

# Rhode Island



The potential to grow and make innovative products in rural America is limitless. Since 2009, the Obama Administration has made targeted investments to help rural businesses grow. Through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s projects in affordable housing, energy efficiency, roads and bridges, and internet access, coupled with loans and grants for rural businesses, the Administration has helped to attract and retain a talented rural labor force, improve connectivity and access to information, move products to market, and make rural communities competitive—**ultimately supporting strong local economies and expanded opportunity for rural Rhode Islanders.**

## SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL

In Rhode Island, USDA is partnering with New Urban Farmers and the Pawtucket Housing Authority to promote fruits and vegetables and help address the obesity epidemic by providing hands-on demonstrations and workshops, a mobile market and community garden.

Local food sales were valued at \$11.7 billion in 2014. In Rhode Island, USDA has invested in 184 local food projects, helping to develop food hubs, small-scale processing, farmers markets and other market opportunities in local food.



### SUPPORT FOR RURAL BUSINESSES

USDA has made investments to help **14 rural businesses in Rhode Island thrive and grow.**

USDA investments in everything from advanced biofuels manufacturing facilities to food hubs help businesses, many of them small, capitalize on emerging markets for rural-made products. **In rural America, small businesses support one in three jobs.**



### RENEWING RURAL MANUFACTURING

The rural economy includes more than products that come from farms. USDA has invested **\$108,682** to help rural manufacturers in **Rhode Island** increase production and capacity.



### GROWING EXPORTS

In 2013, exports of farm and ranch products alone contributed **\$34.5 million** to **Rhode Island’s** economy.

The President’s Made In Rural America initiative helps rural businesses capitalize on demand for American-made products and identify ways they can participate in global markets.



### HOUSING

Access to safe, affordable housing is critical to maintaining the rural labor force. USDA has helped **1,101 Rhode Island families** purchase or repair homes.



### WATER

USDA has invested **\$28.7 million** to support efficient water supply, treatment and storage facilities, and wastewater treatment systems. That investment has **improved the health of thousands of rural Rhode Islanders** who now have access to clean water and reliable sanitation.