

## HR 9281

### Food Deserts Act

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Agriculture and Food

**Introduced:** Nov 10, 2022

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations. (Nov 29, 2022)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/9281>

### Sponsor

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

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

### Cosponsors (13 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Beatty, Joyce [D-OH-3]	D · OH		Nov 10, 2022
Rep. Blunt Rochester, Lisa [D-DE-At Large]	D · DE		Nov 10, 2022
Rep. Davis, Danny K. [D-IL-7]	D · IL		Nov 10, 2022
Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA-11]	D · CA		Nov 10, 2022
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		Nov 10, 2022
Rep. Johnson, Henry C. "Hank," Jr. [D-GA-4]	D · GA		Nov 10, 2022
Rep. Khanna, Ro [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Nov 10, 2022
Rep. Payne, Donald M., Jr. [D-NJ-10]	D · NJ		Nov 10, 2022
Rep. Ryan, Tim [D-OH-13]	D · OH		Nov 10, 2022
Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41]	D · CA		Nov 10, 2022
Rep. Thompson, Bennie G. [D-MS-2]	D · MS		Nov 10, 2022
Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]	D · CA		Dec 22, 2022
Rep. Cherfilus-McCormick, Sheila [D-FL-20]	D · FL		Jan 3, 2023

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred to	Nov 29, 2022

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

### Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

## Food Deserts Act

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), or supporting or purchasing an existing 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 affordable prices at or below market values;
- 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, and
- demonstrating existing supply chain relationships in the grocery industry.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Nov 29, 2022:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations.
- **Nov 10, 2022:** Introduced in House
- **Nov 10, 2022:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (E1121-1122)
- **Nov 10, 2022:** Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.