

FOOD ACCESS IN AUSTIN

Open Space, Environment, and Sustainability Committee
September 23, 2015

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Office of Sustainability



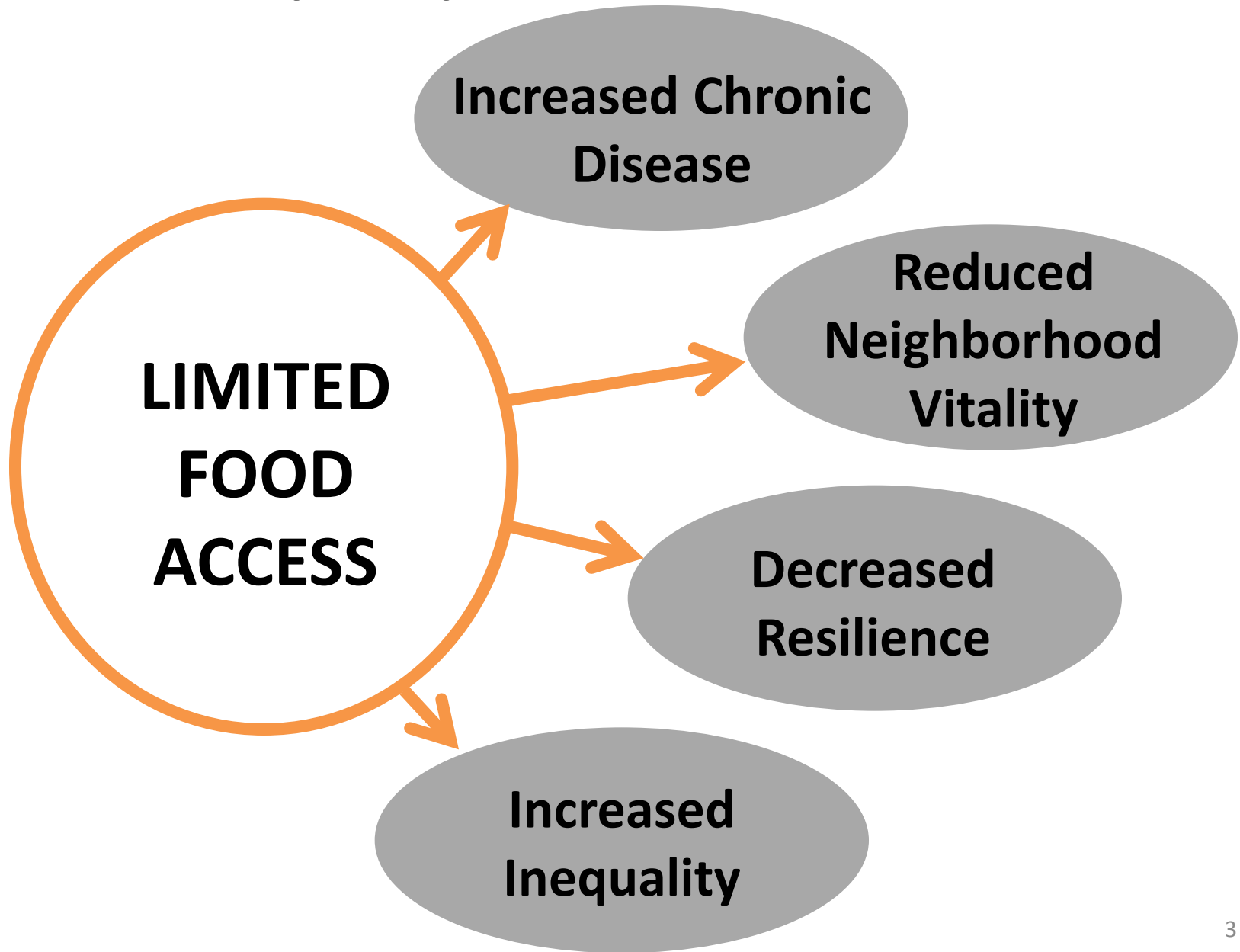
OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY

