



FOOD DESERT RELIEF PROGRAM

The Food Desert Relief Program addresses the food security needs of communities across New Jersey by providing up to \$40 million per year in tax credits, loans, grants, and/or technical assistance to increase access to nutritious foods and develop new approaches to alleviate food deserts.

Through the Program, the NJEDA has identified 50 food desert communities across the state in



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coordination with the Departments of Community Affairs and Agriculture. NJEDA will also award tax credits to incentivize businesses to establish and retain new supermarkets and grocery stores in food desert communities, offer technical assistance on best practices for increasing the accessibility of nutritious foods, and provide grants and loans for food retailers of all sizes to fund equipment costs associated with providing fresh food, technology costs associated with supporting Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

FOOD DESERT TAX CREDIT PROGRAM BOARD MEMO 

FOOD DESERT TAX CREDIT PROGRAM PROPOSED NEW RULES 

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FOOD DESERT COMMUNITIES DESIGNATIONS 

NEW JERSEY FOOD DESERT COMMUNITY DESIGNATION METHODOLOGY 

NJ FOOD DESERT COMMUNITIES DATA 

FOOD DESERT RELIEF COMMUNITIES MAP 

payments, and initiatives to ensure food security.

ELIGIBILITY

AWARD SIZE

FISCAL AND RESIDENT PROTECTIONS

ELIGIBILITY

To receive tax credits through the Food Desert Relief Program, supermarkets or grocery stores must:

- Be a retail outlet with at least 16,000 square feet where 80 percent of space is occupied by food and related products.
- Be the first or second new supermarket or grocery store in a designated food desert community to be approved under this program.
- Commit to accept benefits from federal nutrition assistance programs, including SNAP and WIC.

The Program will also make grants and loans for equipment, technology costs, and initiatives to ensure food security of residents available to eligible entities within designated food desert communities, including supermarkets and grocery stores, midsize food retailers that are 2,500 to 16,000 square feet, small food retailers less than 2,500 square feet, and other entities supporting food security.

Funding will be available for designated Food Desert Communities. Please find the [list](#) of Food Desert Communities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The full statutory text of the program can be found in sections 35-42 of the Economic Recovery Act of 2020.

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