



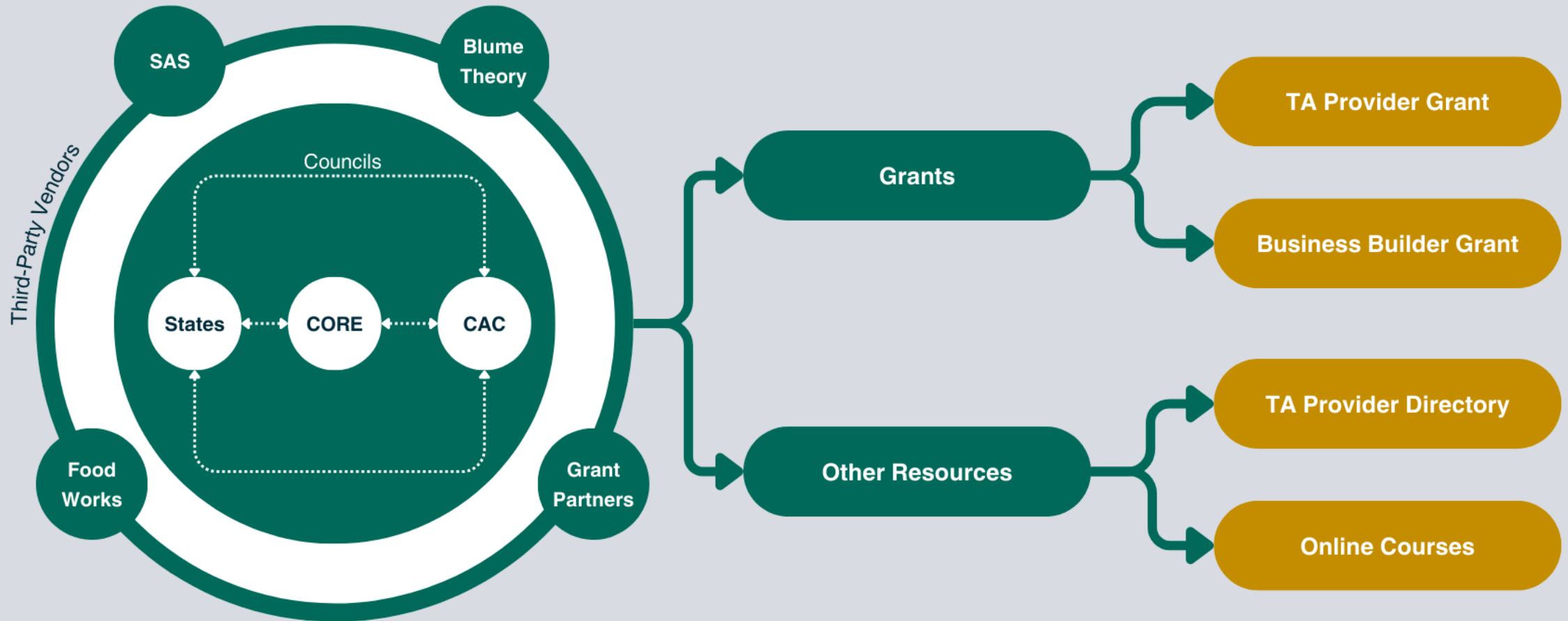
BUSINESS BUILDER APPLICATION LAUNCH



● RFBC Program Summary

- In September 2022, USDA announced \$400 million to fund the USDA Regional Food Business Center initiative.
- In May 2023, 12 organizations were selected to lead efforts in their region and serve all areas of the country.
- The USDA Regional Food Business Centers support producers by providing technical assistance and capacity building to farms and food businesses to increase their viability and access a variety of local and regional markets.
- By strengthening connections between rural and urban areas, the Regional Food Business Centers will drive economic opportunities across the regions, creating a more diversified and resilient food system.

About The Northeast Regional Food Business Center



● Center Objectives



Network
Building



Supporting
Technical
Assistance



Capacity
Building



Program
Sustainability

● Timeline: Business Builder Applications

February 24: Applications Open

March 3-27: Informational Sessions

April 7: Applications Close

July: Announcement of Sub-Awards

August: Projects Commence

● Funding Tracks



Track 1: Equipment



Track 2: Business Development



Track 3: Product & Market Expansion

● Track 1: Equipment

Purpose: Backing the purchase of special-purchase equipment for post-harvest activities (farm gate/landing to table), including processing, storage and transportation to market

ALLOWABLE EXPENSES

Special-purchase equipment and associated technical assistance or maintenance.

