



WHAT IS A FOOD DESERT?

A food desert is an **urban or rural area** where the availability of **affordable, healthy, fresh food** is limited.



ACCORDING TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE 25-30 MILLION AMERICANS LIVE IN FOOD DESERTS



FOOD DESERTS LEAD TO POOR DIETS, WHICH CAN CONTRIBUTE TO OBESITY, TYPE-2 DIABETES AND **HEART DISEASE**



SOUTHERN STATES LIKE ALABAMA, LOUISIANA AND NORTH CAROLINA ARE MOST AFFECTED DUE TO **POVERTY, HEALTH AND FOOD ACCESS**

IN NORTH CAROLINA **1.5 MILLION PEOPLE** LIVE IN 349 FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED FOOD DESERTS



EVERY COUNTY IN ALABAMA HAS **1 NEIGHBORHOOD** WITH **LIMITED ACCESS TO FRESH FOODS**, AFFECTING **1.8 MILLION PEOPLE**

70%



OF NORTH CAROLINA RESIDENTS FAVORED THE CREATION OF A **HEALTHY CORNER STORE INITIATIVE**

BUT THESE THREE STATES ARE MAKING PROGRESS ON LAWS THAT COULD HELP CLOSE THE GAP ON THE LACK OF ACCESS THAT MILLIONS OF THEIR RESIDENTS HAVE TO HEALTHY, FRESH FOOD.

ALABAMA



GOVERNOR SIGNED A **HEALTHY FOOD FINANCING ACT** GIVING **INCENTIVES TO GROCERS AND RETAILERS** TO EXPAND INTO FOOD DESERTS. **FUNDING IS THE NEXT STEP**

LOUISIANA



FUNDING IS CRITICAL FOR A 6-YEAR-OLD **HEALTHY FOOD RETAIL ACT** AIMED AT **HELPING GROCERS AND FARMERS' MARKETS** EXPAND INTO NEEDY AREAS

NORTH CAROLINA



LAWMAKERS ARE MULLING OVER **THE HEALTHY CORNER STORE INITIATIVE** - INCLUDING **\$1 MILLION FOR GRANTS** TO STORE OWNERS IN AREAS WITH LOW ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOODS

FOR MORE SMART EATING AND ACTIVE LIFESTYLE TIPS, VISIT HEART.ORG