

## HR 3104

### Food Deserts Act of 2017

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Agriculture and Food

**Introduced:** Jun 29, 2017

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition. (Jul 24, 2017)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/3104>

## Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** IN • **Chamber:** House

## Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]	D · CA		Feb 6, 2018

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 24, 2017

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

## Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

## Food Deserts Act of 2017

This bill establishes a Department of Agriculture program to provide grants to states for revolving funds to support the establishment and operation of grocery stores in underserved communities.

An *underserved community* is a community that has (1) limited access to affordable, healthy foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables, in grocery retail stores or farmer-to-consumer direct markets; and (2) a high rate of hunger, a high rate of food insecurity, or a high poverty rate.

States must use the funds to make loans to support grocery stores in underserved communities, including for opening a store (excluding new construction), supporting or purchasing an existing store, or supporting a store located in a community that would be underserved without the store.

States may only make loans for grocery stores that meet requirements related to:

- emphasizing unprocessed, healthful foods;
- providing staple foods and a variety of raw fruits and vegetables;
- having a plan to keep the foods in stock;
- charging prices at or below market averages;
- meeting specified matching requirements using nonfederal funds; and
- being qualified to operate a store or having partnerships with organizations that provide technical assistance.

States must prioritize loan applications from entities that meet criteria related to:

- hiring workers from the underserved community,
- providing classes or educational information about a healthful diet,
- sourcing food from local urban farms and gardens,
- not selling alcohol or tobacco products, or
- demonstrating existing supply chain relationships in the grocery industry.

## Actions Timeline

---

- **Jul 24, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition.
- **Jun 29, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 29, 2017:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E928)
- **Jun 29, 2017:** Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.