AMOUNT

\$25,000 - \$50,000

ELIGIBILITY

Farm and food businesses, including aquaculture and wild-caught marine businesses with \$350,000 or less in annual sales

DURATION

Projects must be completed by August 31, 2027

● Project Examples

- Wash-and-pack stations
- Refrigerated vans
- Food safety upgrades
- Cold storage units
- Processing equipment and appliances
- Associated installation and maintenance

* The provided examples are offered for illustrative purposes and do not constitute an exhaustive list.

● Funding Tracks



Track 1: Equipment



Track 2: Business Development



Track 3: Product & Market Expansion

● Track 2: Business Development

Purpose: Supporting business financial acumen and industry knowledge

ALLOWABLE EXPENSES

Business technical assistance or training

AMOUNT

\$15,000 - \$25,000

ELIGIBILITY

Farm and food businesses, including aquaculture and wild-caught marine businesses with \$350,000 or less in annual sales

DURATION

Projects must be completed by August 31, 2027

● Project Examples

- Strategy development
- Supply chain analysis
- Food safety training
- Value chain coordination
- Workforce development

* The provided examples are offered for illustrative purposes and do not constitute an exhaustive list.

● Funding Tracks



Track 1: Equipment



Track 2: Business Development



Track 3: Product & Market Expansion

● Track 3: Product & Market Expansion

Purpose: Assisting businesses in expansion through new products, broader markets and wider distribution

ALLOWABLE EXPENSES

Special-purchase equipment & business technical assistance or training

AMOUNT

\$50,000 - \$100,000

ELIGIBILITY

Farm and food businesses, including aquaculture and wild-caught marine businesses with \$1M or less in annual sales

DURATION

Projects must be completed by August 31, 2027

● Project Examples

- Market analysis
- Packaging supplies
- Kitchen appliances
- Product development
- Software implementation
- Staff time

* The provided examples are offered for illustrative purposes and do not constitute an exhaustive list.

● Funding Tracks

	Track 1 Equipment	Track 2 Business Development	Track 3 Product & Market Expansion
Purpose	Backing the purchase of equipment for post-harvest activities, from processing to market	Supporting business financial acumen and industry know-how	Assisting businesses in expansion through new products, broader markets and wider distribution
Allowable Expenses	Special-purpose equipment and associated technical assistance or maintenance.	Business technical assistance or training	Special-purpose equipment & business technical assistance or training.
Amount	\$25,000 - \$50,000	\$15,000 - \$25,000	\$50,000 - \$100,000
Eligibility	Farm and food businesses with \$350,000 or less in annual sales		Farm and food businesses with \$1M or less in annual sales
Duration	Projects must be completed by August 31, 2027		

