

Northeast Regional Food Business Center

OCTOBER 3, 2023 WEBINAR



Agenda

- 01 Introduction
- 02 Partnerships
- 03 Project Overview
- 04 Project Updates
- 05 Projected Timeline
- 06 Questions



USDA REGIONAL FOOD BUSINESS CENTERS

The **USDA Regional Food Business Centers** are established to drive economic opportunities across their region, creating a more diversified and resilient food system.



Coordination - Act as regional hubs coordinating across geographic areas with USDA, other government agencies, regional commissions, and other Regional Food Centers.



Technical Assistance - Provide business technical assistance to small- and mid-sized food and farm businesses, along with food value and supply chain coordination.



Capacity Building - Provide financial assistance to support projects focused on emerging regional needs and businesses that are working towards expansion.

NORTHEAST REGIONAL FOOD BUSINESS CENTER

Regions of Focus

Mid-Atlantic

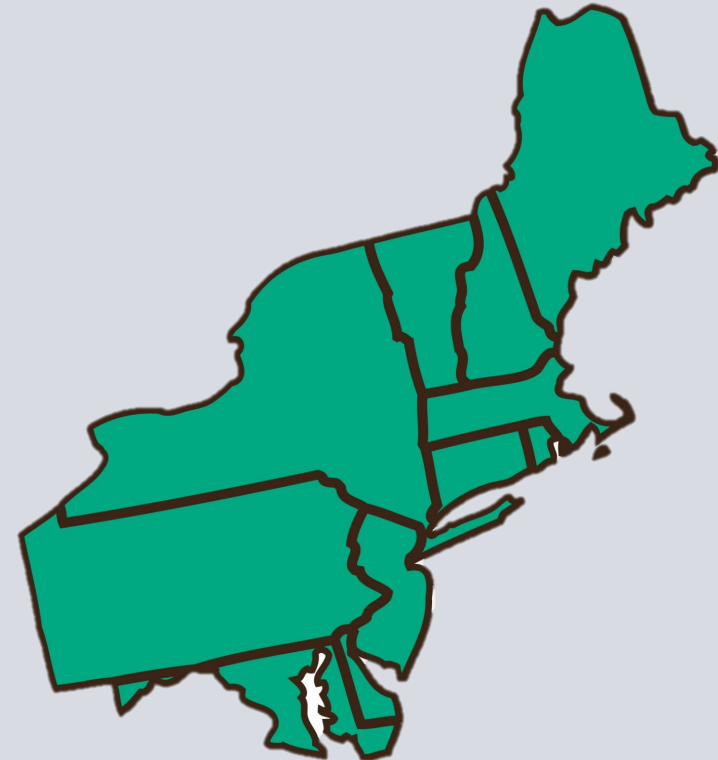
New Jersey
New York
Pennsylvania

South Atlantic

Delaware
District of Columbia
Maryland

New England

Connecticut
Maine
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
Rhode Island
Vermont



CORE TEAM

NASDA Foundation

Grant administrator; project lead; 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 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.

● PRIORITIES FOR CENTER WORK

1

Address the regional diversity of the northeast (agriculture, people, etc.) with a focus on community needs

