A group pushing to put more healthy foods in local stores is touting a poll that shows most voters in North Carolina support the effort.

The North Carolina Alliance for Health released the poll results Tuesday and had planned a public announcement here until a snow storm forced a cancellation of the event.

The organization said that the poll, funded by the American Heart Association, showed that 70 percent of registered voters in the state support the effort to encourage neighborhood stores to stock healthy foods. A similar majority supported the idea that state and local governments should provide training and incentives to store owners.

Lynne Mitchell, personal health services administrator for the Forsyth County Health Department, said that there are five stores here taking part in the Healthy Corner Store Network.

The program was established by grants, but those grants have now run out and the program in not currently funded, Mitchell said.

“It is a great way to get healthier food into communities,” said Mitchell, who was to have spoken at the local event.

To find store owners willing to participate, the health department sent out letters to all the neighborhood stores in the counties, and the five that are in the network now are the ones that responded.

The five stores are Kingz Downtown Market at 418 N. Liberty St., Parker’s Stop & Shop at 4257 Reidsville Road, Tickled Pink Convenience at 3080 Kernersville Road, P&P Convenience at 2723 Farmall St., and Rebecca’s Store at 1501 Attucks St.

“They make a commitment to carry healthy food products,” Mitchell said. “Most of it will be what is in season.”

In addition to making healthy foods available, the program has worked out deals for stores to buy produce from local farmers, Mitchell said.

The N.C. Alliance for Health said the poll also found that North Carolinians are concerned about childhood obesity, and that half of registered voters view a lack of access to grocery stores in low- to moderate-income areas as a serious or somewhat serious problem.

The group said that people who live in areas without grocery stores often shop corner stores, where they end up buying processed foods that are high in fat but low in nutrition.

The Healthy Corner Store effort has provided store owners with help in learning how to stock and sell things like fresh fruits and vegetables.

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