



We, the undersigned, call on Dollar General to expand the number of stores that participate in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC program), prioritizing stores in areas that both have lower incomes and limited food access.

The Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) recently conducted a [national survey](#) of people with lower incomes who live near dollar stores and heard from these dollar store community members across the country that they want dollar stores to make healthy food more available, affordable, and accessible.

Nearly [40 million Americans](#) live in areas where residents have lower incomes and limited food access. A majority of CSPI survey respondents believe dollar stores have a responsibility to improve the health of the communities to which they belong. Dollar stores may serve as important food access points in some communities, but many have limited healthy food options – only 16% of Dollar General locations sell fresh fruit or vegetables.

There are more than 35,000 dollar stores across the U.S. -- more locations than the other top ten largest food retail companies combined. Dollar General owns over 18,000 of them. Dollar stores tend to be located in majority Black and Latine communities where access to supermarkets is more limited. Dollar General could improve healthy food access in these communities, however almost none participate in WIC, a federal program that [improves access to nutritious foods](#) for the six million women, infants, and children with lower incomes who participate in the program.

Although 14 million people are eligible for WIC, [fewer than half of WIC-eligible families participate](#), in part due to barriers to program access. Dollar General could expand WIC accessibility by accepting WIC in more stores, especially in areas lacking a nearby WIC-authorized retailer. By meeting the nutrition-promoting WIC stocking standards, Dollar General would increase stock of healthy items like fruits, vegetables, whole grains, dairy, eggs, baby food, and formula, improving healthy food accessibility for WIC participants and healthy food availability for everyone who shops at a WIC-authorized dollar store.

Signed by

Organizations:

Association of State Public Health Nutritionists, Tucson, AZ
Adirondack Foundation | Adirondack Birth to Three Alliance, Lake Placid, NY
Alliance to End Hunger, Washington, DC
American Heart Association, Washington, DC
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, IL
Coalition on Human Needs, Washington, DC
CommonSpirit Health, Chicago, IL
Feast Down East, Inc, Wilmington and Burgaw, NC
Food Equality Initiative, Lenexa, KS
Food Sleuth LLC/ Food Sleuth Radio, Columbia, Missouri
Hunger Free America, New York, NY
Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), New York, NY
Jump IN for Healthy Kids, Indianapolis, IN
Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education & Policy, New York, NY
MomsRising, Bellevue, WA
National WIC Association, Washington, DC
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, Washington, DC
Partnership For a Healthier America, Washington, DC
Socially Responsible Investment Coalition, San Antonio, TX
The Praxis Project, Oakland, CA
Trinity Health, Bronx, NY
UnidosUS, Washington, D.C.
West Virginia Office of Nutrition Services, Charleston, WV

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