



Chapter 2: Grocery Stores

Encouraging Full Service Grocery Stores to Locate in Underserved Areas and Promote Healthier Foods

General Strategy Overview

This chapter discusses the public health role in encouraging full service grocery stores to locate in underserved areas or supporting existing stores in supplying and marketing healthier items.

Encouraging new, permanent food retailers, like full service grocery stores, to locate in underserved areas is one of many approaches for states to increase the availability of affordable healthier food options in underserved communities. Residents of communities with full service grocery stores tend to eat more fruits and vegetables^{4,6-9} and tend to have a lower risk of obesity.¹²⁻¹⁶ However, low-income, ethnic minority, and rural neighborhoods often face limited access to full service grocery stores.^{4,13}

Full service grocery stores generally offer healthier food options to customers at lower prices than other retail venues.^{5,36} They also have the potential to spur economic development in underserved communities because they can often serve as anchors around which other businesses are willing to locate; they can create jobs for residents, both in the construction and the operation of the grocery store^{30,37} as well as in other retail businesses that may locate nearby; and they can result in a modest increase in the values of nearby homes.³⁰

Grocery store development is a long-term commitment that requires significant financial investment. Multiple incentive options are available that encourage new, permanent food retail stores to locate in underserved areas. Incentives such as Healthy Food Financing Initiatives generally come from programs developed through public-private partnerships, and usually include a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI).[‡] Some incentive programs are created through state legislation, such as in Pennsylvania, New York, and Illinois. Other state incentive programs, such as in California and New Jersey, have been supported through non-legislative mechanisms. Incentive programs frequently assist with costs associated with development activities, such as land acquisition, building and construction, and retail feasibility studies.³⁸ See the feature at the end of the chapter, [Grocery Stores in Action: Healthy Food Financing Initiatives](#), for more information.

What is a Grocery Store?

In this *Action Guide*, grocery store refers to full service food retailers that offer a wide selection of healthier foods and beverages, including those recommended by the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2010*. Healthier foods include fruits, vegetables, whole grains, fat-free and low-fat dairy products, seafood, and foods with less sodium (salt), saturated fats, trans fats, cholesterol, added sugars, and refined grains. Healthier beverages include fat-free or low-fat milk and milk products, fortified soy beverages and other lactose-free products, 100% juice, and water. Grocery stores can be independently owned or chain operated. They can range in size from medium-sized stores and specialty markets with a full product line to large supermarkets.

[‡] CDFIs are financial institutions, such as banks, credit unions, or corporations that help serve low-income people and communities through increasing their access to loans, investments, financial services, and technical assistance. CDFIs are certified by the federal CDFI Fund at the U.S. Department of the Treasury. More information is available at <http://www.cdfifund.gov/index.asp>.

For new or existing grocery stores, promotion of healthier foods and beverages is important in grocery stores to help consumers make healthier choices. The different types of marketing in grocery stores can be represented by the “four P’s”: product, placement, price, and promotion³⁹ (see call out box on [Marketing and Promotion in Grocery Stores](#)). The marketing can involve

Marketing and Promotion in Grocery Stores

Grocery stores market foods in many ways, but often it is through the products themselves (such as the assortment of products available), pricing incentives (such as coupons or differential prices), placement of products (such as at eye-level or at the end of an aisle), or promotion of products (such as displays and advertising, which can also overlap with the other categories).^{39,40} Some specific examples include:

Grocery store shelf labeling systems. Shelf labeling systems are food “grading” systems that are implemented by grocery store owners to identify healthier foods or to allow comparisons between foods. Some systems rate foods using a proprietary nutritional algorithm, with the information being summarized by a symbol such as the number of stars representing “good, better, and best” (e.g., the Guiding Stars[®] nutrition navigation system) or by a numerical score of 1 to 100, with 100 as best (e.g., the NuVal[®] system).

Healthy checkout aisles. Stores can designate certain checkout aisles or lanes as healthy. For example, as part of the Change the Future WV program, healthy checkout aisles were established in eight grocery stores across the MidOhio Valley of West Virginia. Program leaders developed partnerships with local food store owners and managers, including those at WalMart and Foodland, to create a checkout aisle that sold fresh fruits and vegetables along with toys that promote physical activity. The initiative also included signage and displays to draw attention to the checkout aisles. More information is available at <http://www.changethefuture.wv.gov/> and in *Making the Healthy Choice the Easy Choice: Real-life Stories and Practical Tools from Change the Future WV* at <http://ctfwvresources.com/building-a-legacy.php>. A video about the project from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention includes the positive effects on business, and is available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIQQx-ekIZU>. A news story about the project is available at <http://wvgazette.com/News/201110083123>.