CITY OF AUSTIN



FOOD ACCESS =
Opportunities to get
healthy, affordable food

Community Impacts

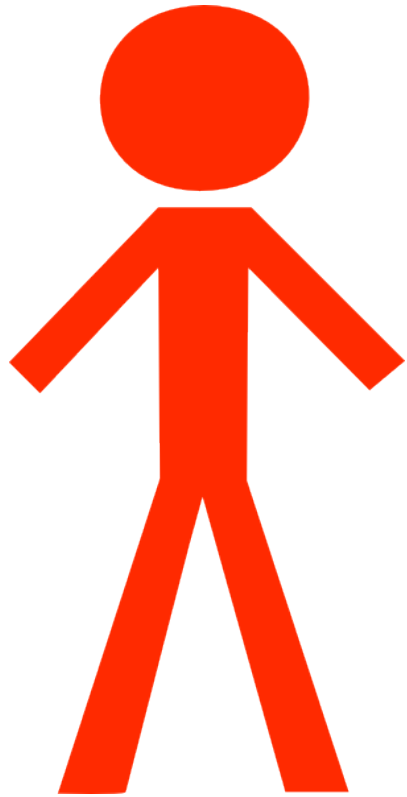


Community Impacts

A photograph of four women of diverse ages and ethnicities in a garden. One woman is kneeling and holding a large green melon, while the others stand around her, smiling. The background is a dense wall of green leaves and vines.

- **25% children are food insecure**
- **63% students eligible for free & reduced lunch**
- **\$9 billion obesity costs to businesses**
- **33,589 food-related calls to United Way**

Barriers to Eating Healthy Food



**Price of healthy
produce**

**Quality of
produce**

**Quality of retail
outlets**

**Location of retail
outlets**



Mapping Food Access in Austin

United Way 211 calls

School free lunches

SNAP (food stamps)

