



September 2017
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Pictured left to right: Costilla County Commissioner Lawrence Pacheco, Fort Market owners Gerald and Emerald Tamada, U.S. Representative Scott Tipton, and CEF staff members Anne Misak, Alan Ramirez, and Marcia Johnston-Walden at Fort Market in Fort Garland, Colorado.
Photo courtesy of CEF.

CO4F METRICS

AS OF JUNE 30, 2017

Study Finds CO4F Improving Access to Fresh Food in Colorado

The Sarah Samuels Center for Public Health, Research & Evaluation recently released its [evaluation of CO4F](#), which shows that the fund is improving access to fresh, healthy food in Colorado communities. Over the course of nearly two years, evaluators surveyed hundreds of store shoppers at retail establishments supported by the fund, and conducted in-depth interviews with CO4F stakeholders and CO4F-supported store owners. Several achievements and examples of positive impact noted in the evaluation include:

Addressing Need for Healthy Food Access

Store shopper survey results revealed:

- Since CO4F's investment, 89 percent of customers feel they have better access to healthy food.
- Low income and rural customers were the most likely to report that their access to fresh food had improved after CO4F investments. The evaluation showed that 90 percent of low income shoppers and 92 percent of rural shoppers reported improved food access.
- 71 percent noticed a change in what the store offers.
- 70 percent say the store sells preferred foods.
- 73 percent say they sell preferred fruits, and 76 percent

\$8,300,000
Total Capitalization

\$4,621,307
Funds Available

\$2,695,018
Total Funded and Committed

Colorado Fresh Food Financing Fund (CO4F) improves access to healthy food in underserved Colorado communities by financing grocery stores and other forms of healthy food retail.

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colorado
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- say they sell preferred vegetables.
- In rural communities, 58 percent of residents do most of their shopping at the CO4F-supported store.

Benefits of CO4F - The Business Perspective

CO4F-supported store owners said in interviews that CO4F has benefitted their community and their business by:

- Increasing access to healthy food, particularly for those with limited access to transportation and the elderly;
- Providing job opportunities for local residents;
- Increasing store sales; and
- Reducing store energy costs.

The store owners and shoppers who participated in the evaluation were located in Akron, Denver, Greeley, Ignacio, Limon, Saguache, and Wiggins. A total of 469 surveys were taken by shoppers at CO4F-supported stores. Out of this group, 81 percent receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and 95 percent receive Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) benefits.

"The evaluation of CO4F is a useful measurement of what impact the program is making and how we can continue making a difference in areas where fresh, healthy food access is limited," said Steve Johnson, Community Development Director for CHFA, which administers CO4F. "Accessible fresh grocery retailers are essential to Colorado's health and economy, and we are proud that CO4F is helping to strengthen communities throughout the state."

Chris Smith, senior program officer for the Colorado Health Foundation, is encouraged by the results of The Samuels Center's evaluation. "The Foundation is thrilled to be part of the effort to increase access to healthy food for Coloradans and to support the economic benefit that local groceries provide to communities throughout the state, bringing health in reach for Coloradans," said Smith.

Partner Spotlight: Colorado Enterprise Fund Supports Fort Market

Congressman Scott Tipton recently visited Fort Market, the largest grocery store in Costilla County, to meet Colorado Enterprise Fund (CEF) borrowers and store owners, Gerald and Emerald Tamada, and learn more about the Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI). This federal funding program enables lenders like CEF to better support food businesses through its [Healthy Foods Fund loan program](#), created in 2013 to improve access to fresh healthy foods, support local businesses, create jobs, and revitalize underserved communities like Fort Garland.

Rep. Tipton spent an hour with the Tamadas, county officials, and CEF staff, to see how HFFI financing through CEF and CO4F helped the Tamadas keep their store open.

"The Tamadas learned about CO4F through the assistance of Costilla County Commissioner Lawrence Pacheco and submitted a pre-application to the Fund. Since they needed a smaller loan, they were referred to CEF and we were able to make the loan through our Healthy Food Fund," said Anne Misak, Healthy Food Program Manager for CEF. "Without this valuable partnership between CO4F and CEF, we wouldn't have been able to support Fort Market and the hard work the Tamadas are doing to keep the store open as a resource for their community."



**THE PITON
FOUNDATION**

at Gary Community
Investments

Click [here](#) to read more about the Tamadas' success.



A Health Equity Foundation



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