

Alternatives to Food Access:

Food Assistance Agencies

Background & Purpose

- This study provides an overview of the accessibility of food assistance agencies to vulnerable communities as part of the City of Austin's Food Environment Analysis. In addition, an index was created to assess the availability and quality of the food provided at food assistance agencies.

Accessibility to food assistance agencies were analyzed based on distance, in miles, from census block groups to nearest food pantry for:

1. Majority of residents living below 200% FPL
2. Latino residents
3. African American residents

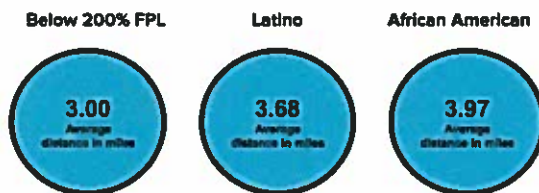
Availability & Quality of food assistance agencies was assessed based on an index to score a sample of food assistance agencies (n=60) based on:

1. Presence of Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
2. Presence of Meat, Eggs, Dairy
3. Infrastructure (refrigerator, freezer)
4. Transit (proximity to a bus stop)

Main Findings

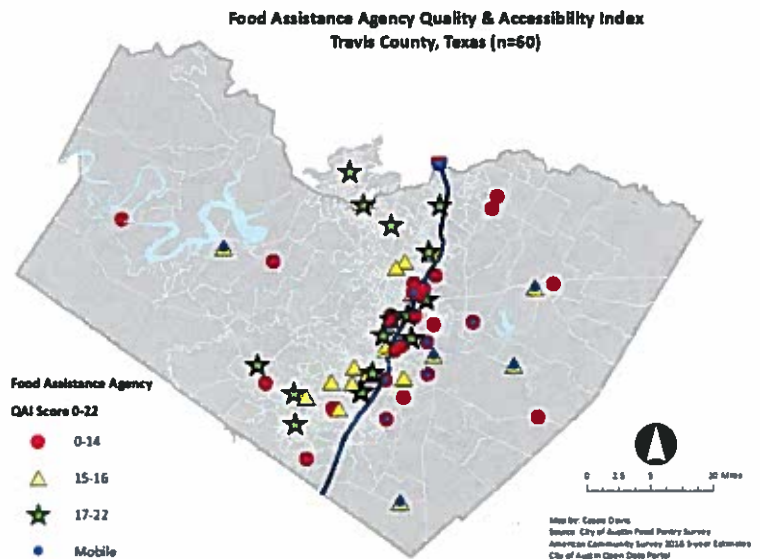
Accessibility

- Food Assistance agencies are located, on average, **closer** to communities vulnerable to food insecurity.



Availability & Quality

- Food assistance agencies scored on average **14.48** on a scale of 0-22.
 - 16 High-quality
 - 18 Medium quality
 - 26 Low-quality



Recommendations

4-Step Grant Process: Public-Private partnership between COA/Travis County and CTFB

1. Healthy Food Pantry Assessment Toolkit by USDA
2. SNAP/WIC enrollment campaigns
3. Food Demonstrations and Donated Kitchenware
4. Expand current Mobile Food Pantry program

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