



# Food Access – Alternative Brick and Mortar Projects

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# Food Access



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# Food Insecurity Definitions

- Food insecurity is the limited or uncertain **availability** of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, or the limited or uncertain **ability** to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.
- **Low access** to food, combined with **low income**, contribute to the formulation of food deserts.
- Different models to combat food insecurity include government run grocery stores, nonprofit grocery stores funded by the community and/or government, and for profit grocery stores.

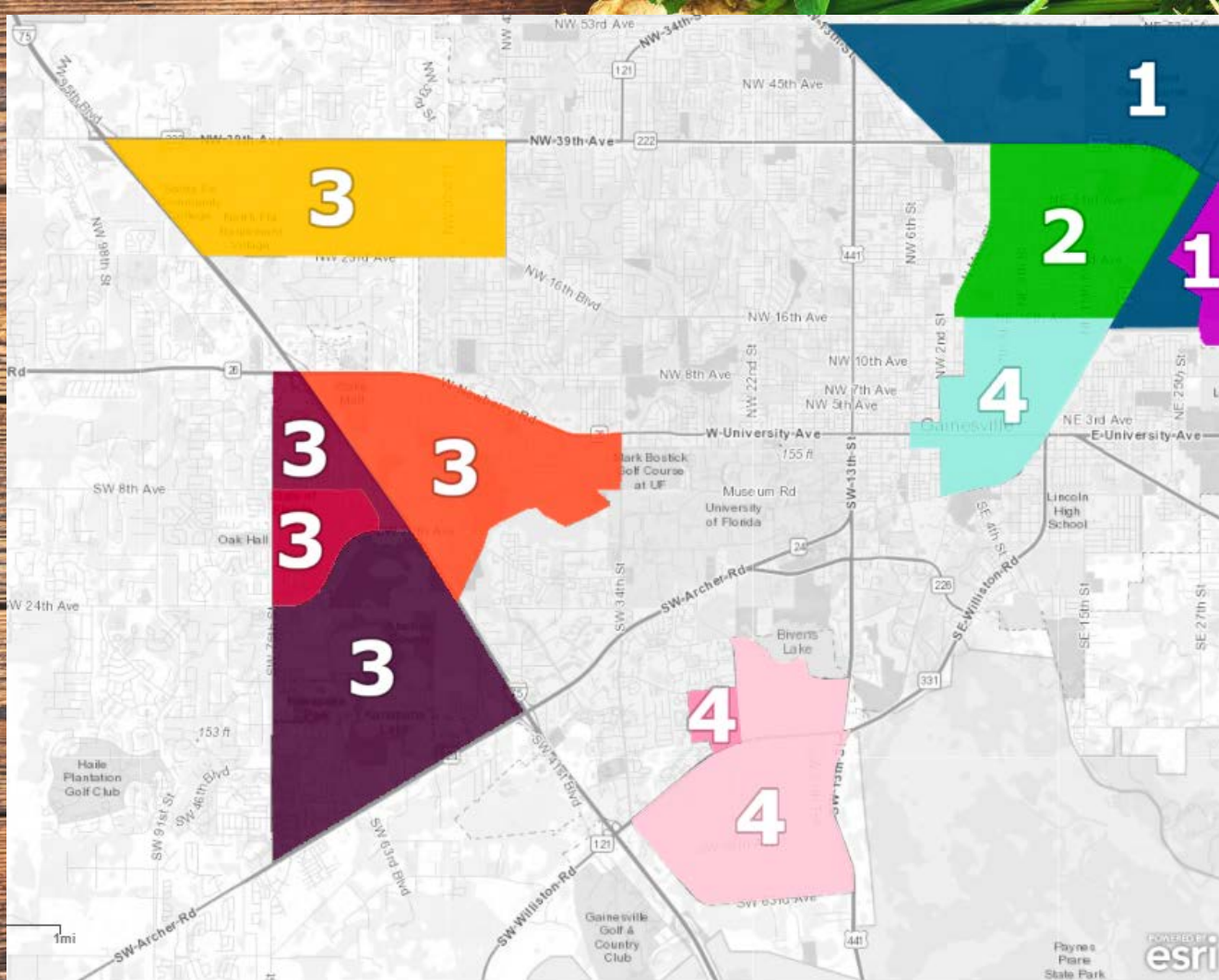
# Food Insecurity in Gainesville

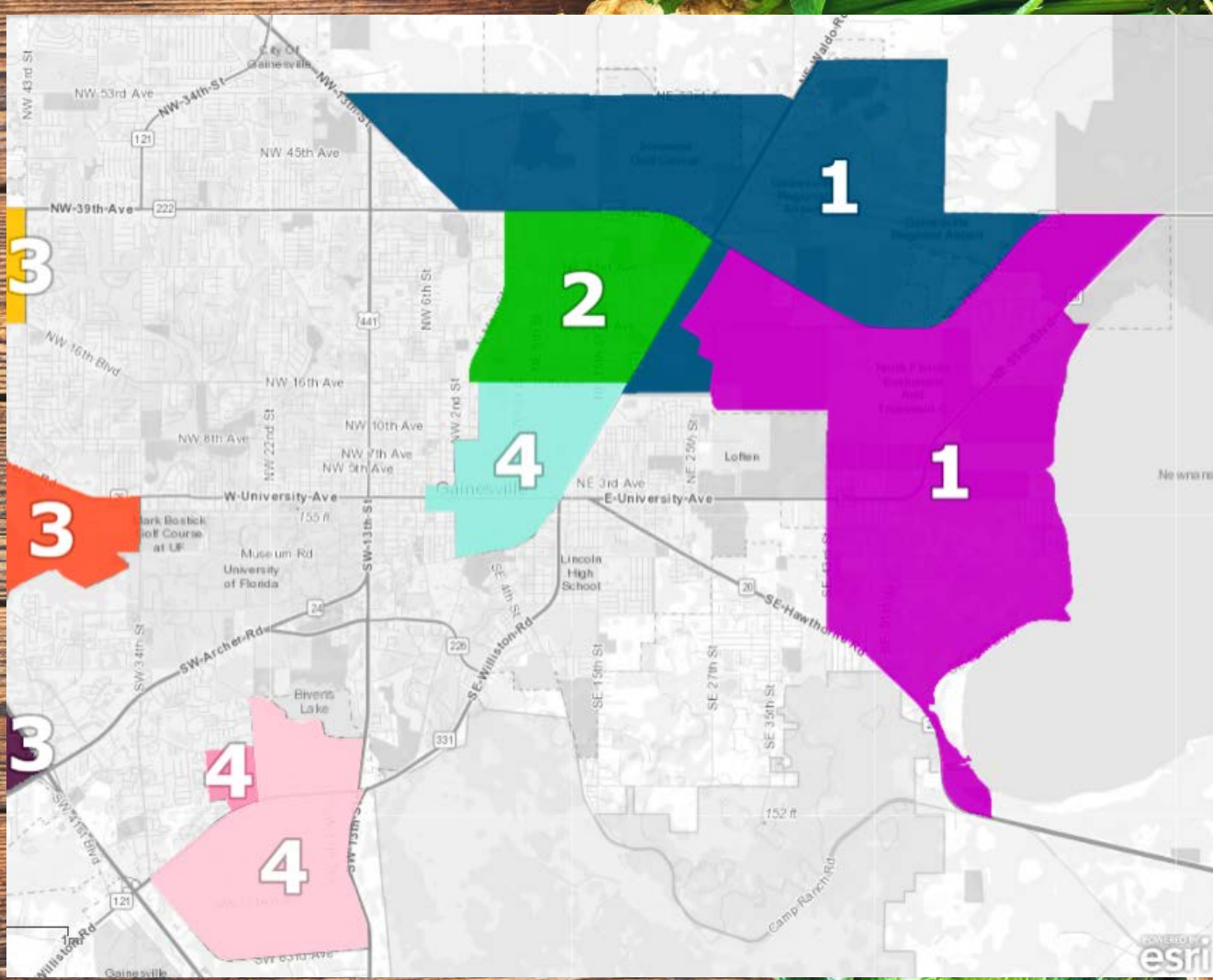


- In 2020, the food insecurity rate in Alachua County rose from 13.9% in 2018 to almost 17%.
- In 2020, the percentage of students eligible to receive free or reduced lunch at Alachua County schools ranged from 28-63%.
- Several initiatives to combat food insecurity in Gainesville exist, such as the Bread of the Mighty Food Bank and the Junior League of Gainesville's Action Against Hunger Initiative, however 11 census tracts in the Gainesville area remain burdened by the LA and LI factors.