Financial incentives. The United States Department of Agriculture implemented the Healthy Incentives Pilot (HIP) to promote the purchase and consumption of fruits and vegetables. HIP took place in Hampden County, Massachusetts and provided participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) with a financial incentive: for every SNAP dollar spent on the eligible fruits and vegetables, 30 cents was credited back to the participant’s SNAP Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card.⁴¹ The incentive could then be used towards any SNAP-eligible food and beverage purchases. More information and reports are available at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/healthy-incentives-pilot-hip-interim-report>.

approaches such as labeling of foods on shelves allowing consumers to identify healthier foods and beverages or providing coupons for certain food items. Additionally, grocery stores may have educational programs that teach consumers how to shop for healthier foods.

Working with Partners and Leveraging Resources

Engaging stakeholders from multiple sectors is critical to the development of grocery stores in underserved communities. As a public health practitioner, you are uniquely positioned to act as a liaison for a variety of programs and resources. The [Partnerships, Assessment, and Evaluation](#) chapter has detailed information on partnering for healthier food retail initiatives. There are a variety of potential partners that you can include to encourage full service grocery stores to locate in underserved areas of your state or region. You may want to include representatives of:

Grocery Stores and their Representatives

- ▶ Grocers' associations.
- ▶ Corporate offices of chain, cooperative, and independent grocery stores.

Business and Development Groups

- ▶ Community Development Corporations.
- ▶ Chambers of Commerce.
- ▶ Economic Development Corporations.
- ▶ Regional Development Commissions.
- ▶ State or local labor or workforce development offices.
- ▶ Local or regional developers.
- ▶ Banks and other businesses.
- ▶ U.S. Economic Development Administration.

Nutrition and Food Access Groups

- ▶ U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) regional offices.
- ▶ Federal nutrition assistance programs at the state-level administering agency.
- ▶ State, regional, or local food policy councils.
- ▶ Nutrition professionals.



- ▶ Hunger and food security advocates.
- ▶ National organizations supporting food access (such as The Food Trust).

City and Neighborhood Groups

- ▶ City and town planning department offices.
- ▶ Civic or neighborhood associations.

Environmental Groups

- ▶ Environmental Protection Agency regional offices.
- ▶ Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) regional offices.
- ▶ Food safety offices.

You can also collaborate with pre-existing groups to support grocery store initiatives (such as food access committees, task forces, or food policy councils) or create a group that fits your state or region's needs.

Action Items

As a public health practitioner, you can do the following to work with partners and leverage resources:

- ✔ **Lead or support assessment activities** to understand the healthier food retail landscape in your state and identify areas of the state where individuals do not have reasonable access to a full service grocery store. Refer to the [Partnerships, Assessment, and Evaluation](#) chapter for additional information on assessment.
- ✔ **Provide information to stakeholders** to demonstrate the potential of grocery store development as an economic and community development strategy. You may want to compile relevant information that is collected by other agencies, e.g., grocery purchases of residents outside of the community (known as leakage) to quantify the potential spending power of that community, or workforce capacity data from the Department of Labor and Workforce Development Boards.
- ✔ **Determine if there are existing state efforts** led by other agencies or organizations that have similar or overlapping goals with your healthier food retail goals. Work with these groups to expand their initiatives to include public health goals. This approach may present fewer obstacles and take less time than establishing new initiatives. For example, some states have extended existing economic development and rehabilitation incentive programs to include qualified grocery stores.
- ✔ **Assist state, tribal, and local partners with applying for loans or grants**, including supplying health data to demonstrate need, providing letters of support for applicants, or serving as a fiscal agent.