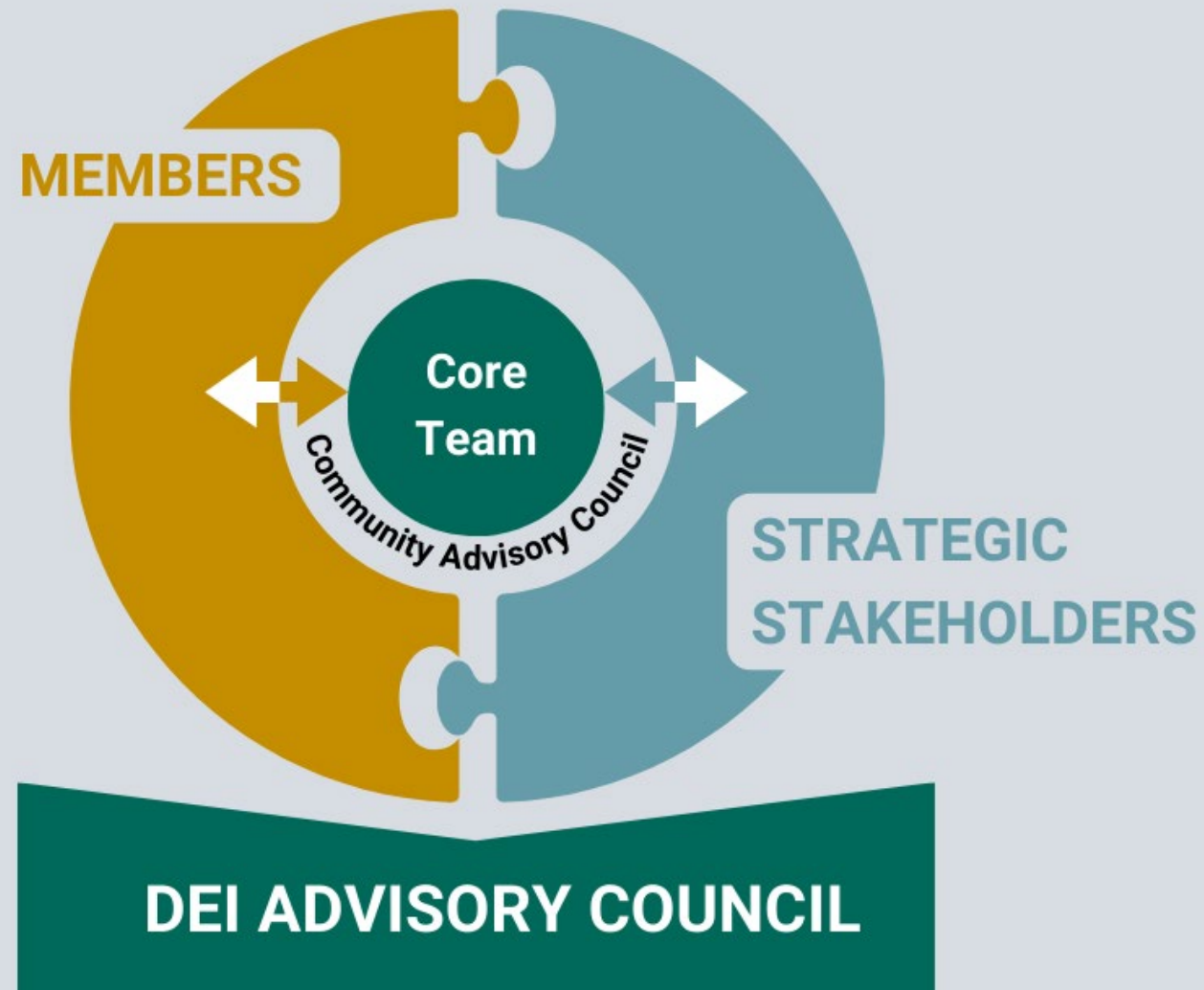
2

Ensure broad collaboration and phased execution to build a growth infrastructure mindset

3

Develop a clear and regular communications cadence that enhances all audiences

● COLLABORATIVE STRUCTURE



● COLLABORATIVE GROUPS

DEI Advisory Council	Community Advisory Council	Members	Strategic Stakeholders
<p>Identifies and addresses emerging opportunities for the inclusion of underinvested communities throughout program planning and implementation processes.</p>	<p>Provides technical advice and critical thinking from various regions and industries within the Northeast food and ag sector to enhance program success and sustainability.</p>	<p>Provide recommendations and engagement opportunities from a state-specific perspective.</p>	<p>Engage as desired by providing guidance, perspective, and connections.</p>

● TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDER AWARDS



Mid 2024 – Early 2025

~ 90 awards; max. \$75,000

Subawards to Technical Assistance providers - offer **guidance** to local producers and food and farm businesses

- supply chain coordination
- market development
- financial resources

BUSINESS BUILDER AWARDS



Early 2025 – Mid 2025

~ 160 awards; max. \$100,000

Business Builder Awards - direct funding source for small and mid-sized food and farm businesses

- Support access to capital, supply chain coordination, and similar barriers to expansion
- Examples: staffing, strategic planning, marketing and outreach, business development , supply chain, and equipment

● PROJECT UPDATES

Onboarding, Administration & Planning

- Drafted a 5-year work plan
- Participating in USDA onboarding's process.
- Expanded NASDA Foundation team with Communications and Grant Coordinators.
- Recruiting DEI consultant / strategic facilitator

Communications & Partnerships

- Developed public-facing website.
- Working to stand-up collaborative structure.
- Hosting or attending outreach webinars, information sessions, and conferences.

TIMELINE

DATES	ACTIVITY/TASK
Year 1	Action Items <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drafting a full communication plan, an equitable collaborative structure, and a strategic plan for soliciting input from State Departments of Agriculture and other stakeholders.• Inviting and “standing up” the collaborative structure and Community Advisory Council.• Engagement of Strategic Stakeholders, States and Advisory Councils to solicit input on grant programs and NERFBC business development resource hub
Year 2	Technical Assistance Subaward Programming (mid 2024 – early 2025) Business Builder Subaward Programming (early 2025 – mid 2025)
Years 3-4	Continuing to disburse subaward funds, establishing sustainable and long-term supply chain information hubs, and coordinating with other Regional Food Business Centers.
Year 5	Emphasizing project sustainability through network-building, resource-sharing, and open channels of communication.

OUTREACH EVENTS

2023

Oct.
20-23

Black Urban Growers Conference
Philadelphia, PA

Nov.
12

AMS Ag Marketing Summit
Washington, DC

Nov.
14-15

GrowNY Summit
Binghamton, NY

Nov.
16-17

Vermont Farm to Plate Annual Gathering
Killington, VT

2024

Jan.
6-13

Pennsylvania Farm Show
Harrisburg, PA

Jan.
9

Maryland's Best Expo
Annapolis, MD

Jan.
9

UConn Vegetable & Small Fruit Conference
Storrs, CT

Jan.
15-18

Delaware Agriculture Week
DE State Fairgrounds

● ENGAGEMENT + NEXT STEPS

Get Involved

If you or your organization is interested in joining our Center as a stakeholder, email: northeastrfbc@nasda.org

Outreach Events

Join us at one of the outreach events we're attending in the upcoming months, or tell us about an outreach event that our team should participate in.

Learn More

If you want to learn more about the NE RFBC, visit our website: nasda.org/foundation/northeastrfbc

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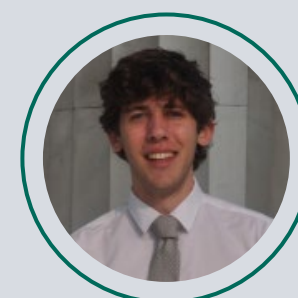
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