# Grocery Stores in Gainesville

- To meet the USDA's definition of a supermarket or large grocery store, the store must have reported at least \$2 million in annual sales and contain all the major food departments found in a traditional supermarket, which include fresh meat and poultry, dairy, dry and packaged foods, and frozen foods.
- There are only a few grocery stores in Gainesville which fit the USDA's definition of a grocery store, which include Publix, Sam's Club, and Walmart stores.





# Examples of Brick and Mortar Projects

- **Government Run For Profit Grocery Stores**
  - Baldwin, Florida
- **Nonprofit Grocery stores**
  - School Run Grocery Stores (Sanger, Texas)
  - Mobile food pantries (North Texas Food Bank and United Way, Southeastern Connecticut)
  - Multi-purpose facilities (Evans Center, Palm Bay, Florida)
- **For Profit Grocery Stores**
  - Ford Heights Public Housing (Chicago Housing Authority, Illinois)
  - Multi-purpose facilities (Midland & East Third Facility, Lexington, Kentucky)



# Baldwin, Florida



- Baldwin, Florida opened a government-run grocery store after the local IGA closed in 2018.
- Baldwin already owned the store occupied by the IGA and the land under it.
- The grocery store is a for-profit business, and the initiative was funded with \$150,000 from the town's reserve fund to hire staff, pay food vendors, and rehab the refrigeration system.
- This original amount is being paid off in monthly installments of \$3,000.

