

# Benefits of Hometown Grocery Stores

*Hometown grocery stores serve as anchor businesses for local communities. They provide community members with access to healthy food, support local economies and weave together the fabric of a community, serving as a place to meet, shop, and make social connections.*

**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.<sup>1</sup> Independently-owned grocery stores often carry locally-sourced healthy food and may coordinate with local farmers markets to provide them with space to operate.<sup>2</sup>



**Economic Benefits:** Independently-owned retailers return more than three times as much money per dollar of sales to the community than discount chain competitors.<sup>3</sup> 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.



Contribute **\$644,000** to the local economy<sup>4</sup>



On average, employ **17** local community jobs<sup>4,5</sup>



Generate **\$135 million** in state and local tax dollars across Kansas<sup>6\*</sup>



Capture **SNAP and WIC** stimulus benefits<sup>7</sup>



**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, Kansas 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 locally.

## References

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## Photo Credits

Top: Produce at a Kansas grocery store, K-State Division of Communications and Marketing, 2019. Bottom: Owners of the Mildred Store in Moran, KS, Rural Grocery Initiative, 2018.