

# Economic Development

## Renaissance Community Co-op

Greensboro, NC

# Project Profile

## SNAPSHOT

**Activity Type** – Economic Development, Public Facilities and Improvements, and Public Services.

**Beneficiaries** – Community residents, small business owners, and job seekers.

**Project Total** – \$1,790,000

**CDBG Funds** – \$250,000

**Leverage** – 1:6.2

**Key Result** – The project created new job opportunities and has had a significant impact on alleviating food disparity issues in a food desert in Greensboro.

**Words of Advice** – Collaboration builds community.

**More Information** –  
<https://renaissancecoop.com/>  
<https://f4dc.org/>



The Renaissance Community Co-op store front.

### PLACE

In 1998, the local Winn-Dixie store serving Northeast Greensboro neighborhoods closed, leaving the area without a full-service grocery store and creating a food desert. The nearest grocery store was now more than 2 miles away, and low-income residents without transportation were significantly affected by the change. The community was left with limited access to fresh fruits, vegetables and meats at affordable prices.

### PEOPLE

Today, the Renaissance Community Co-op serves over 200 customers daily and has 1,300 members in this predominantly African-American and low-income community of approximately 35,000 residents. The Co-op pays \$10 or more per hour and provides benefits for 34 full- and part-time employees.

### PROJECT

In 2016, the Renaissance Community Co-op opened a 10,000 square foot grocery store in one of Greensboro's food deserts. The new store is community-owned and democratically controlled by its members, the majority of whom live in the surrounding community. The store stocks healthy foods at affordable prices with a commitment to locally sourced products.

### PARTNERS

Over a three-year period, a group of community residents, in partnership with the Fund for Democratic Communities, a Greensboro-based foundation, formed themselves into the Renaissance Community Cooperative (RCC). The mission was to create a democratically owned and controlled grocery store in Northeast Greensboro that provides all of Greensboro with healthy foods at affordable prices and has a commitment to locally sourced foods, community education and dignified jobs. The RCC raised most of the \$1.79 million needed to open the store from public and private investment and member equity. The City of Greensboro provided a matching grant of \$250,000, including CDBG and local economic development funds, to support the effort.

## Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

*Serving Low- and Moderate-Income Persons and Neighborhoods in the U.S.*

