Innovations in Healthy Food Access and Finance: The Healthy Food Financing Initiative and The Healthy Food Access Portal

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December 14, 2015
PolicyLink is a national research and action institute advancing economic and social equity by Lifting Up What Works. ®
Equity means just and fair inclusion. The goals of equity must be to create conditions that allow all to reach their full potential. In short, equity creates a path from hope to change.
Overview

• Access to Healthy Food

• Healthy Food Financing Initiative

• Healthy Food Access Portal
Access to Healthy Food:

• What is it?
• Why does it matter?
The Lack of Access to Healthy Food

- Accessing healthy food is a challenge for many Americans—particularly those living in low-income neighborhoods, communities of color, and rural areas.

- Better access corresponds with healthier eating and lower risk for obesity and other diet-related chronic diseases.

- New and improved healthy food retail in underserved communities creates jobs and helps to revitalize low-income communities.
• 30 million Americans lack access to healthy food

• African Americans are 2.5 times more likely than whites to lack access

• Latinos are 1.4 times more likely than whites to lack access
Access to Healthy Food and Why it Matters

http://www.policylink.org/healthyfoodaccessmatters
Healthy Food Financing Initiative
Lifting Up What Works®

Healthy Food Financing Initiative

A national campaign initiated by PolicyLink, The Food Trust, and The Reinvestment Fund

Goal:
To improve access to healthy food in low-income, underserved rural, suburban, & urban communities
HFFI Triple Bottom Line

Developing Quality Food Markets in Underserved Communities

• Promotes a healthy diet which can contribute to reduced rates of diabetes & obesity

• Creates jobs with career paths
• Lowers the cost of food

• Revitalizes neighborhoods
• Leverages private capital
• Increases local taxes

Health
Income
Economic Stimulus
Diversity of Projects

- Types: Supermarkets, grocery stores, food hubs, farmers markets, CSAs, corner stores, kitchen incubators, mobile markets
- Corporate structure: For-profit businesses, cooperatives, non-profit organizations, independent grocers
- Location: Cities, small towns, rural communities
- Project size: From 900 to 70,000 sq. ft.
- Scope: New construction, renovation, modernization, expansion
Healthy Food Access Portal
Engaging Community in Healthy Food Retail

This webinar will discuss how healthy food retail developers are engaging community stakeholders to ensure local residents have a stake in, benefit from, and have greater access to healthy foods.

What's New

Funding

The Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Grant Program will support projects to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables among SNAP consumers. Applications are due 12/15/14.

News

Find the latest media coverage related to healthy food access.

Resources

CDFIs offer alternative lending for financing supermarkets. The flexibility they provide in financing projects can help retailers offset the higher cost of opening stores in underserved areas.
Healthy Food Access Updates

http://www.policylink.org/KeepMeInformed/HealthyFoodAccess

Equitable Development Tools

- Grocery store development/attraction
- Corner stores
- Urban agriculture/ Community-supported agriculture
- Farmers’ markets

http://www.policylink.org/Health_and_Place_Tool_Group
Keep Me Informed

To Receive Updates and Information:

www.policylink.org/KeepMeInformed/HFFI
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