Healthy Food Access Portal

How to Build a Policy Effort Primer

Across the country, groups have successfully advocated for local, state, and national policies to attract healthy food retail to underserved communities. These policy efforts typically engage key stakeholders and build broad-based support for healthy food financing programs and related policies.

Although every community is different, one model has been particularly successful in driving policy to improve healthy food access. This model comprises four basic phases, with a central step of convening a task force of multi-sector leaders at the local, regional, or state level to develop policy recommendations and advocate for their implementation. To date, policy recommendations put forth using this task force model have successfully led to the creation of state and city healthy food financing programs that have collectively supported nearly 100 fresh food retail projects across the country. Go to "Policy Efforts" for examples of many of these efforts.

For a comprehensive overview of how to build policy efforts related to healthy food retail using the task force model, go to the following resources:

- *The Food Trust's Healthy Food Financing Handbook:* Discusses strategies to build policy efforts on the local and state level; available here
- "Policy Solutions To The 'Grocery Gap'" in *Health Affairs*: Discusses The Food Trust's strategy for changing food access related policy; available here .

Other Key Resources:

- Learn more about successful policy efforts in states and cities across the country by going to the "Policy Efforts" section of the portal.

- To learn more about the Healthy Food Financing Initiative, a national example of a successful policy effort built by community advocates and leaders, go to "Improving Access to Healthy Food" on the PolicyLink website here.

- For information about current state efforts, go to the Food Trust's "Supermarket Campaign" website at http://www.thefoodtrust.org/php/programs/super.market.campaign.php.

- To find guidelines on how to contact and engage a local representative, go to "Telling Your Story"