Pittsburgh's Food Data Story

Dawn Plummer • Executive Director
dawn@pittsburghfoodpolicyorg

11.19.2020

Our Mission

"Founded in 2009 to build a food system that benefits our communities, economy, and environment in ways that are just, equitable and sustainable.

Driven by community-led solutions, we bring together over 100 entities and 130 individuals to re-imagine our region's food system and seek policies that promote local food growing, sustainable agriculture, equitable development and access to healthy food, particularly in low-income communities."

Pittsburgh Challenge Team

Project Lead
- **Pittsburgh Food Policy Council**

Project Partners: Pgh Food Team
- **City of Pittsburgh**
  - Mayor's Office
  - City Planning Department
  - Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations
- **Allegheny County Health Department**
- **American Heart Association Greater Pittsburgh Chapter**
- **Community leader**

Our Challenge Goals

Goal 1

- Standardize **data collection and measurement of food and health equity** in Pittsburgh that will identify food equity priority areas.

Goal 2

- Design and launch **resident leadership program** to meaningfully co-design policy

Goal 3

- Pass comprehensive **citywide food & health equity policy**

The Problem

...to Address the Problem

Food Access Map

Food Access Locations (basic)
A Code for Pittsburgh Project

Legend · Layers · Basemap gallery · Share · Print

Layers

- ✔ Fresh Produce
- ✔ Farmers' Market Nutrition Program
- ✔ WIC
- ✔ SNAP
- ✔ Food Bucks
- ✔ Free Distribution
- ☐ Port Authority Routes
- ✔ City Pittsburgh neighborhoods
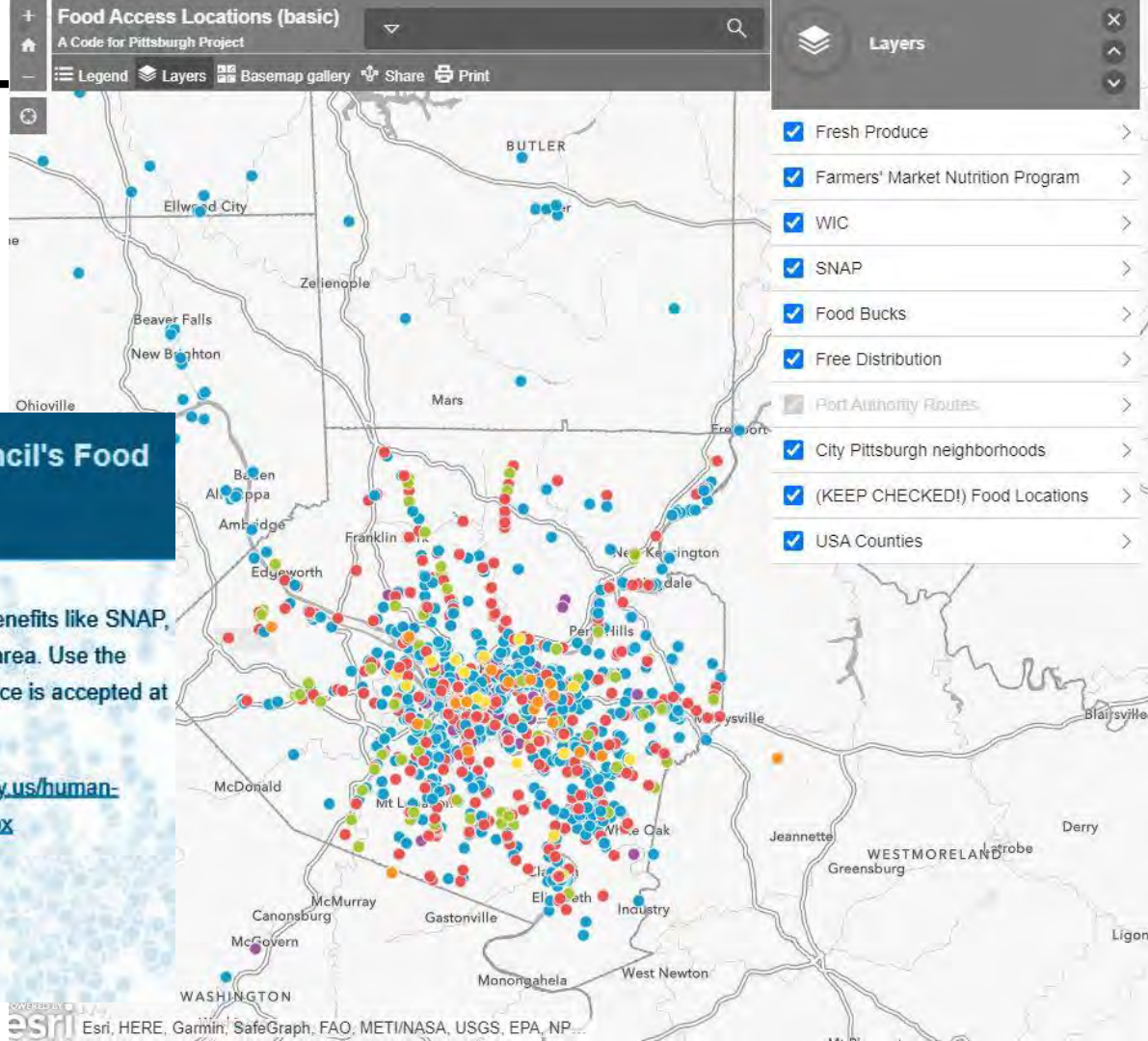- ✔ (KEEP CHECKED!) Food Locations
- ✔ USA Counties

