**Section 645.30 Eligible Applicants and Projects**

a) An applicant shall own and operate a grocery store, seek to acquire a grocery store, or establish a grocery store. Unless the applicant is a local governmental unit, the grocery store shall be independently owned and locally owned.

b) *The Department may award grants or provide loans* to an applicant establishing a new grocery store in a food desert *for any one or more of the following:*

1) *market and site feasibility studies, promotional materials, and marketing;*

2) *salaries and benefits for workers;*

3) *rent or a down payment to acquire a facility;*

4) *purchase of ownership of a grocery store as part of establishing a new grocery store;*

5) *capital improvements, planning, renovations, land acquisition, demolition, durable and non-durable equipment purchases; or*

6) *other costs as determined eligible by the Department*, including, but not limited to, insurance and utility cost. Costs unrelated to the provision of food, such as acquisition of video poker machines or equipment for lottery sales, are excluded*.* [20 ILCS 750/15]

c) In addition to the eligible uses listed in subsection (b), the Department may award a grant to an applicant that is a co-operative, non-for-profit corporation, or for-profit corporation for *equipment upgrades focused on providing access to equipment that is energy efficient. The Department shall use no more than 20% of total program funding for this purpose.* [20 ILCS 750/15(b)]