



635 North Erie Street
 Toledo, Ohio 43604-5317
 419.213.4100
 419.213.4017 Fax
 boardofhealth@co.lucas.oh.us



Karim Baroudi, MPH, REHS
 Health Commissioner

**LUCAS COUNTY
 REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT
 BOARD MEMBERS**

Johnathon Ross, MD, President
 Barbara Sarantou, Vice President
 Cheryl Crowder, RN, BSN
 Amr Elaskary, CPA, CFE
 Sonia Flunder-McNair
 Ted Kaczorowski
 David Karmol
 Paul J. Komisarek
 Richard L. Munk, MD
 Susan Postal, EMT-P
 Matthew Sapara
 Donna A Woodson, MD

**AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
 EMPLOYER**

The Department operates in accordance with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Visit us on the web at:
www.lucascountyhealth.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Heather Burnette, PIO
 (419) 309-0153

July 8, 2024

**Health Department and City of Toledo Announce
 Healthy Corner Store Initiative**

The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department (TLCHD) in collaboration with the City of Toledo are pleased to announce a new initiative aimed at increasing the availability and awareness of nutritious food and beverage options in neighborhood corner stores in underserved communities. The Healthy Corner Store initiative will work to respond to food access disparities observed in lower-income communities.

The initiative prioritizes food deserts and is encouraging interested small stores to apply, particularly if they serve residents receiving WIC or SNAP benefits. Through December 31, 2026, selected stores may be awarded up to \$20,000 for items such as refrigeration and freezers to help with stocking fresh food items as well as educational opportunities for store owners.

The Healthy Food, Small Market Program has three primary objectives:

- **Enhancing healthy food accessibility:** The primary goal of the initiative is to improve access to nutritious foods, such as fresh fruits and vegetables, by bolstering the infrastructural capabilities of corner stores with essential resources like refrigeration and freezers to facilitate the effective stocking of healthy products.
- **Empowerment through training and technical assistance:** Storeowners will receive comprehensive training and technical support to increase the retail availability and profitability of offering healthier dietary choices.
- **Fostering community partnerships:** By forging robust connections between storeowners, local agriculturalists, and fresh food suppliers, along with private and public partnerships all working to improve food accessibility.

“Ensuring residents have access to healthy fruits and vegetables, is a part of our ongoing efforts to support health and wellness for families,” said Health Commissioner Karim Baroudi.

The notice of funding availability (NOFA), along with the application (accessible in English, Spanish and Arabic) can be retrieved via the QR code or the website:

<https://lucascountyhealth.com/community-outreach/healthy-food-small-market-program/>



The Healthy Corner Store program is supported by ARPA funds, through the City of Toledo.

###