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*Pictured: A section of new refrigeration equipment at Walsh Community Grocery Store, financed by CO4F*

## CO4F METRICS

AS OF JUNE 30, 2018

### Walsh Community Grocery Store Upgrades Equipment with CO4F Financing

Walsh Community Grocery Store is truly the heart of Walsh, Colorado. Not only is it an essential amenity, but it's owned by town residents themselves, who banded together when the original operation shuttered in 2006. With the nearest grocery store 20 miles away, Walsh residents invested \$50 shares each to form a community-owned grocery store, which opened in June

**\$8,300,000**  
Total Capitalization

**\$2,591,307**  
Funds Available

**\$5,308,693**  
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.*

## PARTNERS



The Colorado Health Foundation™

colorado  
enterprise fund

2007.

A volunteer board of directors oversees Walsh Community Grocery Store and in 2017, directors identified a serious need for equipment upgrades.

"We had many maintenance issues with our old used and refurbished refrigerator and freezer units. Between repairs and product loss, our expenses were averaging about \$4,000 to \$5,000 a month," said board chair, Alan Packard.

To finance equipment upgrades, the board learned about the Colorado Fresh Food Financing Fund (CO4F). "Fellow board director, Sharon Dubois connected us with Southeast Colorado Enterprise Development, which put us in touch with CO4F," said board director, Beverly Lohrey.

CO4F awarded Walsh Community Grocery Store a \$50,000 grant and a \$50,000 loan to support the new equipment purchases. The upgrades are saving the store repair and product-loss costs, as well as energy.

"The new coolers and freezers run much more efficiently and don't cost us as much in electricity," said Alan. "We've also increased the different products that we can carry and we have room to grow. Customers also like how nice the new equipment looks; it's neater, items are easier to find, and everything works!" added Beverly.

Walsh Community Grocery Store serves as the main supplier of food to the nearby public school and nursing home. On Wednesdays, the store offers 10 percent off and delivery service to senior citizens, which is key for many residents who can no longer drive. Wednesdays are typically the store's highest-grossing day of the week—a reflection of Walsh residents' appreciation for local fresh food access. "This store is vital to our community," said Alan.

"We're very thankful for the partnership we have with you," said Beverly, regarding CO4F. "It made it possible for us to update our store and bring it into the 21st century." Alan added that CO4F "was a lifesaver for us and for our community."



## Hunger Free Colorado Hosts Hungry for Change Summit

On September 20, Hunger Free Colorado hosted its eighth annual Hungry for Change Summit. The event convenes more than 200 advocates and community members to collaborate on best practices and approaches for solving hunger in Colorado.



## THE PITON FOUNDATION

at Gary Community Investments



*A Health Equity Foundation*



Attendees from CO4F partner organizations included representatives of the Colorado Health Foundation, CHFA, and P.U.M.A. Jeremy Everett, Founder and Executive Director of Baylor University's Texas Hunger Initiative, served as the keynote speaker.

Alexis Weightman, Senior Public Policy Officer at the Colorado Health Foundation, updated attendees on the [Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger](#), which outlines strategies to address hunger in Colorado and highlights CO4F among many other programs.

A panel on the Hunger Through My Lens project was presented to discuss the reality of hunger and what first-hand experiences are like in Colorado. [View this video](#) to learn more about Hunger Through My Lens.

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