

Benefits of Hometown Grocery Stores

Fact Sheet

Hometown grocery stores serve as anchors for local communities. Not only do locally-owned stores give community members a place to purchase healthy foods, they also weave the fabric of a community together by serving as a place to meet, shop, and catch up on social connections. Here are some of the ways that locally-owned grocery stores provide economic benefits, improve access to healthy food, and support the communities they serve.

Economic Benefits

Studies show that local grocery stores provide economic benefits to their communities. Profits from a locally-owned store are more likely to stay local.

Rural grocery stores in Kansas, on average,

- Contribute \$644,000 to the local economy¹.
- Employ 17 local people (a mix of full and part-time)^{1,2}
- Generate 1 out of every 5 sales and property tax dollars,³ and
- Capture SNAP and WIC economic stimulus benefits.⁵

Independently owned retailers return more than three times as much money per dollar of sales to the community than discount chain competitors.⁴ Locally-owned stores impact the local economy through increased employment, generation of tax revenue, utilization of federal food assistance benefits, and returning profits to the community.



Healthy Food Access

Grocery stores are the best local sources of healthy foods. Locally-owned stores stock healthy foods at lower prices than convenience stores.⁶ Independently-owned grocery stores often carry locally-sourced healthy food and may coordinate with local farmers markets to provide them with space to operate.⁷

Community Life

Locally-owned grocery stores support the community by providing a place for people to gather. Many stores have a deli or café. The Mildred store in Allen County hosts a monthly music night that brings people together for food and jam sessions. As active community partners, local store owners support local teams and community projects through bulk ordering, allowing fundraisers on the store property, and hiring local youth.



Local ownership means that stores can be responsive to community needs, often ordering special items for those with medical needs or serving as a distribution point for other businesses such as the school district or local restaurant. The Hired Man's Grocery and Grill, Inc., in Conway Springs, Kansas, collects and sends food boxes to hometown soldiers who are deployed overseas. This photo shows shelf labeling which identifies products that are eligible for food assistance benefits.

References

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