Welcome to Pittsburgh Food Policy Council's Food Access Map!

This map shows places you can access groceries and use benefits like SNAP, WIC and farmers market vouchers to shop in the Pittsburgh area. Use the check boxes in the Layers menu to select what food assistance is accepted at each site.

See this site for food assistance: https://www.alleghenycounty.us/human-services/programs-services/basic-needs/food-assistance.aspx

Submit feedback to codeforpgh@gmail.com.

Close

Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NP...

- **Food access points**: grocery stores, farmers markets, corner stores, food pantries, alternative food distribution sites (soup kitchens, Islamic Center in Oakland, 412 distribution sites), farm stands (Braddock), mobile market stops, summer meal sites, after school meals, immigrant-owned stores that aren't Fresh Corners, senior box sites, senior feeding sites, Produce to People sites, Meals on Wheels
  - ➔ Details of food access points determined by the Food & Health Equity Working Group: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fG6xHQBlF04YBR7gzZrrggwQS4wLSqZtgqyNmw1Kzwk/edit

- **Layers**: layer that shows where incentive programs are available; SNAP accepted; WIC accepted, FMNP (PA Dept of Ag), filter for fresh produce/healthy; include all food points; transportation (Active Allegheny Plan), Modified Retail Food Environment Index (MRFEI) scores for Census tracts in Allegheny County.

foodactionplan.org , page 18 & 20

GOAL 1
Enhance coordination and communication among existing food systems' resources and agencies.

RECOMMENDATION 1.1 — Increase the leadership capacity of local government to address food systems challenges.

STRATEGY 1.1.4: Create shared food systems measurement frameworks.

Many organizations that work on food systems issues measure and track the impact of their work using different indicators and/or data sources. This lack of a shared framework makes it difficult to compare data and track progress over time both among different levels of government (City, County, State) and among organizations operating at the same level of government. Additionally, when useful data sets do not exist, organizations may develop sources for them in an ad-hoc fashion, creating further difficulty. Organizing a shared measurement framework to assist in data collection that would make data available for others to use would foster a better understanding of the regional food system.

STAKEHOLDERS

Public sector: Allegheny County, City of Pittsburgh, Port Authority

Contributors: Center for Regional Agriculture, Food, and Transformation, CREATE Lab, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, Pittsburgh Food Policy Council, Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center

CURRENT STATUS

The Center for Regional Agriculture, Food, and Transformation has been working to identify overlaps and gaps in existing datasets. The Pittsburgh Food Policy Council, Allegheny County Health Department, and City of Pittsburgh were recently awarded a Healthiest Cities and Counties Challenge Grant, part of which includes standardizing data measures used across agencies.

NEXT STEPS

☐ Convene stakeholders to identify needs and opportunities
☐ Develop a collaborative shared measurement framework

POTENTIAL EVALUATION MEASURES:

1. Have stakeholders been convened [Yes/No]
2. Has a shared measurement framework been developed? [Yes/No]

The Solution(s)

Solutions

Convene Stakeholders

Standardize Definitions & Data Collection

Use standard criteria to identify areas of focus & investment

On behalf of our PghFoodTeam, Thank you!

Dawn Plummer

Pittsburgh Food Policy Council

dawn@pittsburghfoodpolicy.org

www.pittsburghfoodpolicy.org

Download our region's first food systems plan at foodactionplan.org