Grocery Stores in Action: The Texas Healthy Food Advisory Committee

Texas Senate Bill 343 authorized an advisory committee to study the availability of healthier food retail options in specific underserved areas of the state. Established by the Commissioner of Agriculture and the Executive Commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission, the Healthy Food Advisory Committee (HFAC) was charged with studying lack of access to fresh fruits and vegetables and other healthier foods and providing recommendations to the legislature for improving access in underserved areas.⁴²

The Health and Human Services Commission and the Department of Agriculture appointed four members each to the HFAC. Committee members represented rural and urban areas and different geographical regions of the state, and had expertise related to both nutrition and retail business. In their report delivered to the Texas legislature in January 2011, the HFAC made several recommendations that could address healthier food retail accessibility in Texas, including:⁴²

- ▶ Maximize existing financing programs to ensure funds are appropriately distributed to the most underserved urban and rural areas across the state, and create public-private partnerships that provide incentives for the redevelopment and expansion of healthier food retail outlets that are sustainable over time.
- ▶ Share lessons learned from Texas' Fresh Food Financing Initiative pilot project with stakeholders.
- ▶ Establish regional, city, or county food policy councils.
- ▶ Encourage communities to promote direct-to-consumer marketing outlets such as Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and farmers markets.
- ▶ Encourage local-level discussion of improvements to transportation systems for better access to healthier food retail outlets.

The *Report of the Healthy Food Advisory Committee: Fresh Food Availability in Texas* is available at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/legislative/82nd/Healthy-Foods-Adv-Comm-Report.pdf>.

Providing Training, Technical Assistance, and Education

Training, technical assistance, and education can support the development and sustainability of full service grocery stores in underserved areas. Your efforts in these areas can communicate the public health and economic benefits of access to healthier foods and beverages through grocery stores and can educate partners about the components of grocery store incentive programs. Additionally, you can focus on programs that help customers choose healthier foods and beverages (see call out box on [Educational Tools for Healthier Shopping](#)). As a public health practitioner, you can directly provide the training, technical assistance, and education directly, or you can coordinate experts to do so.

Action Items

As a public health practitioner, you can do the following to provide training, technical assistance, and education on grocery store development initiatives:

- ✔ **Educate stakeholders on health status and behavioral indicators** in underserved areas. These are relevant issues when initiating grocery store development programs.
- ✔ **Enhance the capacity of stakeholders** by providing training and technical assistance, or coordinating training with outside experts, on topics such as:
 - ▶ The health benefits of increasing accessibility and affordability of healthier foods.
 - ▶ Ways communities can access capital.
 - ▶ Strategies for working with the private retail sector.
 - ▶ Methods to define underserved areas and track progress on the initiative.
- ✔ **Facilitate training and technical assistance** on key financing issues, such as certification of institutions or organizations as a CDFI or a Community Development Entity (CDE).[§]
- ✔ **Educate eligible grocery store initiative applicants** about the existence of incentive programs and the benefits available to them. For example, staff members at the Michigan Department of Community Health helped retailers apply for an incentive program that had passed as state policy in 2008, but had a low number of applicants for the program.
- ✔ **Educate communities about community-owned grocery store or co-op models**, which may be particularly suitable in rural areas. More information and resources on these models can be found from the Healthy Food Access Portal at <http://healthyfoodaccess.org/retail-strategies/grocery-stores-and-co-ops> and the Kansas State Rural Grocery Initiative at <http://www.ruralgrocery.org/resources/bestpractices.html>, under “Models of Ownership.”
- ✔ **Educate partners on potential requirements and eligibility criteria** that address healthier eating in incentive programs. For example, California FreshWorks Fund’s program guidelines include requirements for healthier foods in the store and preferences for healthier check-out aisles and in-store promotions of healthier foods. More information is available at http://cafreshworks.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/cafwf_program_guidelines_072511.pdf.
- ✔ **Compile a list of state or local level contacts** that can provide technical assistance to new food retailers on applying for WIC and SNAP certification.
- ✔ **Provide information, linkages, and education** to stores and communities about how they can promote healthier food purchasing, preparation, and consumption.
- ✔ **Work with partners on how SNAP-Ed funding can be used** for programs or initiatives on in-store promotions of healthier eating at new grocery stores.

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[§] A Community Development Entity (CDE) is a corporation or partnership that serves as a mechanism for providing loans, investments, or financial counseling in low-income communities. CDEs are certified by the federal CDFI Fund and can receive New Market Tax Credit allocations once certified. More information is available at http://www.cdfifund.gov/what_we_do/programs_id.asp?programID=10.

- ✓ **Compile information on programmatic and financial support** available from federal, state, tribal, and local entities for healthier food retail strategies in both rural and urban areas. Share these materials with stakeholders.



