swanson, dnr.ag.grants@alaska.gov with “media inquiry” in subject line; 907-761-3885

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