

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Grocery Initiative Act is amended by  
5 changing Section 15 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 750/15)

7 Sec. 15. Grocery Initiative Grants and Financial Support.

8 (a) The Department shall, subject to appropriation,  
9 establish the Grocery Initiative to expand access to healthy  
10 foods in food deserts in Illinois and areas at risk of becoming  
11 food deserts in Illinois by providing grants and other forms  
12 of financial assistance to independently owned for-profit  
13 grocery stores, cooperative grocery stores, or not-for-profit  
14 grocery stores, as well as grocery stores owned and operated  
15 by local governmental units. The Department may enter into  
16 contracts, grants, or other agreements to administer these  
17 grants and other forms of financial assistance. The Department  
18 may, by rule, place limits on the size of the grocery stores  
19 that are eligible for grants and other financial assistance  
20 under this Act, including, but not limited to, limits on the  
21 annual revenue or projected revenue of the applicant, number  
22 of full-time employees, or square footage of the facilities.  
23 The Department may prioritize grant awards and loan funding to

1 applicants based on poverty rates, income, geographic  
2 diversity, local ownership, access to grocery stores in the  
3 area surrounding proposed project locations, and other factors  
4 as determined by the Department. The Department may award  
5 grants or provide loans for any one or more of the following:

6 (1) market and site feasibility studies, promotional  
7 materials, and marketing;

8 (2) salaries and benefits for workers;

9 (3) rent or a down payment to acquire a facility;

10 (4) purchase of ownership of a grocery store as part  
11 of establishing a new grocery store;

12 (5) capital improvements, planning, renovations, land  
13 acquisition, demolition, durable and non-durable equipment  
14 purchases; or

15 (6) other costs as determined eligible by the  
16 Department.

17 (b) The Department may, subject to appropriation, provide  
18 grants for equipment upgrades for existing independently owned  
19 for-profit grocery stores, cooperative grocery stores, ~~or~~  
20 not-for-profit grocery stores, or farmer-owned grocery stores  
21 or markets. The Department shall use no more than 20% of total  
22 program funding for this purpose. Equipment upgrades shall be  
23 focused on providing access to equipment that is energy  
24 efficient.

25 (Source: P.A. 103-561, eff. 1-1-24.)