● Not Allowable Funding Uses

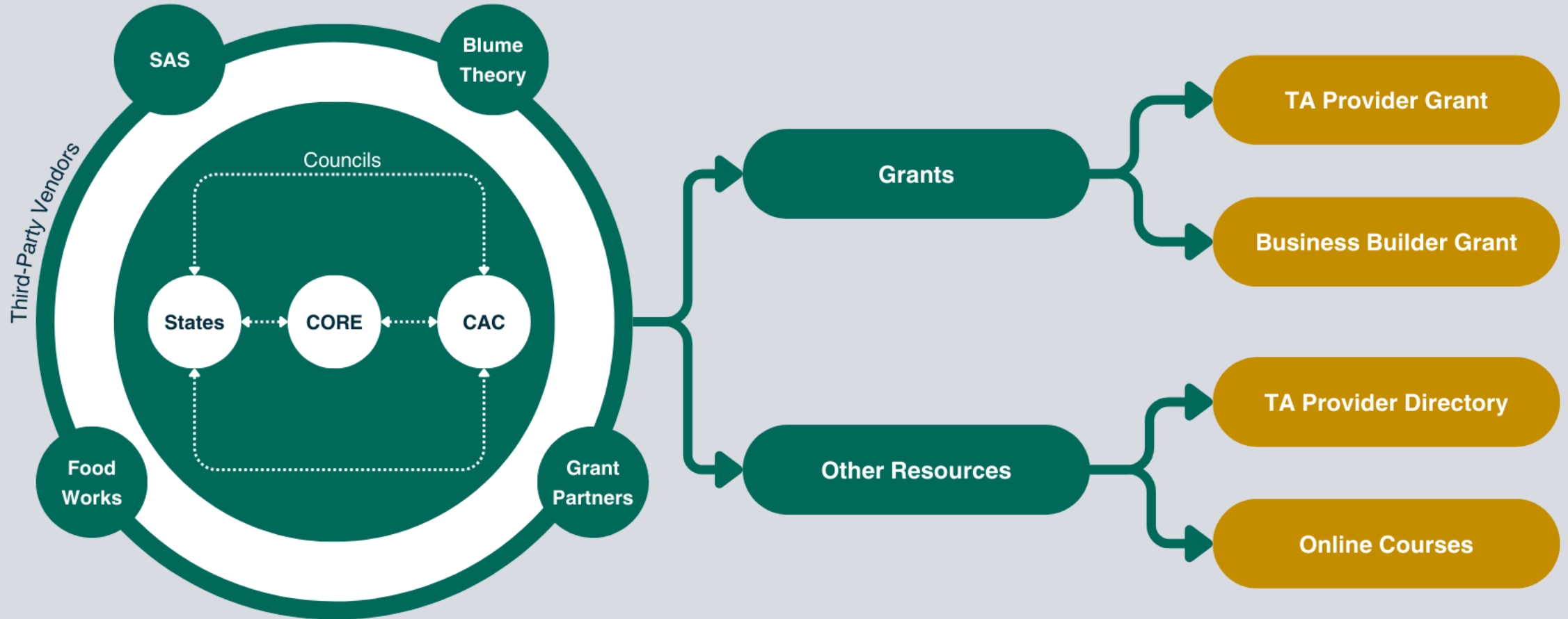
- Purchasing land, buildings or real estate
- Construction, demolition or major rehabilitation of any building, structure or land
- General purpose or non-specialized equipment such as office furnishings, motor vehicles including tractors, trucks or trailers
- Production-related costs such as seeds, fertilizer or other production inputs

• Resources to Help You Apply

- Webinar Recording
- Request for Application (RFA)
- Application Checklist
- Obtain a Unique Entity ID (UEI)
- Scoring Rubric
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Information Sessions
- USDA AMS Regional Food Business Centers Program
- USDA AMS Terms & Conditions
- Community Hub - Technical Assistance Directory
- General Inquiries: NortheastRFBC@nasda.org
- Subscribe to Regional Food Business Center Newsletter



Community Hub



By connecting food producers with TAPs and providing free business development training, NERFBC's community hub will:



Amplify and promote TA providers



Help farms and food businesses succeed



Increase excellence of the Center



Ensure growth, resiliency, and sustainability in the region

● Community Hub Portal



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Northeast Regional Food Business Center

The Northeast Regional Food Business Center provides sustainable and equitable regional network coordination and localized business support to grow farm and food businesses throughout the Northeast. We envision a resilient Northeast food system with informed and connected networks, viable businesses, and accessible markets that strengthens communities and economies.

The Northeast Regional Food Business Center aims to:



Coordinate a regional network of Northeast system partners and connect with other Regional Food Business Centers nationwide.



Increase the amount and diversity of regionally grown products and food businesses by providing technical assistance and financial support.




Increase the capacity of regional supply chains to identify, procure, aggregate, market and distribute products to major Northeast markets.



Build sustainability into the Regional Food Business Center activities to ensure continued growth and resiliency.



● Technical Assistance Provider Directory



Northeast USDA Regional Food Business Center Directory

Services

Keyword

Location

Search Radius

Tip: Leave location field blank to search the entire Northeast region, or add a location (city, state, or zip code) and adjust the search radius to search by proximity.

