



Making summer's bounty accessible

Summer is a great time to be outside and to enjoy fresh produce. Farmer's markets and community gardens are typically in full force with an array of fresh fruits, vegetables and other delights.

Sadly, not everyone has access to fresh food. In some lower-income areas and communities of color, residents live further than one mile from the nearest supermarket, or other source of healthy food choices, as detailed in a recent [PolicyLink report](#).



Source: [PolicyLink](#)

The good news is that many communities are working actively to change these dynamics, including many NeighborWorks member organizations. In this issue, we illustrate what's working. Watch our Facebook and Twitter channels this week for more great NeighborWorks examples.

Fresh & educational: NeighborWorks Umpqua's Local Goods

NeighborWorks Umpqua is helping eradicate a food desert while promoting economic development opportunities for residents of Roseburg, Oregon. The Umpqua Local Goods store is a social enterprise created through a partnership with Phoenix Charter School. The store gives high school students an opportunity to learn marketable skills. Additionally, it offers a retail outlet for local farmers and artisans to sell their goods, and a licensed commercial kitchen for entrepreneur chefs to create fresh fare. The result: increased access to healthy food for residents in the area.

“Our presence in downtown Roseburg gives people more affordable food choices, especially since we lost the Safeway [supermarket] here five or six years ago,” said Sami Stephens, store manager at Umpqua Local Goods.

Read more →



▼ Low Income (LI) & Low Access (LA) Layers ?

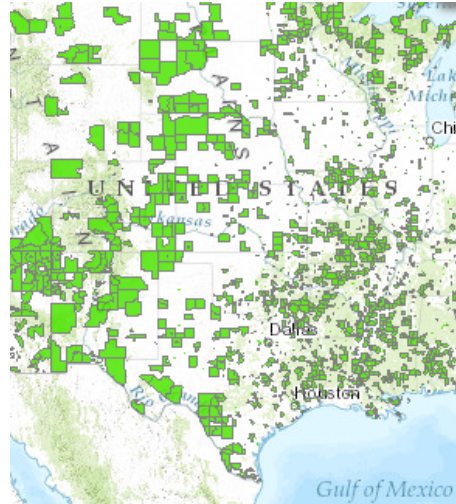
- LI and LA at 1 and 10 miles ? ▬
(Original Food Desert measure)
- LI and LA at 1/2 and 10 miles ? ▬
- LI and LA at 1 and 20 miles ? ▬
- LI and LA using vehicle access ? ▬

▶ Component Layers ?

How far to fresh food?: USDA's interactive map

Did you know you can map your community's access to fresh food? The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service offers a web-based mapping tool to locate data on food access nationwide.

The Food Access Research Atlas provides a spatial overview of methods that communities use to reach their nearest supermarket. It also allows users to create maps that feature availability of grocery stores, measures of food access for various populations and download census tracts.



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