Illinois Grocery Initiative New Stores in Food Deserts Program
NOFO: 3295-2673
Program Application

This Notice of Funding Opportunity also requires the submission of this program application. Applicants may also attached separate exhibits or documentation in response to these questions. Please crossreference any such documents as appropriate below.

1. Provide a brief summary of your project.

2. Provide the address and census tract of the project location. (See census tract lookup at https://geocoding.geo.census.gov/geocoder/geographies/address?form) Indicate whether the census tract is currentlydesignated as a food desert. (See USDA map at https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/ food-access-research-atlas/go-to-the-atlas/) If not, provide any evidence that the census tract would qualify with updated data. (For example, the poverty rate has increased or a recently open grocery has closed. For a description of food desert criteria, see footnote #3 in the NOFO Supplement.)

3. Provide the total employment of the applicant ("N/A" if the applicant is a local unit of government) and identify the locations of any other grocery stores owned by the applicant.

4. Provide the expected annual percentage of sales at the project location attributable to alcohol and tobacco.

5. Identify the nearest existing grocery store to the project location and estimate the distance between the two locations.

6. Identify all key partners participating in the project and describe their involvement and expected contributions. Provide the total employment and, if applicable, the total number of grocery stores operated in Illinois for each non-governmental participating entity.

7. Provide a financial plan for the grocery store location including, but not necessarily limited to, the following elements. Supporting documentation can be submitted separately.
   - Documentation of the amount and sources of outside investment for the applicant
   - Documentation of the applicant's long-term assets and debts
   - A detailed explanation of the ownership and operational structure, including the location of all primary owners.
   - A detailed financial plan that includes the following:
     - The Grocery Store's projected costs, revenues, and profits;
     - The amount and sources of other investments in the planned Grocery Store;
     - The long-term assets, including but not limited to real property and equipment, that the Grocery Store has already secured or still needs; and
     - The projected number of employees of the Grocery Store.

8. Summarize your business plan supporting this project. This should include an assessment of local needs, identification of investment requirements, staffing requirements, supply chain requirements, and other factors impacting long-term viability of the store. Relevant planning documents can be uploaded separately.

9. Describe the impact the project would have on enhancing access to a robust variety of fresh fruits, vegetables, and meats. This should include a discussion of the variety and quality of fresh foods to be made available.

10. Provide a detailed description of the scope of work and how it aligns with the budget provided in the budget template.

11. Provide evidence supporting reasonableness and accuracy of budget estimates. This can include vendor bids, analysis of similar projects, etc. (Exhibits can be uploaded separately as appropriate.)

12. Provide a timeline for project implementation, including intermediate milestones as appropriate.

13. Describe the project team's experience successfully managing government grants of this nature.

14. Describe the project team's experience successfully launching and/or managing grocery stores.

15. Identify sources of matching funds and provide documentation that these funds will be available for the project.

16. Provide a list of the individuals providing letters of support (to be uploaded separately), noting their affiliations as appropriate