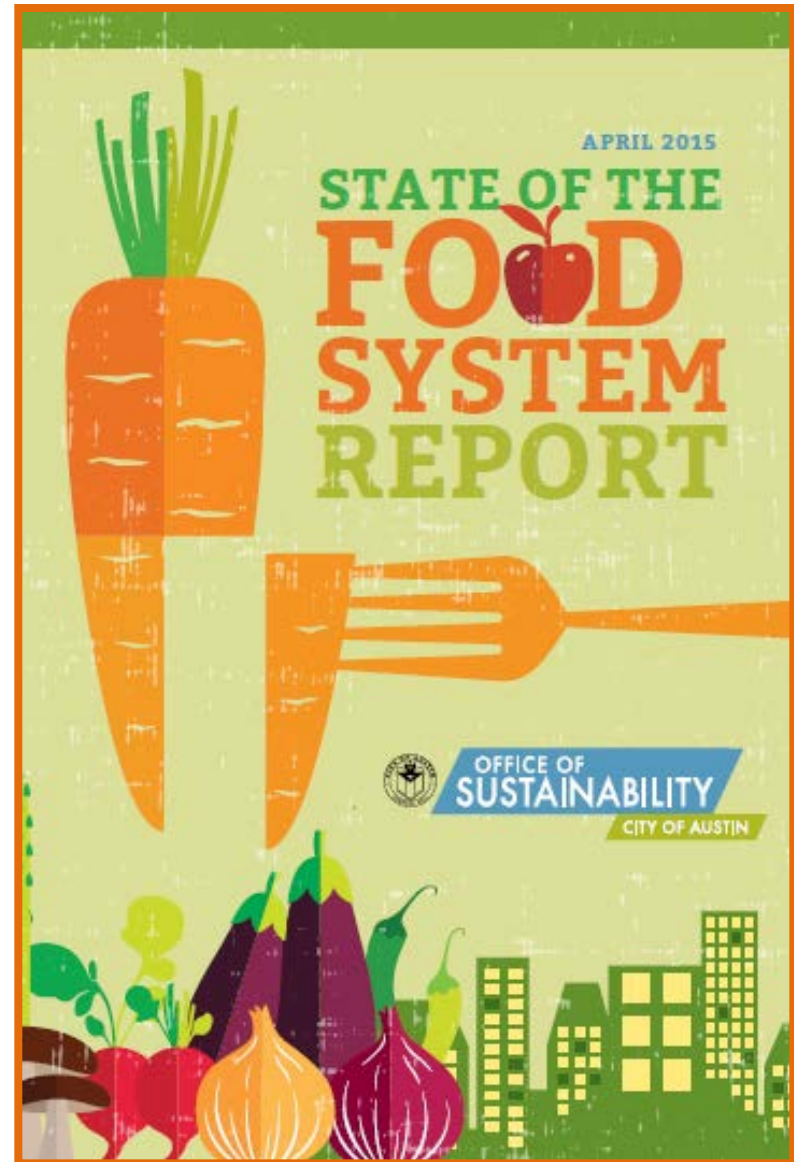
Community gardens

School gardens

Urban farms

Grocery stores

Farmers markets



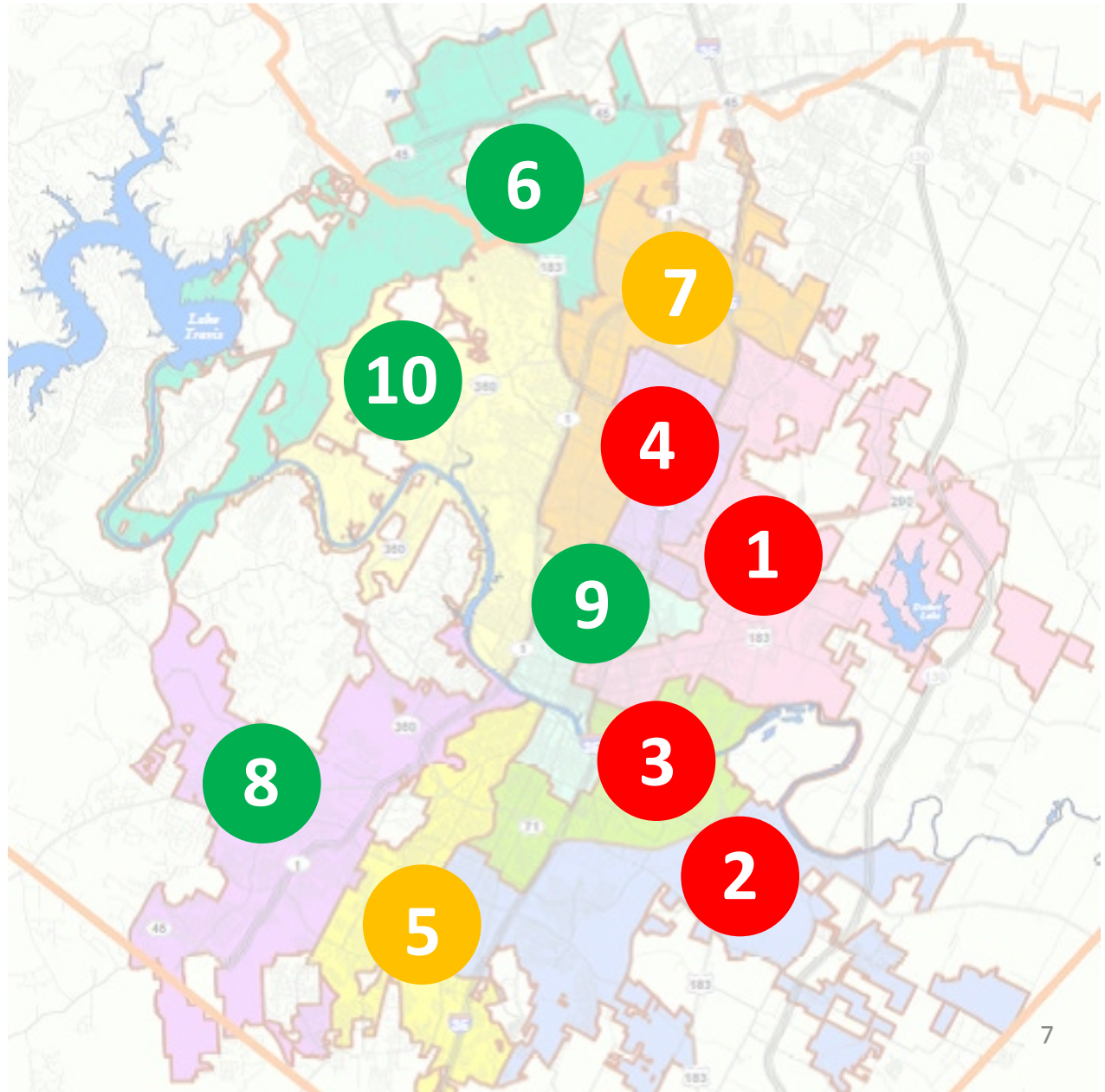
Rates of Food Assistance by District