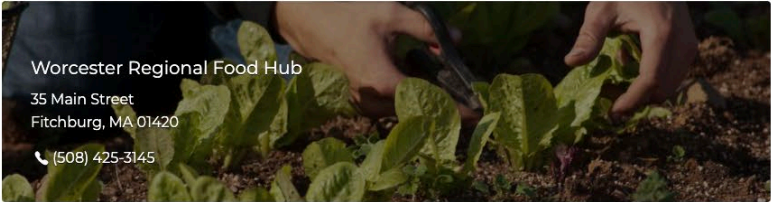
Production sectors

☐ Only show providers with no-cost services


Update Search Results

116 Results Found (Showing 1-116)


Title




Worcester Regional Food Hub
 35 Main Street
 Fitchburg, MA 01420
 ☎ (508) 425-3145



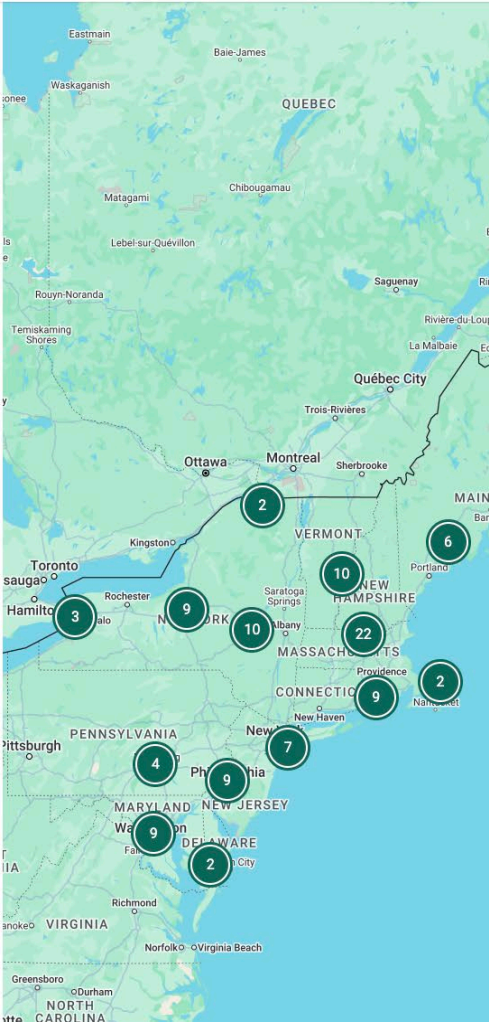
Women's Business Center
 2001 Main Street
 Buffalo, NY 14208
 ☎ (716) 888-8280



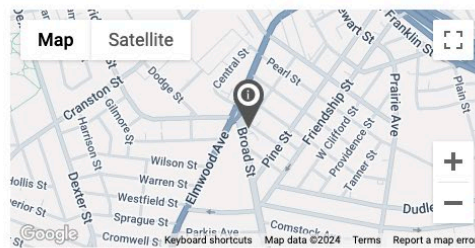
Vital Communities
 195 North Main Street
 Hartford, VT 05001
 ☎ (802) 291-9100



Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund
 3 Pitkin Court
 Montpelier, VT 05602
 ☎ (802) 828-5320



● TAP Directory in Detail



404 Broad Street
Providence, RI 02907

☎ (401) 273-9419

✉ grace@southsideclt.org

🌐 www.southsideclt.org

📍 [Get Directions](#)



The Southside Community Land Trust's (SCLT) mission is to provide access to land, education and other resources so people in Rhode Island can grow food in environmentally sustainable ways and create community food systems where locally produced, affordable and healthy food is available to all.

SCLT programs, community gardens and farms serve people in urban neighborhoods where fresh produce is nearly impossible to find – especially in quantities and at prices that support residents' health.

Tagged as: Diversified Farming, Food and Beverage, Fruits, Vegetables, or Herbs



● Curriculum



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Courses



Finance 101 — Farm and Food Business Financial Essentials

Finance 101 introduces fundamental financial principles that are critical to building capacity in your farm and/or food business. The course will cover topics ranging from managing your business's cashflow to securing funding through grants and loans.

This course is required for all Northeast USDA Regional Food Business Center grantees, and is also open to others who are interested in learning this course content. Grantees will receive an email notification with registration information from e-Cornell following the completion of a grant agreement. Please contact nerfbc@cornell.edu with questions about registration.

[Take the Finance 101 course](#)



NERFBC Grant Recipient Obligations

This online course is required for all NERFBC grantees and is not open to the public. Grantees will receive an email notification with registration information from e-Cornell following the completion of a grant agreement. Please contact nerfbc@cornell.edu with questions about registration.





Questions?
NortheastRFBC@nasda.org