



HEALTHY FOOD FINANCING

WHAT WOULD INCREASING ACCESS TO FRESH, HEALTHY FOOD MEAN FOR ALABAMA?

More than 1.8 million Alabamians, including half a million children, live in communities with little to no access to fresh, healthy food.¹ Increasing access to fresh, healthy food in areas of need will benefit children, communities and the state.

Increased access to healthy food means healthier kids.

An overwhelming number of children in Alabama live in communities with limited access to fresh, healthy food options. Children without access to healthy food are more likely to develop chronic diseases such as high blood pressure, Type 2 Diabetes, bone and joint problems, and breathing problems—diseases that will follow them into their adult lives.² Improving healthy food access has been shown to be an effective measure in improving healthy eating habits and lowering the risk for diet-related diseases.

Food retailers build stronger local and state economies.

An increasing number of projects are meeting the needs of underserved communities by providing healthy food options—many with support from funds provided through the Healthy Food Financing Act. In addition to providing access to healthy food, the projects will bring new jobs and job training programs, increase wages, create new tax revenues, stimulate the local economy and improve the viability of neighborhood retail districts.

Communities are impacted when they have access to fresh, healthy foods.

When communities have access to affordable, healthy foods, residents purchase and consume healthier foods over time. Increasing funding for healthy food retailers to establish or expand operations in underserved communities will provide the encouragement needed to overcome barriers that prevent retailers from entering areas in need.

ALABAMA'S SOLUTION TO REVERSE CHILDHOOD HEALTH TRENDS

Alabama can reverse statewide health trends and reduce long-term health care costs by providing loans and other financial resources to encourage healthy food retailers—such as grocery stores and farmers markets—to open in areas of the state where residents don't have access to fresh, healthy food. Increasing access to healthy food can also mean more jobs, stronger local economies and increased tax revenue.

GROCERY STORES IN ALABAMA PROVIDE OVER
25,000 JOBS
THAT PAY MORE THAN **\$750 MILLION**
IN ANNUAL WAGES.

GROCERY STORES IN ALABAMA GENERATE OVER
\$3.6 BILLION
IN ANNUAL SALES.



- Nearly a quarter of all Alabama children lack access to fresh, healthy foods where they live.³
- Alabama ranks 3rd and 2nd, respectively, in the nation in adult obesity and diabetes.⁴ 35 percent of Alabama children are considered overweight.⁵ More than 35 percent of Alabama children aged 10-17 are obese.⁶
- Children without access to healthy food are more likely to develop chronic diseases such as high blood pressure, Type 2 Diabetes, bone and joint problems, and breathing problems—diseases that will follow them into their adult lives.⁷
- Obese children are 80 percent more likely to be obese as an adult than non-obese children.⁸
- Over the course of a lifetime, health care costs for obese children are estimated to be at least three times higher than children who are not obese.⁹
- Increasing access to fresh, healthy food in communities with limited access can help decrease the incidence of diet-related diseases in children and ultimately contribute to decreased health care spending by the state.

Sources:

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