



The Northeast Regional Food Business Center is one of 12 Regional Food Business Centers selected by the USDA. RFBCs will support a more diverse and competitive food system, with a strong emphasis on building equity and community resiliency through targeted outreach to underserved farmers, ranchers, and food businesses.

These Centers will leverage \$30 million in funding to support producers by providing localized assistance to local and regional supply chains, including linking producers to wholesalers and distributors. They will also provide technical assistance needed to access federal, state, and local new markets and resources, along with assisting small- and mid-sized producers in overcoming barriers to market access.

Lead Partners and Roles

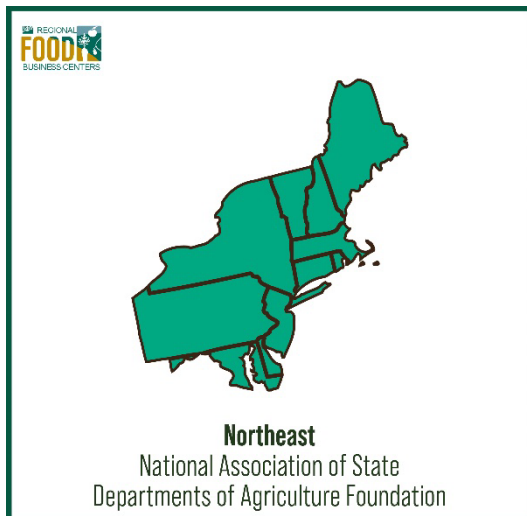
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Foundation: Grant administrator; project facilitator; fiduciary liaison with USDA staff.

Buffalo Go-Green: Lead and coordinate stakeholder outreach efforts to BIPOC-led organizations serving producers and food businesses in the Northeast.

Center for Regional Economic Advancement (CREA) at Cornell University: Develop virtual “home” of the Northeast Center; lead and coordinate technical assistance and business development resources.

New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets: Facilitate communication and outreach, and assist NASDA Foundation with coordination among State Departments of Agriculture.

Collaborating State Departments of Agriculture



- Connecticut
- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New York
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- Vermont

Funding Types

Awards to Technical Assistance Providers (up to \$75,000)

Technical Assistance Sub-Awards will be available for technical assistance providers to offer guidance to local producers and food and farm businesses on supply chain coordination, market development, accessing financial resources, and a variety of other business assistance training. Technical assistance provider applicants that have a history of serving underinvested communities will be prioritized, with an emphasis on those that have experience in tailoring support to individual needs and to the unique Northeast regional food systems.

Business Builder Awards (up to \$100,000)

Business Builder Awards will be targeted toward small and mid-sized food and farm businesses that are seeking support in access to capital, supply chain coordination, and similar barriers to expansion. Eligible uses of grant funding include but will not be limited to: staffing, strategic planning, marketing and outreach, business development, supply chain analysis, and equipment.

Next Steps for Sub-Awardee Applicants

The application cycle will be open for technical assistance sub-awards from July 2024 to January 2025, and for business builder sub-awards from January 2025 to June 2025. An equitable distribution of funds across states and sub-regions in the Northeast will be prioritized during the sub-award application review process. Prior to applications opening, those interested in receiving funding may begin gathering materials, clarifying challenges and need in their respective geographic and impact areas, considering organization structures and potential partnerships, and identifying prospective intervention strategies.

Resources & Outreach

The Northeast Regional Food Business Center is hosting a series of panels, workshops, and informational sessions as an opportunity to provide project updates and offer more information on funding opportunities. Our team will also be launching a newsletter and social media campaign to spread awareness of our projects and keep interested parties informed of the application timeline.

Sub-awardee seekers will be welcome to contact the Northeast Regional Food Business Center with questions or to solicit guidance on completing the application process. The Center for Regional Economic Advancement (CREA) at Cornell University will also act as a business and training hub by connecting sub-awardees to regional experts, technical assistance providers, and other sources of financial assistance.

Long-Term Impact and Legacy

One of the central objectives of the Regional Food Business Centers is to establish trust between producers, communities, and regional-based organizations through direct support, outreach, and acting as a hub of resources and information-sharing. To that end, our team is committed to maintaining strong relationships with the sub-awardees following the end of project funding. Our lead partners will also serve as a resource in directing awardees to new sources of funding.

Contact

- Visit our website to learn more: <https://nasda.org/foundation/nerfbc>.
- Contact NortheastRFBC@nasda.org with any questions, comments, or feedback.