Educational Tools for Healthier Shopping

Having a grocery store in a neighborhood is important to provide access to healthier foods and beverages. However, encouraging people to buy the healthier items is also important. A recent report from the Food Marketing Institute discussed that grocery stores help their customers shop for healthier foods by conducting activities such as cooking classes and store tours and employing in-store dietitians.⁴³ Additionally, educational programs teach consumers how to shop for healthier foods and beverages. These programs can be tailored to customers who receive nutrition assistance program benefits. Educational materials available to public health practitioners include:

Cooking Matters at the Store. This program was developed by the national nonprofit organization Share Our Strength to help families make affordable, healthier choices at the grocery store. The program trains facilitators and provides guidance on conducting grocery store shopping tours that teach skills such as buying fruits and vegetables and comparing prices. Facilitators are provided with a free facilitator's guide and free materials for tour participants that are available in English and Spanish. Available at <http://cookingmatters.org/>.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) Connection. This is an online resource from U.S. Department of Agriculture for state and local SNAP-Ed providers. SNAP-Ed is a federal-state partnership that encourages state agencies to provide nutrition education to SNAP recipients so they can gain skills for making healthier food choices on a limited budget. Resources on this Web site include: recipes, tips on shopping for healthier foods using SNAP benefits (see "Eat Right When Money's Tight"), and SNAP-Ed contact information. Available at <http://snap.nal.usda.gov/>.

Aisle by Aisle. Offered by North Carolina's Eat Smart Move More program, this Web page hosts a video series and printable materials with tips for consumers on shopping for healthier foods and beverages. Available at <http://www.myeatsmartmovemore.com/AisleByAisle.html>.

Addressing Other Common Concerns for Grocery Store Development

Many factors influence whether a food retailer will move into a community, but ultimately grocers look for a location where they can sustain a profitable business. Companies must assess adequacy of the customer base and the investment and operating costs in order to make their decision to locate in an underserved area.³⁷

Community development and regulatory processes, such as zoning and land use regulations, can affect grocery store development. Most zoning, land use, and operational policies are created and enforced at a city or county level, although sometimes state-level guidance or policies can influence what happens locally or regionally. As a public health practitioner you can provide information and support to local organizations and planners to help streamline developmental processes and alleviate other concerns.

Zoning and Site Development

Site acquisition and development can be a lengthy and expensive process for retailers and developers. Issues of concern include:

- ▶ Limited availability of appropriate sites.
- ▶ Rehabilitation costs to make sites suitable.
- ▶ Lack of adequate parking space or transportation.
- ▶ The time involved to complete the permit process.

Perceptions about Neighborhood Retail Markets

Developers and retailers may have legitimate concerns or erroneous perceptions about locating in an underserved area. Similarly, investors may see grocery store retail as a high risk investment—a perception that may be even higher in relation to low-income communities. They may be concerned that underserved areas:

- ▶ Lack target customers.
- ▶ Have customers with limited purchasing power.
- ▶ Have a low volume of automobile traffic.
- ▶ Have crime or safety issues.
- ▶ Lack physical or logistical infrastructure for the distribution of goods to a store.
- ▶ Have higher operating costs for certain standard services, such as rent, utilities, trash, recycling, security, or for hiring, training, and retaining qualified employees.





Action Items

As a public health practitioner, you may be able to address concerns about zoning, site development, and neighborhood perceptions with the following actions:

- ✓ **Identify programs in your state that promote and facilitate site renovation** through economic incentives and expedited permitting and zoning procedures. This could include connecting developers and retailers with existing revitalization or environmental projects, such as rehabilitation of a closed store or a blighted property. Projects that improve the aesthetics, safety, and sustainability of commercial corridors are a good fit for grocery store development, as grocery stores can draw a large number of people, boost the local economy, and incorporate more sustainable development practices. For example, in Madison, Wisconsin, Hy-Vee built a grocery store in an abandoned retail site and used several green strategies such as use of recycled or locally-sourced building materials; energy efficient heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration equipment.⁴⁴
- ✓ **Highlight the use of incentives for grocery development.** There are examples of financial credits, abatements, or other incentives in offsetting start-up or operational expenses for grocery store development that you can provide. Two examples where local governments used these types of incentives are:
 - ▶ New York City developed the Food Retail Expansion to Support Health (FRESH) program, available for “grocery store operators renovating existing retail space or developers seeking to construct or renovate retail space that will be leased by a full-line grocery store operator.”