211 calls to
United Way

Free & reduced
lunch program

SNAP benefits

WIC benefits

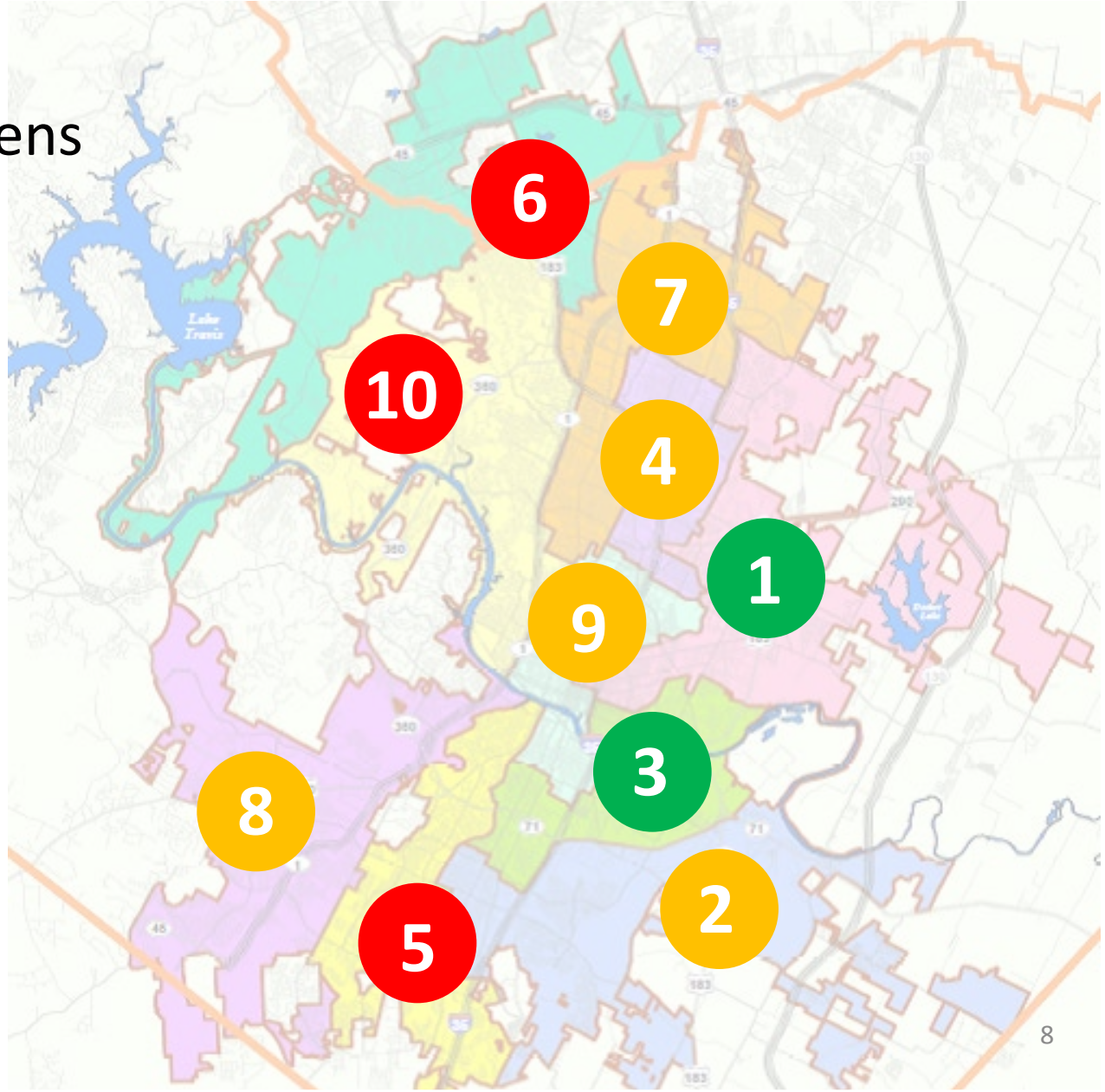
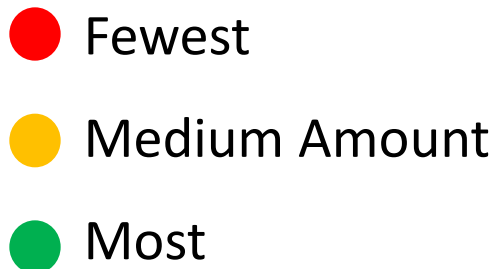


