

Healthy Foods, Healthy Stores, Healthy Communities



Why Do Healthy Food Options Matter to Small Retailers?

Retail stores provide a convenient location for residents to shop for food. Often located near schools, parks, and other community gathering places, neighborhood stores are accessible for many in the community. Because they can greatly influence the eating habits of their customers, small retailers are in a unique position to enhance access to healthy foods for people who live, work, and play in their community.

What can Small Retailers Gain from Offering Healthy Options?

Customers are **demanding healthier** items. Small retailers, such as you, are places where neighbors frequent. **Meeting their demands will ensure consistent and reliable business.** Not to mention, stores providing healthier options have a **competitive edge** over other stores! Even if you have made healthy changes in the past, **here is why you should work with us now:**

- Our community is part of a **new effort** where businesses, worksites, and schools across New York are **working together** to create an environment that fosters **health** and **economic vitality**.
- This five-year initiative will be receiving media attention that will lead to **increased community awareness** and an **opportunity to collaborate with others** – you can be seen as a **community partner**!
- Given the increasing demand for healthy foods, your participation could **attract new customers** (while keeping the old ones).
- Healthy foods can yield **higher profit margins**.
- As a participating small retailer, you will **receive resources and support** at no cost.



Your Involvement Is Important to Our Community!

Introducing new inventory and taking on new risk can be daunting, but as a community partner in this statewide initiative, here are some ways we can help:

- Information and **training** on how to purchase, price, stock, and market healthy and *convenient* options
- Receive **equipment and materials** (e.g., cooler, shelving) to stock healthy items
- **Assistance** in improving store layout for storage and display
- **Linkage** to community organizations like schools, worksites, and hospitals
- **Advertisement** and **promotional** materials (shelf signs, posters, logos, etc.)
- **Information** about increasing **food affordability** through WIC and Food Stamps
- Small **business development** (e.g., joint purchasing)



**NYS Obesity Prevention
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**Creating Healthy Schools
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