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Eligible stores must fall within a designated underserved community. The FRESH program criteria include minimum requirements for perishable items and produce. Both zoning and financial incentives are offered, such as additional development rights, reductions in required parking, and tax deductions. More information is available at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/misc/html/2009/fresh.shtml>.

- ▶ The Department of Buildings in Chicago, Illinois, developed an expedited permit process for projects that incorporate green building strategies along with an incentivized fee schedule.⁴⁵ This could apply to grocery store development that used green strategies as well as other types of businesses. You can learn more about the program at http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/bldgs/supp_info/overview_of_the_greenpermitprogram.html.

- ✔ **Consider the development of smaller full-service grocery stores** as an alternative to the standard large supermarkets when working on a grocery store development task force or committee with developers, retailers, planners, and other stakeholders. These stores usually have less inventory and variety than the large supermarkets, but still stock produce and other perishable foods. They also can have lower operating costs.³⁷
- ✔ **Work on cross-cutting strategies for healthier food retail** to ensure that adequate infrastructure is in place to accommodate grocery store development, such as transportation and distribution systems. Additional information is outlined in the [Transportation](#) and [Distribution](#) chapters.
- ✔ **Coordinate with state level partners** to integrate guidance on access to healthier foods and grocery store development into community comprehensive land use plans.**



** Comprehensive land use planning is a community-wide process that determines community development vision, goals, and objectives. The outcome of the process is known as a Comprehensive Plan, which guides local policy over the long term for a broad range of issues, such as land use, management of natural resources, housing, and recreation. More information is available at <http://urbanext.illinois.edu/lcr/comprehensiveplanning.cfm>.



Grocery Stores in Action: Healthy Food Financing Initiatives

Healthy food financing initiatives encourage retailers to locate or renovate retail food locations in underserved areas through financing assistance.⁴⁶ Many states have implemented these initiatives or are in the process of developing them, and similar work is moving forward at the federal level. Most often a task force is developed to explore the issue of grocery access in underserved areas of a state or region and to make recommendations for action.³⁸ Public health practitioners can play an advisory role on these task forces and can provide data to inform the issues of minimal access to healthier foods and its public health consequences.

Pennsylvania Fresh Food Financing Initiative. The Pennsylvania Fresh Food Financing Initiative (FFFI) was the first legislatively-created state-wide initiative of this kind, with a financing program initiated through public-private partnerships. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, The Reinvestment Fund (TRF), The Food Trust, and the Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition partnered to implement this grant and loan program to encourage grocery store development in underserved neighborhoods throughout the state. Initial funding from the state was subsequently matched through loans and other funding. This financing initiative has been modeled in various parts of the country. Results from the Pennsylvania FFFI are discussed in the [Partnerships, Assessment, and Evaluation](#) chapter. More information available at <http://healthyfoodaccess.org/policy-efforts-and-impacts/state-and-local/pennsylvania>.

California FreshWorks Fund. The California FreshWorks Fund (CAFWF) is a public-private partnership loan fund that has raised more than \$250 million to increase access to healthier, more affordable food in underserved communities and to encourage economic development and innovations in healthy food retailing. Seed funding came from banking and philanthropic investors. There are nearly two dozen diverse partners collaborating on this program representing philanthropic, financial, government, retail, and community sectors.⁴⁷ Modeled after the Pennsylvania FFFI, CAFWF works directly with grocers on developing new locations or improving existing places to purchase nutritious food. CAFWF has program guidelines that are designed to help retailers carry and promote a higher proportion of healthier foods and decrease access to undesirable foods, such as having at least one “junk-food-free” aisle.⁴⁸ Information is available at <http://www.cafreshworks.com/>.

New Jersey Food Access Initiative. The New Jersey Food Access Initiative (NJFAI) is designed to help provide financing to grocery store developers and operators to build stores in underserved areas statewide.⁴⁹ The NJFAI is supported through a public-private partnership that includes the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA) and TRF. Additional supporting partners include the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF); The Food Trust; the New Jersey

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Departments of Labor and Workforce Development, Health and Senior Services, and Agriculture; and the New Jersey Food Council; among others. The EDA invested \$3 million with TRF to create the Food Access Fund, which was then leveraged to seek other additional public and private investments.⁴⁹ RWJF committed \$12 million to support these efforts in 2012.⁵⁰ The NJFAI funds supermarket initiatives, including loans for the various phases of grocery store development, such as land acquisition, construction and rehabilitation, and equipment.⁵¹ In collaboration with The Food Trust, EDA has engaged in education activities (including those directed to policy makers) about access to supermarkets and healthier foods. The NJFAI work began with the convening of the New Jersey Food Marketing Task Force, which made recommendations in the 2012 report *Expanding New Jersey's Supermarkets: A New Day for the Garden State*.⁵⁰ This report, along with more information on the NJFAI, is available at <http://healthyfoodaccess.org/policy-efforts-and-impacts/state-and-local/new-jersey>.