# Sanger, Texas



- School-run grocery store at Linda Tutt High School, where 43% of students are considered economically disadvantaged.
- Students can pay for food in the school's grocery store through points, which are initially set based on family size but can also be earned through outstanding performance at school.
- The store is run entirely by students, and the school partnered with First Refuge Ministries, Texas Health Resources, and the local grocery store to open the store.

# Chicago, Illinois

The background of the slide is a wooden surface with a warm, brown tone. Overlaid on this is a collection of fresh vegetables, including several bright orange carrots, a cluster of red cherry tomatoes, a head of green leafy lettuce, and some purple eggplants. The vegetables are arranged in a somewhat natural, overlapping manner, creating a vibrant and healthy aesthetic.

- The Chicago Housing Authority converted a unit at the Ford Heights Public Housing Complex into a for-profit grocery store, Crisp Market, which is owned and operated by for-profit social service agency, Catholic Charities.
- The store is staffed by public housing residents, and the complex is located in an area that has long been a food desert, with the nearest grocery store over 30 minutes away.

# Nonprofit Run Mobile Food Pantries

A vibrant basket of fresh produce, including several bright orange carrots, a cluster of red cherry tomatoes, a head of purple cauliflower, and various leafy greens like basil and lettuce, all set against a rustic wooden background.

- **North Texas Food Bank Mobile Pantry**

- Operated by the nonprofit North Texas Food Bank, which consists of grocery store trucks that travel to low-income communities in food deserts in North Texas. The trucks carry fresh produce, and deliver to several churches and local organizations.
- Families can receive up to 50 pounds of food per visit, and NTFB also helps families sign up to receive SNAP benefits.

- **United Way of Southeastern Connecticut Mobile Food Pantry**

- Mobile pantry extension of the nonprofit Gemma E. Moran Labor Food Center. The mobile pantry operates similar to a farmers market by distributing fresh fruits, vegetables, and protein to families needing assistance. The pantry distributes for 1-2 hours at each location, and participating households receive a week's worth of food.

# Multi-Purpose Facilities



- **Lexington, Kentucky: Midland & East Third Facility**
  - For-profit grocery store within a multi-purpose facility that is expected to be operational in 2021. The MET facility includes apartments, retail space, and a restaurant, and 30% of the apartments will be dedicated to low-income renters.
- **Palm Bay, Florida: Evans Center**
  - Non-profit grocery store within a multi-purpose facility, which includes a Federally Qualified Health Center and a community room for job training and health and wellness education.
  - The Evans Center was primarily financed by loans from the Florida Community Loan Fund (which are forgivable due to the Healthy Food Financing Initiative), but also received about 40% of the funding from community donations.
  - The Evans Center sources products by buying at bulk at stores such as Sam's Club, as many distributors are unwilling to sell to such a small grocery store.

# Risks/Benefits Analysis

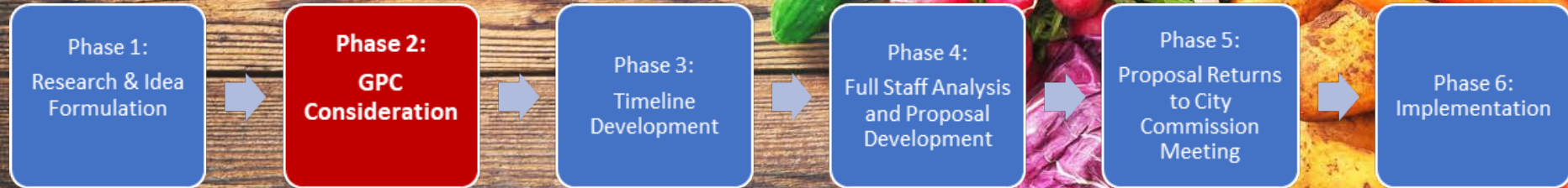
## Risks

- May be difficult to secure funding for a government-run grocery store, which can lessen the store's ability to provide affordable food
- Convincing for-profit grocery stores to establish themselves in food deserts can be difficult
- Nonprofit grocery stores may take away business from existing stores, or vice-versa

## Benefits

- Potential to mitigate food deserts
- The pressure to make an immediate profit is not as prevalent in nonprofit grocery stores which receive government or community funding
- Brick and Mortar programs can increase employment in communities

# Recommended Next Steps



**We are here!**

**If the General Policy Committee wishes to proceed, the next step is to move this project to Phase 3 of the Policy Process.**



# Discussion

**Gainesville.**  
Citizen centered  
People empowered