

# Healthy Corner Store Initiatives: Insights from Conversations in the Field

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## Learning Objectives

- Develop specialized knowledge of healthy corner store initiatives nationwide including financing models, store membership value and requirements, and program guidelines.
- Engage in effective communication with target groups and professionals.
- Understand systemic context of healthy corner store initiatives related to MPH concentration of Health Promotion & Disease Prevention.

## Background

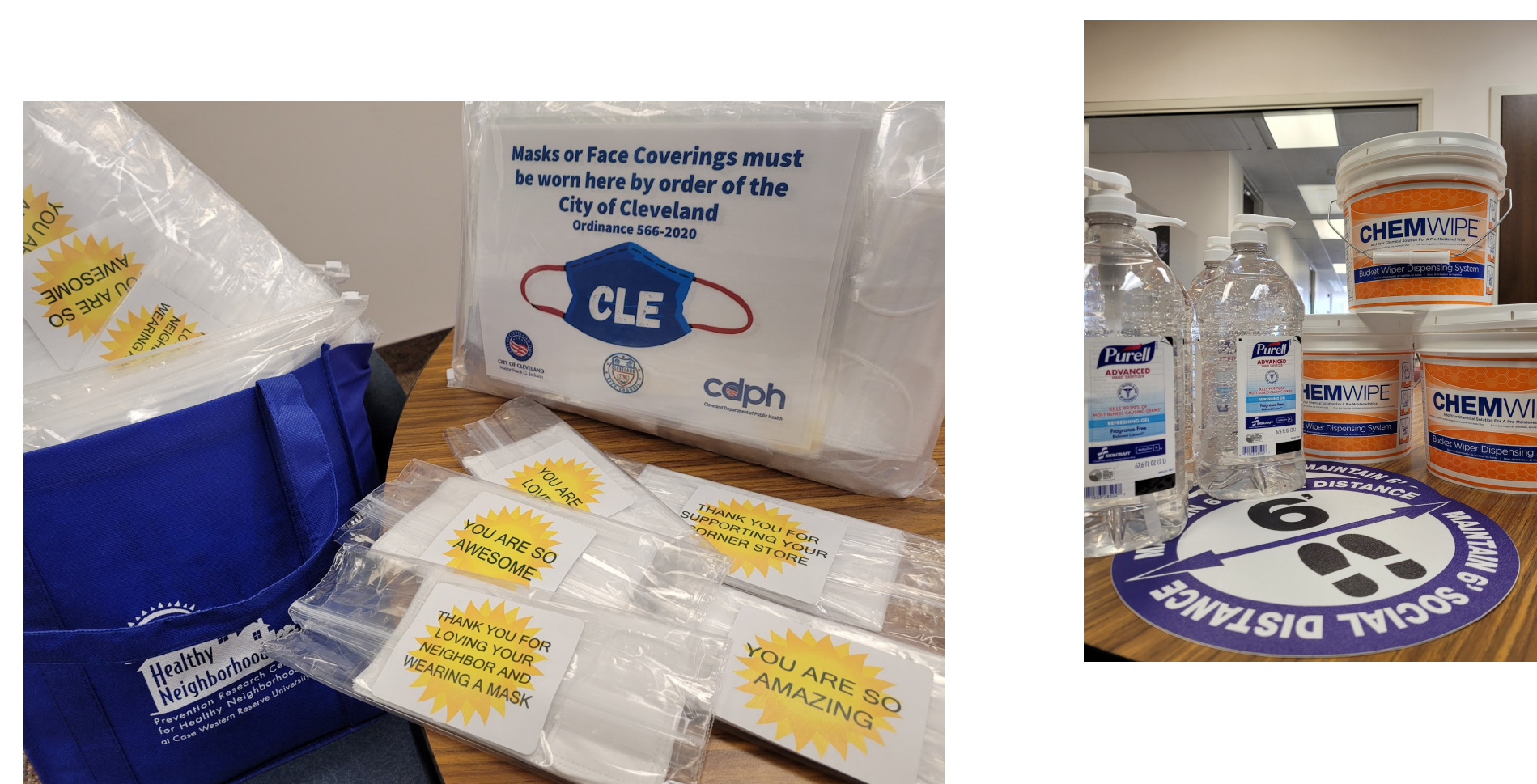
- PRCHN Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) grant funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- Healthy Food Retail Initiative to improve access to healthy foods by working with convenience and corner store owners to add healthier items to their inventory.<sup>1</sup>
- Population includes neighborhoods which primarily rely on convenience or corner stores for basic food needs.

## Deliverables

- Report summarizing discussions with five healthy corner store programs in the U.S.
- One pager outlining ideas to define membership value to corner store owners in the Healthy Corner Store Initiative.

## Activities

- Contacted 5 similar programs within the US to learn details of their initiatives through collaborative information sharing.
- Conducted internet and database research for details on other programs' strategies and funding sources for corner store work
- Assembled and distributed kits of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and COVID-19 precaution signage for corner stores



<https://youtu.be/Ylpcg3KYPBY>

## Lessons Learned

- Small food retailers are part of a broad and complex food system.
- Clearly identifying levels of the food system to be engaged and program goals in line with community needs aids in the implementation process for healthy corner store programs.
- Effectiveness can be supported with a defined relationship between the administering organization and engaged corner store owners.

## Public Health Implications

- Healthy corner store initiatives seek to improve food access and reduce the burden of chronic disease in vulnerable communities.
- Ensuring best practices with information sharing and adjusting strategic approaches to the work has the potential to improve impact.

## References & Acknowledgements

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- Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods. (n.d.). *Healthy Food Retail*. Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods at Case Western Reserve University. Retrieved April 24, 2021, from <https://prchn.org/hfr/>