Federal Initiatives. Federal agencies are collaborating to fund work similar to the Pennsylvania FFFI. As part of the First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! initiative and the Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2013 (the "Farm Bill"), the U.S. federal government is addressing limited access to healthier foods by providing expertise, funding, and other resources for programs that establish and support healthier food retail venues in underserved areas.^{52,53} Retail venues include grocery stores, corner stores, mobile food vendors, farmers markets, and community supported agriculture. Funded projects can focus on various aspects of the food supply chain, including retail, production, distribution, and marketing. More information on the federal initiative and work being done in states across the U.S. is available at <http://apps.ams.usda.gov/fooddeserts/> and <http://www.healthyfoodaccess.org/policy-efforts/region>.

Grocery Store Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

State Initiatives Supporting Healthier Food Retail: An Overview of the National Landscape provides public health practitioners, their partners, community members, and policy makers with useful information about the rationale for and characteristics of state-based healthier food retail legislation enacted in the last decade. Action steps that public health practitioners can use to inform, educate, and support improved access to healthier foods are also provided. <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/stateprograms/resources.html>

The Pennsylvania *Fresh Food Financing Initiative (FFFI)* practice-tested intervention summary includes an evidence summary, core components, resources for implementation, and intervention materials that can be used by public health practitioners. <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpao/programsta/nutrition.html>

PolicyLink, The Food Trust, and The Reinvestment Fund

The Healthy Food Access Portal is a comprehensive Web site for information on strategy implementation, funding, policy efforts, and news about healthier food retail. The following resources are available from the portal.

Access to Healthy Food and Why It Matters: A Review of the Research was developed jointly by the Food Trust and PolicyLink and reviews more than 170 studies of healthier food access and its impacts. <http://healthyfoodaccess.org/resources/library/access-to-healthy-food-and-why-it-matters-a-review-of-the-research>

Harnessing the Power of Supermarkets to Help Reverse Childhood Obesity outlines conference proceedings of a 2010 meeting of public health leaders, food retailers and manufacturers, consumer product designers, and marketing professionals. This resource discusses how to make it easier for parents, caregivers, and children to select and purchase healthier foods in existing grocery stores, providing an alternative or complementary strategy to locating grocery stores in underserved areas. <http://healthyfoodaccess.org/node/1230>

Greening Grocery: Strategies for Sustainable Food Retailing assists developers and operators with using environmentally friendly building practices in grocery store development, and describes how these practices lower development and operating costs. <http://healthyfoodaccess.org/node/943>

ChangeLab Solutions

Getting to Grocery: Tools for Attracting Healthy Food Retail to Underserved Neighborhoods reviews the opportunities for and challenges of bringing grocery stores to underserved communities. The guide is designed to help both public health agencies and community stakeholders support development and retail efforts in low-income neighborhoods. <http://changelabsolutions.org/publications/getting-grocery>

Healthier Communities through Redevelopment: Rebuilding Neighborhoods for Better Nutrition and Active Living outlines steps and strategies associated with revitalizing blighted neighborhoods. The document is specifically written for public health department and agency staff who want to get involved in community redevelopment as a public health effort. <http://changelabsolutions.org/publications/healthier-redevelopment>

Wisconsin Department of Health Services

The *Check Out Healthy* toolkit focuses on improving the food environments within and around food stores in communities. The audience for the toolkit includes local coalitions, community leaders, and public health practitioners. The toolkit addresses Wisconsin communities but has information useful for any state. <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/physical-activity/FoodSystem/GroceryStores/Index.htm>

Kansas State University

The *Rural Grocery Initiative* seeks to identify and develop models for sustainable retail sources of food for Kansas citizens living in rural areas. The Web site has a rural grocery toolkit including best practices, key research, surveys, grocery videos, and the proceedings from a rural grocery summit. <http://www.ruralgrocery.org/>