Garden and Farm Locations by District

Community Gardens

School Gardens

Urban Farms



Locations of Retail Outlets by District

Farm stands

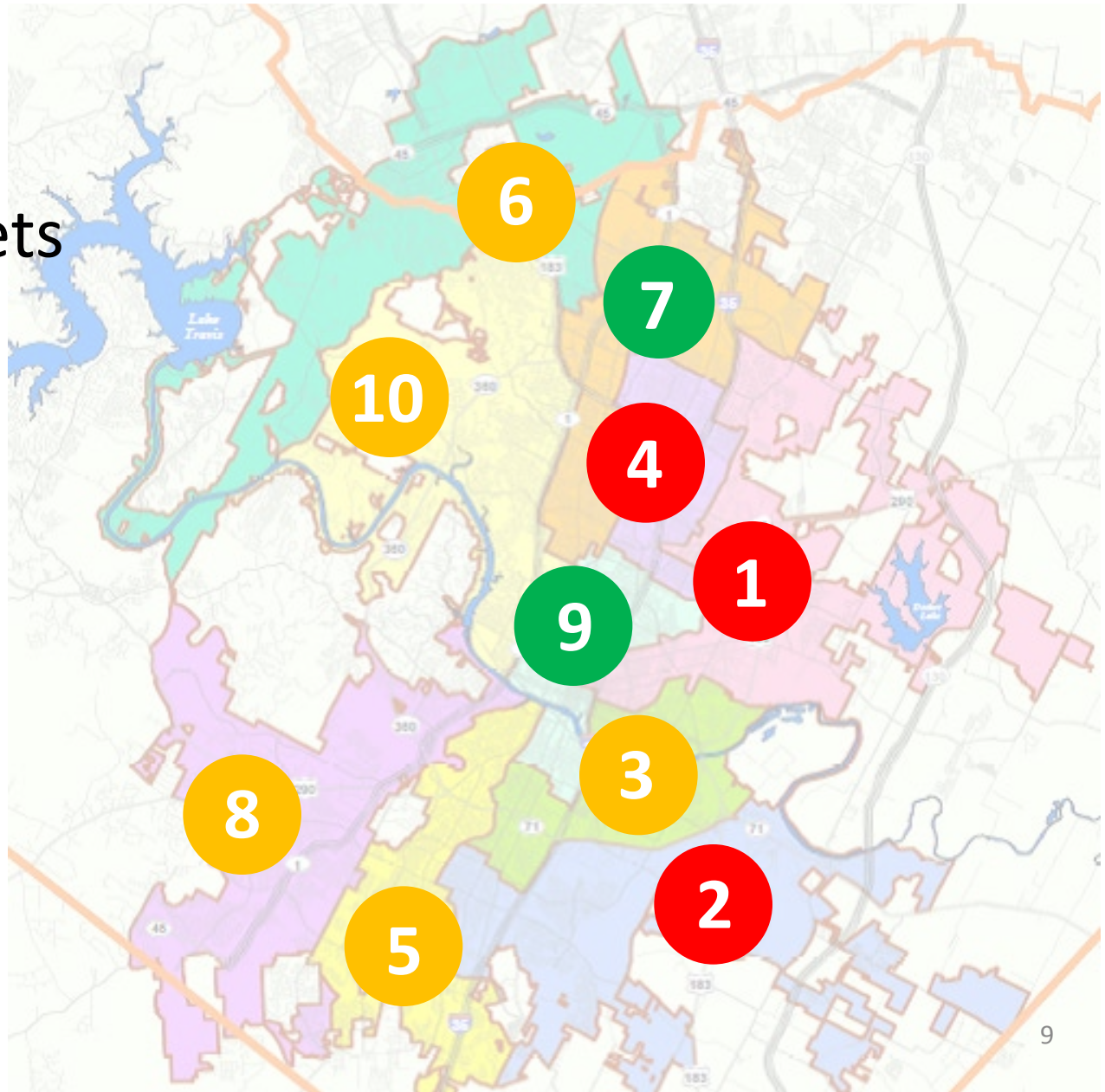
Farmers markets

Grocery stores

● Fewest

● Medium Amount

● Most

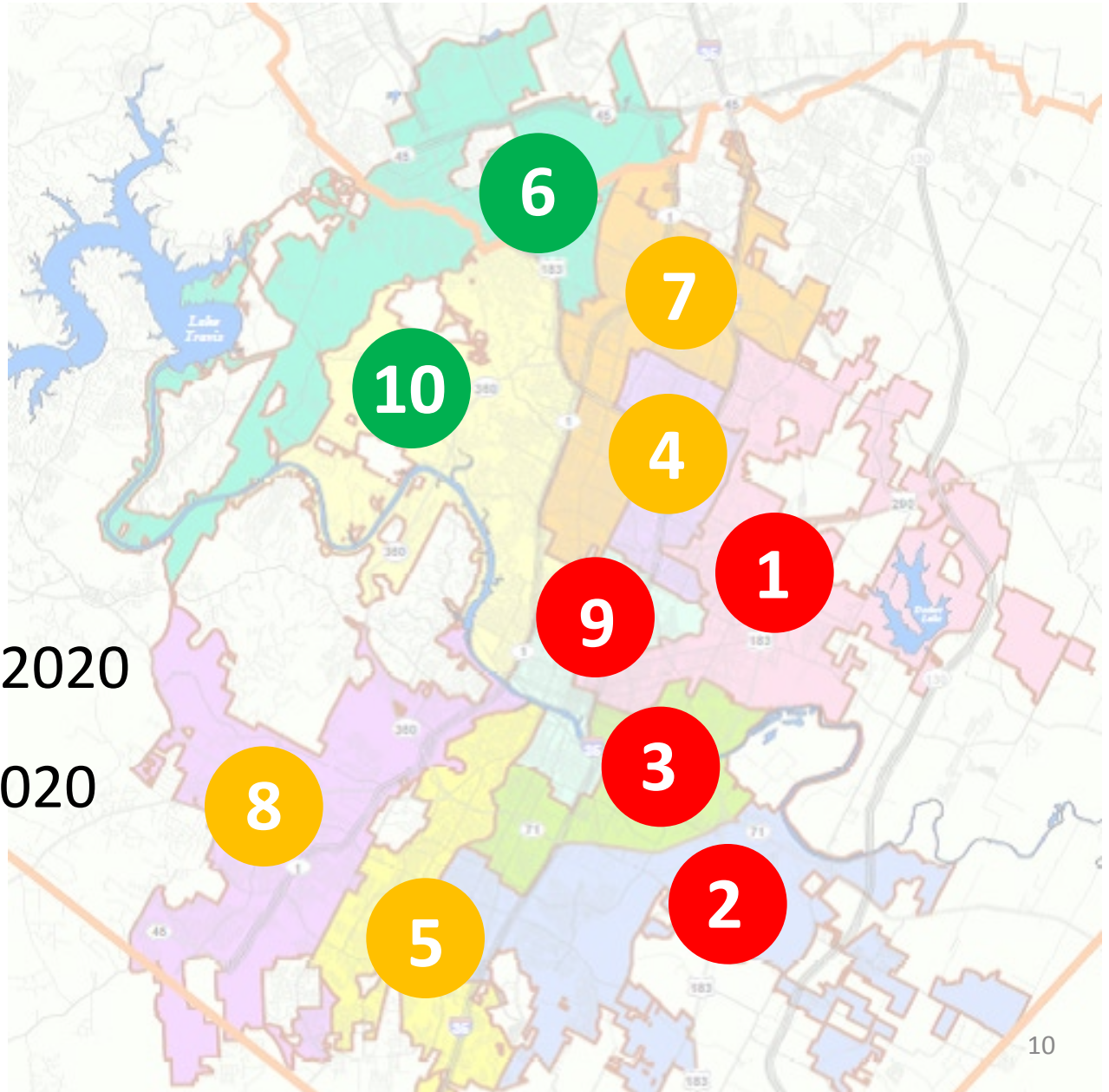


Projected Population Growth by District

● 15 – 20,000 by 2020

● 5 – 10,000 by 2020

● <2,500 by 2020



Key Considerations

- Food shopping is not confined to district boundaries
- Low income minority groups are disproportionately impacted
- Population growth may heighten existing disparities
- Building on neighborhood strengths is the best way to improve food access



