



HEALTHY FOOD FINANCING

Across the Mid South, small towns and cities have gone without grocery stores for generations and low-income neighborhoods in urban areas are losing grocery stores at an alarming rate. In the midst of the decline in healthy food retail options for residents of these communities, HOPE has provided over \$42 million in financing for healthy food retail projects. The 61 HOPE financed projects have developed more than 179,000 square feet of additional grocery store space, significantly expanding access to healthy food for residents of low-income and underserved communities.

HOPE New Orleans, LA

HOPE has financed fresh food retail projects exceeding **\$42** million.

179,000 square feet of fresh food retail space developed.

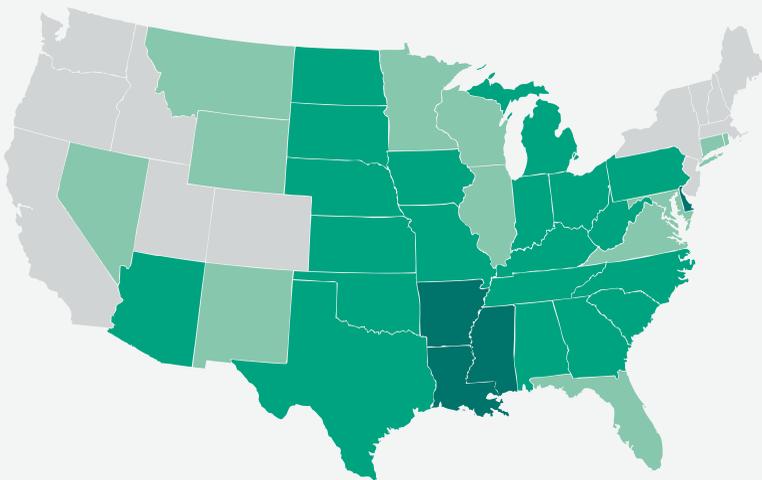
BROADENING HOPE'S IMPACT

In 2011, the City of New Orleans selected HOPE to manage its new Fresh Food Retailer Initiative (FFRI), which provides grant and loan funding to fresh food retailers located in food deserts. Since that time, HOPE has assisted 61 projects; provided financing to several retailers; and leveraged \$38 million in non-city funds. Research conducted by scholars at Tulane University found that the number of supermarkets within the city of New Orleans had returned to pre-Katrina levels by

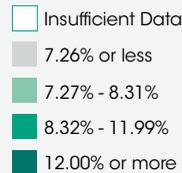
2014 and food access disparities that existed following the storm had been significantly reduced. The study acknowledged the contributions that FFRI played in the outcomes identified. As a result of the program's success, HOPE is now working with lawmakers and advocates in Mississippi, Louisiana and Memphis, TN to design similar programs. At the national level, HOPE is partnering with The Food Trust, The Reinvestment Fund and PolicyLink to expand access to healthy food outlets in low-income communities across the country.

Circle Food Store | New Orleans, LA

Incorporated in 1938, Circle Food Store was New Orleans' first black-owned grocery. In 2005, the store was heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina. The owner attempted to secure financing to reopen; however, he was unable to find lenders willing to invest in him or his store. In 2012, his financing problems were resolved through a partnership led by The Food Trust, the City of New Orleans and HOPE. Circle Food Store reopened in 2014 and now provides 65 local jobs, fresh food in a former food desert, and a HOPE micro branch, while reclaiming its position as an important symbol of community resilience and revitalization.



MID SOUTH LEADS NATION IN NUMBER OF ADULTS WHO EAT LESS THAN ONE FRUIT/ VEGGIE PER DAY



Source: Center for Disease Control and Prevention
The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Rainbow Co-op | Jackson, MS

Rainbow Co-op in Jackson is Mississippi's largest retail cooperative grocery and employs 52 people. The co-op is dedicated to providing natural organic and local products that support healthy individuals, a thriving local community and a sustainable planet. HOPE made a \$ 466,000 loan to Rainbow to make improvements to the store after the co-op had been searching for bank financing for 10 years. HOPE also maintains an ATM in the co-op store.

