



HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS

PRIORITY: Promote the elimination of food deserts in North Carolina through statewide, evidence based and/or evidence-informed policies and appropriations for healthy food financing, corner store initiatives, and other policies that improve access to healthy foods (including fruits, vegetables, whole grains and lean proteins).

FOOD INSECURITY IN NC

More than **2 million** people in our state, including **435,227 children** under the age of 15, are food insecure and can't easily access healthy food. Residents in these areas suffer from high rates of diet-related diseases, such as obesity, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, some kinds of cancer, and other chronic conditions.

Research shows that those who live closer to healthy food retail have a lower risk of chronic disease – but many North Carolinians have trouble accessing and affording these healthy options.

HEALTHY FOOD SMALL RETAILER PROGRAM (HFSRP)

The HFSRP is housed in the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The Initiative taps into a community's existing retail footprint to make healthier options more accessible. The HFSRP assesses communities for healthy foods, engages interested small retail store owners, and then provides equipment to stock and sell healthy options.

In 2016, the NC General Assembly appropriated \$250,000 to pilot the HFSRP. The pilot focused on Eastern NC.

In 2017, the NC General Assembly appropriated an additional \$250,000 to exoand the program to the entire state.

OBESITY IN NC



Nearly 32% of adults in NC are obese



Almost 31% of youth ages 10-17 are overweight or obese



More than 16% of high school students are obese



More than 11% of NC adults have diabetes



NORTH CAROLINA ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH

For more information visit www.ncallianceforhealth.org/healthy-food-access