People + Programs + Places



= FOOD ASSETS

Multicultural Refugee Coalition



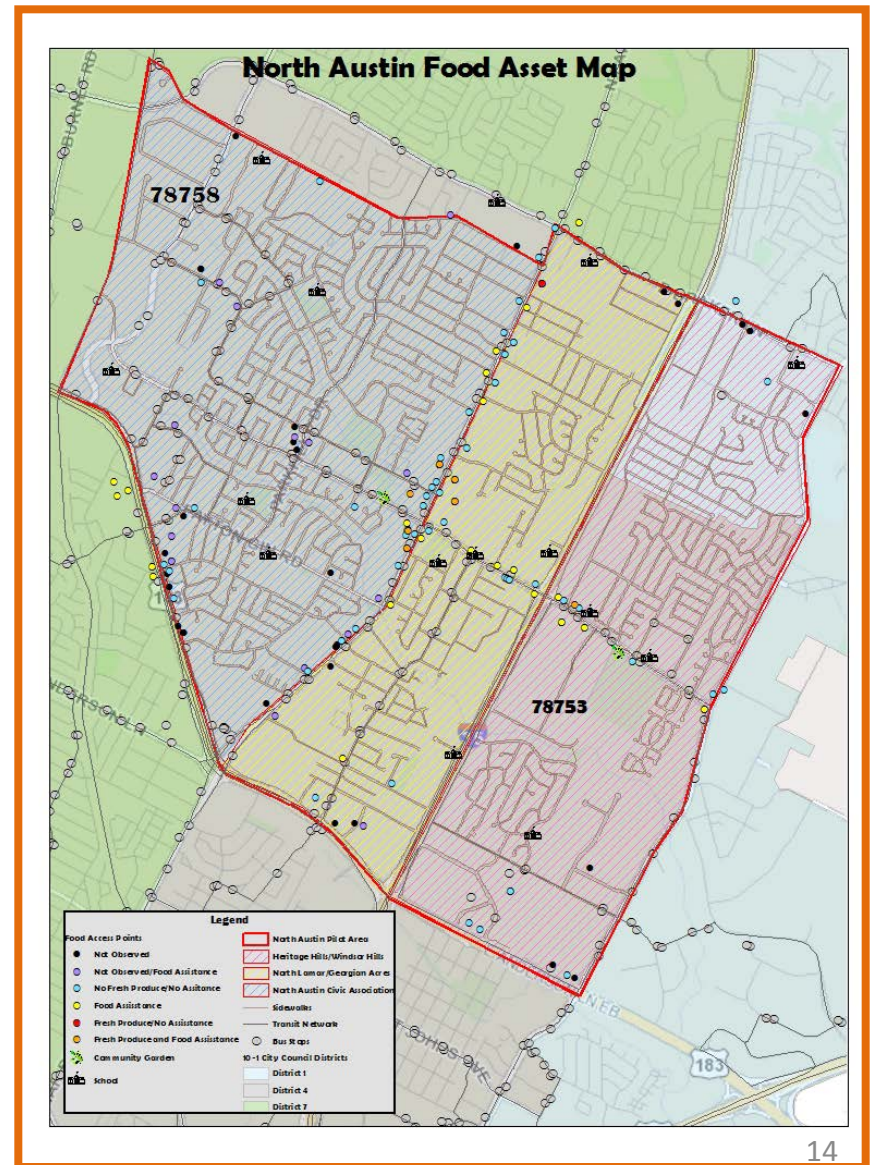
Rundberg Plan4Health Pilot

Fresh produce mapping

Connections with
transportation options

Resident outreach /
engagement

Community toolkit &
resources



Neighborhood Food Planning

- Outreach / public engagement:
 - Barriers to healthy food access
 - Nutritional knowledge
 - Cultural food preferences
- Cross-departmental efforts to address:
 - Transportation options
 - Land use policies
 - Economic incentives
 - Health objectives

