



## **Course Outline**

# **Overview of Available RFSI Grants**

Course Outline – Overview of Available RFSI Grants

<b>Course name</b>	Overview of Available RFSI Grants
<b>Length</b>	3-5 pages; 3-5 minutes
<b>Product type</b>	Job Aid and Video
<b>Audience</b>	Agricultural Producers applying for an RFSI grant
<b>Source documents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Program Guidelines</a></li> </ul>
<b>Learning Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define the RFSI Program purpose and priorities.</li> <li>• Provide an overview of the RFSI Infrastructure Grant</li> <li>• Provide an overview of the RFSI Equipment-Only Grant</li> </ul>
<b>Topics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RFSI Program purpose and priorities</li> <li>• RFSI Infrastructure Grant overview</li> <li>• RFSI Equipment-Only overview</li> </ul>

Topic	Description/ Coverage	Strategy	Source
Introduction	Document overview	<p>The purpose of this document is to provide an understanding of the RFSI program and an overview of the available grants.</p> <p>In this document, we will cover the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RFSI Program purpose and priorities</li> <li>• RFSI Infrastructure Grant overview</li> <li>• RFSI Equipment-Only overview</li> </ul>	
Learning Objectives	Introduce the learning objectives	<p>By the end of the training, the applicant should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the RFSI Program purpose.</li> <li>• Explain the details and use cases for the RFSI Infrastructure Grant.</li> <li>• Explain the details and use cases for the RFSI Equipment-Only Grant.</li> <li>• Identify which RFSI Grant best suits their needs</li> </ul>	
Topic 1: RFSI Program purpose and priorities	Briefly explain the RFSI program and provide an overview of the program's priorities	<p>The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agriculture Marketing Services (AMS), is entering into cooperative agreement with Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) for the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program Cooperative Agreements (RFSI).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The purpose of the Michigan RFSI program is to build resilience in the middle-of-the-food-supply-chain and strengthen local and regional food systems by creating new revenue streams for Michigan producers.</li> <li>• RFSI investments aim to create a food systems infrastructure to support competitive and profitable market access for domestic farm products.</li> <li>• RFSI targets crucial parts of the agricultural supply chain to address gaps in existing pandemic assistance, Food Systems Transformation (FST) programs, and other USDA programs. The primary goal of RFSI is to support food system crops and products meant for human consumption (excluding meat and poultry products, which are funded</li> </ul>	

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		<p>through other USDA programs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are two types of grants, Infrastructure Grants and Equipment Only Grants. An applicant can <b>only</b> apply for one type of grant.</li> <li>• This document provides general information about the program and available grants. To better understand if you qualify, please visit the following training on eligibility:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ RFSI Grant Eligibility Guidance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p>Topic 2: RFSI Infrastructure Grant overview</p>	<p>Provide overview of the RFSI Infrastructure Grant</p>	<p>Infrastructure Grants will be awarded to offer market opportunities and new streams of revenue to small and mid-sized agricultural producers, including those who may not have access to value-added opportunities or processing to meet market demand for premium or value-added products, such as underserved producers.</p> <p>The Infrastructure Grant will range in value with a maximum amount of \$475,000 per applicant.</p> <p>The USDA intends for RFSI program to focus funding Infrastructure Grant activities that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand capacity for processing, aggregation, and distribution of agricultural products to create more and better markets for producers;</li> <li>• Modernize manufacturing, tracking, storage, and information technology systems;</li> <li>• Enhance worker safety through adoption of new technologies or investment in equipment or facility improvements;</li> <li>• Improve the capacity of entities to comply with federal, state, and local food safety requirements;</li> <li>• Improve operations through training opportunities;</li> <li>• Support construction of a new facility;</li> <li>• Modernize or expand an existing facility (including expansion and modifications to existing buildings and/or construction of new buildings at existing facilities);</li> <li>• Construction of wastewater management structures, etc.;</li> <li>• Modernize processing and manufacturing equipment; and</li> <li>• Develop, customize, or install equipment that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, increases efficiency in water use, improves air and/or water quality, and/or meets one or more of USDA’s climate action goals.</li> </ul> <p>Based on stakeholder feedback, MDARD has identified program priorities within Michigan and will prioritize funding projects that address building a more resilient food system across the state. The review panel will evaluate projects based on criteria. <b>To see a full list of priorities, please review the Program Guidelines.</b></p> <p>To learn more about applying for the RFSI Infrastructure grant, visit [insert link to training].</p>	

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Topic 3: RFSI Equipment- Only Grant overview	Provide overview of the RFSI Equipment- Only Grant	<p>Equipment-Only grants will be awarded for the purpose of supporting agricultural producers' equipment needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Equipment Only Grant has a maximum award amount of \$100,000 per applicant for equipment purchases only as it is a Fixed Price Grant.</li> <li>• No match is required for this grant type.</li> <li>• Applications must include the scope of the project, how it aligns with the program goals and priorities, an estimated increase in production, and who will benefit from the overall project.</li> <li>• Applicants must attach documentation to substantiate the costs of each piece of equipment (contracts, catalog pricing, or binding quotes).</li> <li>• To learn more about applying for the RFSI Equipment-Only grant, visit [insert link to training].</li> </ul>	
Scenarios	Provide examples of cases for when it would be applicable to apply for each type of grant	<p><b>Note:</b> These scenarios will be developed in more detail and included in the job aid reviews.</p> <p><b>Equipment Only</b> - <i>ABC Orchards is a processor and they want to expand their processing line. They are looking to do so with a new piece of equipment that costs \$80,000.</i></p> <p><b>Infrastructure</b> - <i>RST Vineyards is going to be putting in a new production facility that costs \$1.5 million. They have contractors and multiple phases of the project making this a long-term project.</i></p> <p><b>Middle</b> - <i>Company XYZ is adding equipment or cold storage (\$250k) and they need to examine grant requirements to determine which grant is the best fit.</i></p>	
Summary	Summarize the training and provide next steps on additional resources	<p>Now that you have a better understanding of the purpose of the RFSI program and each of the grants that are available, complete the trainings below to learn more about eligibility, compliance, navigating the MiAgGrants system, and accessing and completing an RFSI grant application online:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Navigating the MiAgGrants Grant Management System</li> <li>○ RFSI Grant Eligibility Guidance</li> <li>○ Understanding RFSI Grant Compliance</li> <li>○ Applying for the RFSI Equipment-Only Grant</li> <li>○ Applying for the Infrastructure Grant</li> <li>○ Applying for the RFSI Grant – Financial Support and Match Requirements</li> <li>○ Applying for the RFSI Infrastructure Grant - Environmental</li> </ul>	