



ACCESS TO HEALTHY, AFFORDABLE FOOD

“Healthy options can be hard to find in too many communities. Limited access to healthy food choices can lead to poor diets and higher levels of obesity and other diet-related diseases”

-Solving the Problem of Childhood Obesity within a Generation: a Report to the President from the Childhood Obesity Task Force

The Facts:

- 1 in 3 children are overweight or obese.
- 23.5 million Americans live in low-income areas that lack stores likely to sell affordable, nutritious foods.
- Of these 23.5 million, nearly half are individuals living in households with incomes at or below the 200% poverty line, and 6.5 million are children.
- Several studies have shown communities with greater access to supermarkets consume more nutritious foods including fruits and vegetables:
 - A multi-state study found that for every additional grocery store in a neighborhood produce consumption increases 32 percent for African Americans and 11 percent for whites.
 - A survey in New Orleans’ neighborhood stores found that for each additional meter of shelf space offering fresh vegetables, residents eat an additional 0.35 servings per day.
 - In California and New York City, residents living in areas with higher densities of fresh food markets, compared to convenience stores and fast food restaurants, have lower rates of obesity.
- More grocery stores also means more jobs. According to the Food Trust, a recent financing initiative in Pennsylvania created 88 fresh-food retail projects, creating or preserving more than 5,000 jobs.

Bringing Healthy, Affordable Foods to Communities Nationwide:

Recognizing the important role access to healthy and affordable foods plays in curbing the childhood obesity epidemic, several of the nation’s food retailers are making commitments to bring grocery stores to communities across America. Focusing on serving communities with little access to healthy foods, over the next five years over 1,500 stores will be built or expanded. More specifically:

SUPERVALU will build 250 new stores.

Wal Mart will build or expand 275 to 300 new stores.

Walgreens will expand nutritious offerings in 1,000 stores.

Regional and Independent Retailers are stepping up too!

Calhoun Grocer will build 10 new stores in Alabama and Tennessee.

Brown’s Super Store will build 1 new store and expand 1 store in Pennsylvania.

Klein’s Family Markets will build 1 new store in Maryland.

Additionally, the California Endowment has secured \$200 million to finance healthy food projects in California through the new FreshWorks Fund.

According to the organizations involved, all together these commitments will serve 9.5 million individuals and create tens of thousands of jobs.