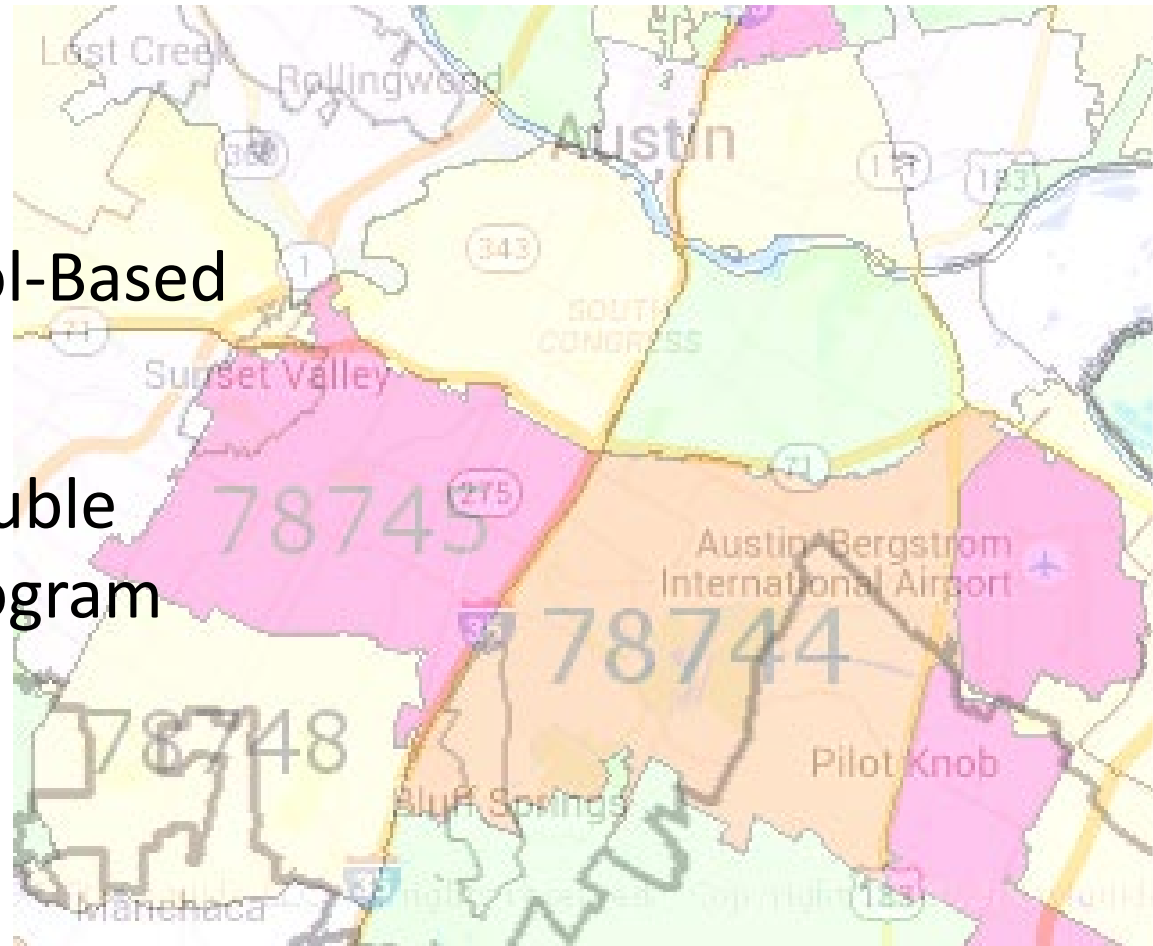
Rundberg Outcomes

- Assess opportunities to expand urban food production
- Support expansion of quality food retail
- Improve outreach to people eligible for SNAP benefits
- Support integration of transportation, food retail, and housing
- Increase recovered food donations to emergency shelters

FY 2015-16 New Initiatives

Led by Health & Human Services
Supported by Office of Sustainability

- Healthy Food Retail
- Community & School-Based Farm Markets
- Farmers Market Double Dollars Incentive Program



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