



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER SID MILLER



Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program (RFSI)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The RFSI program will offer two grant types, Equipment-Only and Infrastructure grants, to eligible entities to support the expanded capacity for the aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, and distribution of locally and regionally produced food products, including specialty crops, dairy, grains for human consumption, aquaculture, and other food products, excluding meat and poultry.

Q: CAN AN APPLICANT APPLY FOR BOTH AN INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT AND AN EQUIPMENT-ONLY GRANT?

A: No. Applicants can only apply for either an Infrastructure Grant or an Equipment-Only Grant but cannot apply for both. Submission of two applications, one for each grant type, will result in the disqualification of both submitted applications.

Q: CAN FUNDS BE USED FOR FARM PRODUCTION RELATED ACTIVITIES?

A: No. RFSI award funds cannot be used for agricultural production activities or costs including farm equipment, tools, or supplies to produce food products. Agricultural production related labor or training is also ineligible.

Q: IF AWARDED, DO I / WE GET ALL THE FUNDS UPFRONT?

A: No. RFSI award funds will be issued to grantees on a cost-reimbursement basis, meaning the grantee must pay for the grant project expenses on their own, and then submit an invoice(s) and proof of payment to TDA, before the agency will issue the award funds as a reimbursement to the grantee.

Q: IF AWARDED, CAN THE GRANT COVER PROJECT COSTS INCURRED BEFORE RECEIVING THE AWARD?

A: No. Pre-award cost(s) will not be allowed. If awarded, only cost(s) incurred within the project time-frame stated on the executed contract between TDA and the awardee will be allowed.

Q: WHERE CAN I FIND USDA'S GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS?

A: You can use the link provided here: [USDA-AMS General Terms and Conditions](#).



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Continued

Q: CAN I USE RFSI FUNDS TO PURCHASE LAND OR BUILDINGS?

A: No. It is unallowable to use RFSI grant funds for the acquisition of buildings/facilities or land.

Q: CAN I USE RFSI FUNDS TO RENT/LEASE THE FOLLOWING?

A: - Land: No.

- Buildings/facilities: Yes, as long as it is not "Rent/Lease to Own." Rent/Lease to Own is not allowed.

- Equipment: Yes.

Q: WHAT CAN BE CONSIDERED IN-KIND MATCH?

A: - Land value or value of rental/lease of land: No.

- Staff personnel time/labor: Yes.

- Value of donated building/facilities: Yes.

- Value of rental/lease of building/facilities: Yes, as long as it is not "Lease to Own."

- Value of equipment rental: Yes, as long as the equipment is related to the proposed project and necessary to conduct project activities.

Q: HOW ARE RFSI FUNDS SUBJECTED TO THE "BUILD AMERICA, BUY AMERICA (BABA) PROVISION?

A: Equipment-Only Grants: BABA does not apply.

Infrastructure Grants: - Projects under \$250,000 in total: BABA does not apply.

- Eligible For-profit Entities: BABA does not apply

- All Other Eligible Entities with a Total Project Cost Over \$250,000: **BABA applies**

See more information about the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#).

Q: WILL RFSI FUNDS BE SUBJECTED TO AN ENVIRONMENT REVIEW?

A: Yes. If selected for an award, applicants must provide all requested information to support compliance with NEPA, NHPA, ESA, and all other federal environmental laws and regulations. **Resource:** [A Citizen's Guide to NEPA \(doe.gov\)](#)

Q: CAN FUNDS BE USED TO CONDUCT RESEARCH OR FEASIBILITY STUDIES?

A: No. RFSI award funds cannot be used to conduct research or feasibility studies

Q: WILL THE RFSI PROGRAM OFFER PLANNING GRANTS?

A: No. The RFSI program seeks to fund project proposals that are prepared for direct implementation regarding both the Equipment-Only grant type and the Infrastructure grant type

More info: Visit <https://www.texasagriculture.gov/RFSI> or contact FoodSystems@TexasAgriculture.gov.