



Unit 8 - 2018-2019 Food: Food Access

Reporting Period	2018 - 2019
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Level	Unit
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Type	Local
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Status	Finished
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Program Areas	4H Youth Development Agriculture and Natural Resources Family Consumer Science SNAP-Ed
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Unit	Unit 8 (District)
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Grand Challenges	Food
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Situation	<p>Access of healthy food (10 miles from a grocery store in rural areas and one mile in urban areas) has a major influence on overall health and well-being of individuals and families. One in five Illinoisans has low access to food and recent reports identify 270,353 Illinoisans live in food deserts. Many families facing food access issues may also be facing issues of limited transportation, limited financial resources, and other realities of poverty.</p> <p>Extension is armed to address the issue of food access at the individual, community/organizational, and policy levels. Through Extension's multi-disciplinary team members and extensive volunteer base, Extension is positioned to reach a broad and diverse group of stakeholders to address this issue.</p> <p>Through our internal civil rights compliance review, we identified seven communities for targeted outreach: Mendota, DePue, Streator, Spring Valley, LaSalle, Ottawa, and Marseilles. Mendota and DePue have a high percentage of Latino families. Extension will implement 4-H and SNAP-Ed programming in these communities. In September 2018, a part-time Extension Program Coordinator was hired for Bureau County to reach 1st Generation 4-H Latino Families through a grant supported by the State 4-H Office. The program is carried out in partnership with DePue School. The Unit's 4-H Youth Development programs provide opportunities for youth and families across the Unit's four county area: to become aware of careers and workforce opportunities; to obtain knowledge and skills relating to careers and workforce; to practice work through project activities; and through participation in workshops, SPIN club involvement and more. Each year the Unit's 4-H staff convene two meetings per year of the 4-H Expansion and Review Committee to review current programming and discuss future needs. In 2018, meetings were held on June 6, 2018, and September 13, 2018. In 2018, Unit 8 established an Education Center & Community Teaching Kitchen in LaSalle. This community-based SNAP-Ed grant pilot project is one of three sites in Illinois. Program focus areas include: prevention of obesity and chronic disease, food access, food safety and workforce preparedness. SNAP-Ed and Extension educational programs will be provided to both youth and adult audiences to address the focus areas. Interdisciplinary programming will be provided including 4-H and Master Gardener/Master Naturalist and Natural Resources. The Unit's Multi-County Unit Council reviews the Unit's programming and outreach efforts on an ongoing basis. The council meets 5 times per year to oversee and conduct Extension business.</p>
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Short-Term (Knowledge)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved knowledge of emergency food/food access locations • Increase awareness of hunger and food access issue • Increase knowledge of strategies to address food access • Increased strategies and plans to address food access issues in communities • Increase number of volunteer and advocates for food access (including donation gardens, etc) • Increase in plans developed for community service projects addressing food access • Increase in organizations and partners addressing food access
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Indicators	<i>Not Specified</i>
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Medium-Term (Behavior)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase participation at food access locations (pantries, summer meals, farmers market, community donation drop off locations) • Increase in number of Farmers Markets, Food Hubs, and Mobile Markets serving low access areas • Increase in number of acres planted to supply food to limited access areas (including school gardens, community plots, small farms, donation projects, etc) • Increase in amount of food supplied to low access areas (pounds of produce, meals packaged, etc) • Increased number of organization adopting action plans and strategies to increase food access (schools, early childhood, social service, etc) • Increased advocacy for policies
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Indicators	<i>Not Specified</i>
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Long-Term (Change in Condition)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in consistent food supply for all • Decrease food insecurity rate • Decrease in low food access designated areas • Increased community policies that facilitate food access and zoning • Increase in policies addressing food access and insecurity
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Indicators	<i>Not Specified</i>
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Public Value	<i>Not Specified</i>
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Outputs

Activities:

- Mobile Market/Farmers Market Promotion
- SNAP Ed Summer Meals/School Meals (SNAP Ed)
- 4-H Feeding and Growing Our Communities
- Community and donation gardens
- Illinois Master Gardener Program
- Junior Master Gardener Program
- SNAP Ed and Master Gardener Community Garden programming (SNAP Ed/Hort)
- Develop Coalitions specific to Food Access
- Food access research and demonstration

Target Participation:

- Individuals facing food access issues
- Small Farmers
- Commercial Ag Research/Producers
- Gardeners
- Gardening Groups
- 4-Hers/4-H Clubs
- Social Service Agencies
- Schools/Child Care Facilities
- Food Pantries/Food Banks
- Government Officials
- Community Leaders

- Community Coalitions

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