

Healthy Food Buying Club



What is it?

A buying club is an arrangement where a group of people pre-orders a bulk quantity of fresh and whole foods and then splits the food and cost so everyone gets a wholesale price.

Healthy food buying clubs provide fresh, local and often organic food at low costs, with the possibility of providing paper products and other items to complete all grocery needs.

Above photo- Bed-Stuy Bounty, Good Food Club, Bed-Stuy, NY.

Benefits

- Members receive higher quality food while saving money on groceries.
- There is a ton of choice with hundreds of, even thousands of, products to purchase wholesale.
- Options exist for members to work and earn points for future purchases.
- Participants usually pay online, but there are ways to make EBT work.
- Connects residents on and offline.

Above photo- Good Food Club, Community Food Connections, Alberta Canada.

Challenges

- Most options require minimum orders. This is generally a requirement of the food distributors.
- Level of community engagement varies depending on the model.
- If people are splitting orders of perishable food there should be a food safety proponent (i.e. food handler's license).
- An on-site computer for ordering is helpful, but potentially costly.

Above photo- Brattleboro Early Education Center Buying Club, Brattleboro, VT.