In 2021, Florida Impact conducted a series of focus groups with Miami Gardens residents to discuss challenges and opportunities around healthy food access in the City. Here’s what we learned:

What else are Miami Gardens residents saying about their grocery store experience in Miami Gardens?

- Price, quality, and selection are very important in selecting a grocery store, but many residents have to shop outside the City to get them.
- There is increasing demand in Miami Gardens for high-quality, health food stores.
- Grocery stores cater to local communities, but are not reflecting changing demographics and demands.
- Miami Gardens has an abundance of unhealthy options targeting local residents, especially in checkout lanes.
- Checkout lane purchases are often driven by impulse, or children, and lack healthy alternatives.
- Speed is the most important factor in choosing a checkout lane.
- Stores, individuals, and the City all share a responsibility for improving health and nutrition in Miami Gardens.

Recommendations:

- Pursue a citywide healthy checkout policy to improve nutrition standards in checkout lanes.
- Increase resident involvement in City planning decisions, especially those involving food retailers.
- Provide new educational opportunities for Miami Gardens residents to learn about healthy eating, and to try new, nutritious foods.

For further information on healthy retail efforts in Miami Gardens, visit WWW.FLORIDAHEALTHYRETAIL.ORG
In 2021, Florida Impact conducted a series of focus groups with Miami Gardens residents to discuss challenges and opportunities around healthy food access in the City. We’ve combined the most common phrases participants used to describe what is currently sold in grocery store checkout lanes in Miami Gardens into this bonus word cloud: