

Country	United States of America					
Population	3,898,747					
Title of policy or practice	Healthy Neighborhood Market Network (HNMN) program					
Subtitle (optional)						
URL video	https://www.goodfoodla.org/healthyneighborhoodmarketnetwork https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPTwe86-vxUHNlh488xtA7A https://drive.google.com/drive/u/3/folders/1Ne4zTi8zrWgBSWYPT07hJipLViy9f_5l					
Category	03 – S&EE		SDGs		11 – 10 – 3	
Year of start	2012		Year of end		ongoing	
Actors involvement	Municipal departments	Public institutions	NGOs CSOs	Research centers	Private sectors	International bodies
	7	5	11	4	5	
Budget	In Fiscal Year 2022-2023, the City of Los Angeles supported the HNMN program with approximately €475,000 of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding and €475,000 from the City budget.					
Brief description	<p>In many communities in L.A., it is easier to find a bag of chips than an apple. These communities, which are more often than not low-income communities of color, have limited access to fresh foods and may be designated as "food deserts" by the U.S. Department of Agriculture if they meet criteria that includes poverty rates and distance from a large grocery store. In food deserts, residents' primary access to food typically includes fast food restaurants, liquor stores, and small convenience stores. In 2019, Mayor Garcetti released L.A.'s Green New Deal (GND), a comprehensive roadmap to protect the environment, strengthen the economy, and build a more equitable future. The GND has a chapter dedicated to supporting sustainable and equitable food systems. In an effort to right the structural racism embedded in the city's food deserts, the GND includes an important target to ensure that all low-income Angelenos live within 1/2 mile of fresh food by 2035.</p> <p>To achieve this target, the City funds the Healthy Neighborhood Market Network (HNMN) program directly through the City's budget and through Community Development Block Grants for the last seven years. This groundbreaking local economic development program is run by the L.A. Food Policy Council (LAFPC), a close partner organization originally incubated by the Los Angeles Mayor's Office. LAFPC is a nonprofit organization and the largest Food Policy Council in the country, serving as a backbone organization of over 400 organizations and agencies that include everyday community members, farmers, small business owners, restaurant workers, government workers, and food advocates. The HNMN program aims to increase food access in designated food deserts by empowering convenience/liquor store owners with education, technical assistance, and store upgrades to bring healthy food options and fresh produce to their communities supporting sustainable communities as well as providing significant economic and social justice benefits.</p>					
Innovation	<p>The HNMN program was born out of a pilot incubated at the City of Los Angeles. This groundbreaking local economic development program empowers local convenience/liquor store owners in food deserts to become healthy food retailers, closing the gap between low-income families and fresh food. The HNMN provides various levels of support to these local "corner stores," including an average of two full transformations into healthy neighborhood markets annually. Here are the key areas in which the HNMN program contributes to the improvement and transformation of these stores:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -physical space (interior) to attract customers towards fresh produce and other healthy options 					

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • -physical space (exterior) to beautify the market's facade and surrounding space to attract customers • -store branding and customized items to promote the store in the community • -trainings, technologies, and ideas to increase store business/sales of fresh and healthy foods <p>In addition, L.A.'s Department of Water and Power has provided energy efficiency and water conservation upgrades through LED lights and low-flush toilets.</p> <p>The HNMN program is one of very few curricula offered to local businesses that addresses the healthy food retail knowledge gap. The HNMN program was also instrumental in supporting local corner stores during the COVID-19 pandemic by distributing PPE, developing floor decals to help customers adhere to public safety guidelines and educating small businesses on grant and loan programs.</p>
<p>Impact</p>	<p>SOCIAL</p> <p>Transformed stores means transformed communities. HNMN partner stores not only help close the gap between low-income families and fresh food but are community engagement hubs. For example, Pickford Market in the Mid-City neighborhood of Los Angeles teamed up with a local elementary school to provide reusable bags filled with healthy snacks for over 400 students. This fostered civic youth engagement in the neighborhood to promote healthy food options with students, their families, and the community. Hank's Mini Market in South LA hosts community meetings, nutrition workshops, and book clubs. The HNMN program also assists local corner stores with marketing, signage, and healthy food promotion, including signage for EBT (a program that provides payment cards to access food benefits) and WIC (a special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children).</p> <p>ENVIRONMENTAL</p> <p>The HNMN program supports sustainable and equitable food systems by encouraging greater access to fresh produce and other healthy food options in low-income communities and reducing GHGs from the local food supply chain.</p> <p>ECONOMIC</p> <p>In addition to receiving technical assistance, equipment, and education, many of the store owners have developed strong relationships with businesses such as produce vendors and food entrepreneurs that allow them to further increase store business, efficiencies, and profits providing significant economic benefits to the store and the community at large.</p>
<p>Inclusion</p>	<p>LAFPC is the largest Food Policy Council in the country, serving as a backbone organization of over 400 organizations and agencies that include everyday community members, farmers, small business owners, restaurant workers, government workers, and food advocates and the HNMN program would not be possible without the support of the City of Los Angeles municipal government which provides significant programmatic funding. The program is also supported through the work of a diverse group of stakeholders listed in Section II. E above, which provide both monetary and non-monetary support. The HNMN team has also intentionally worked to expand the program to ensure diversity of neighborhoods throughout the city and this program year will include a local corner store in the Sylmar neighborhood the first low-income community of color in the San Fernando Valley area of Los Angeles.</p>
<p>Challenges and learning needs</p>	<p>Currently, LAFPC's HNMN business counseling team is comprised of three staff members. LAFPC would like to incrementally pilot a Healthy Food Retail Pilot Program to train more business counselors to grow programming throughout the L.A. region. There are many business owners that could be served if they had the capacity to teach bilingual business counselors about healthy food retail in languages like Korean, Thai, Bengali, and Khmer.</p> <p>Additionally, LAFPC is looking to build capacity by engaging local business owners who have participated in the HNMN program to train and support other store owners, as they have the most direct knowledge and experience with the process for improving and transforming a local corner store into a healthy neighborhood market.</p> <p>We would welcome being included in a MUFPP Fellowship Programme group that explores capacity building recommendations for organizations engaged on these topics.</p>