

Mapping shows how store closures will affect food access

Aug. 11, 2017

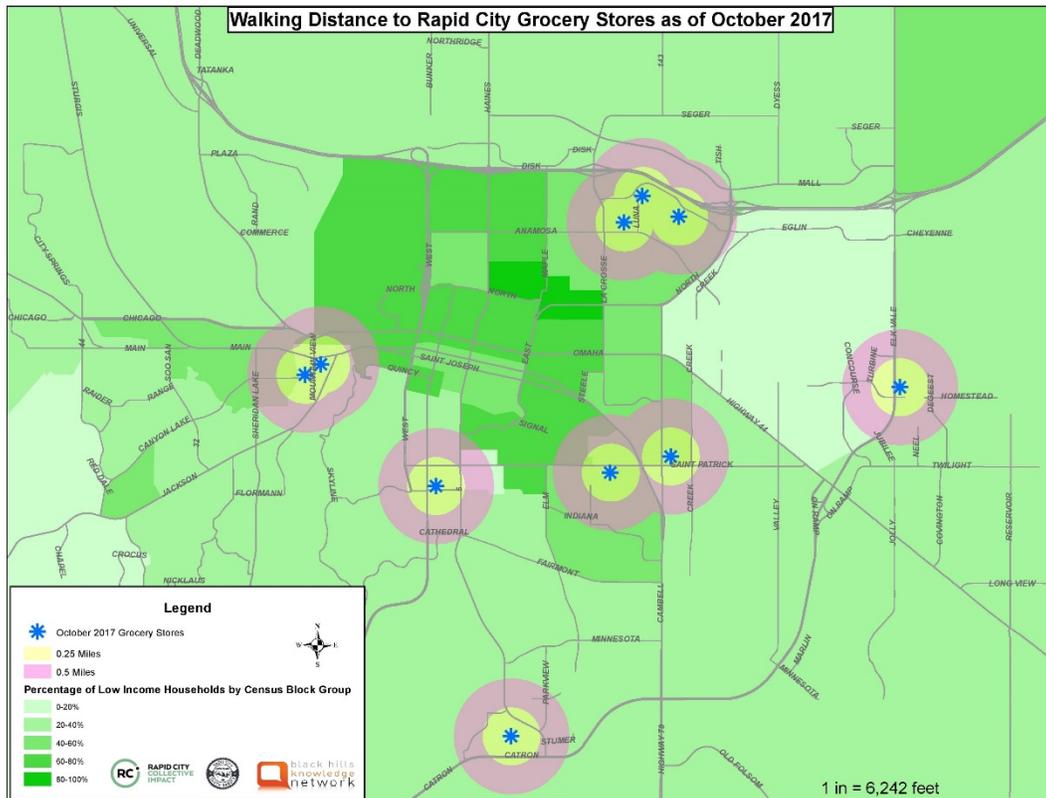
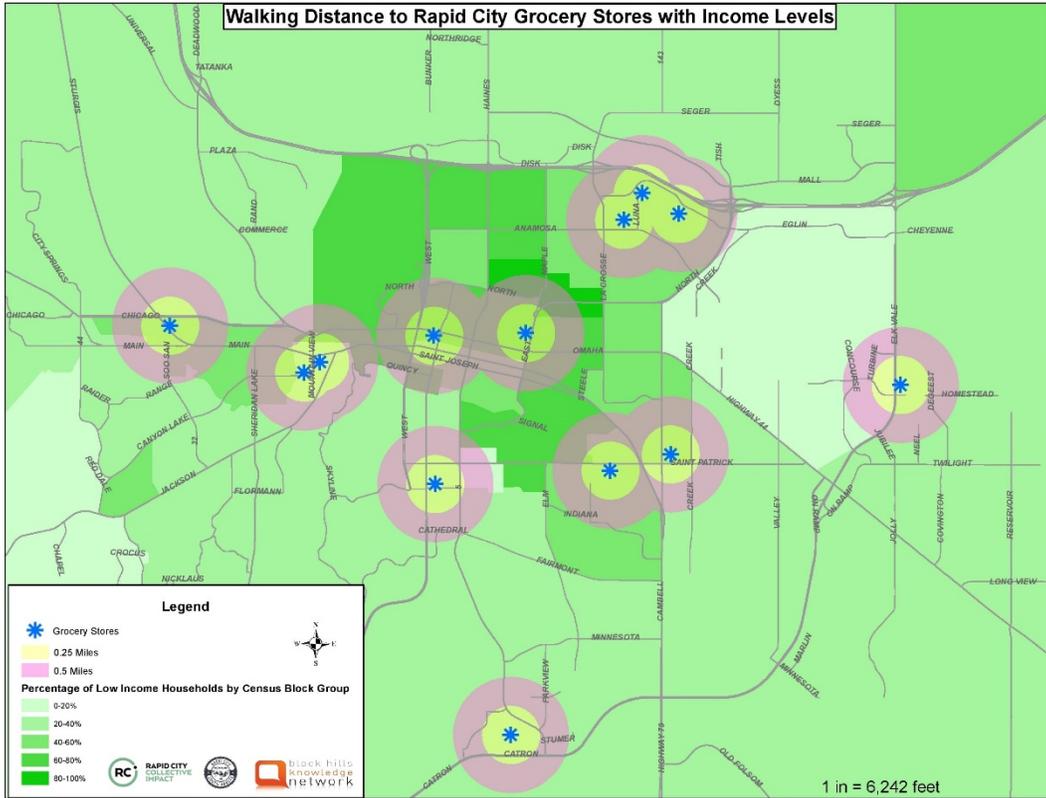
RAPID CITY – Since April 2017, Mary Corbine, Food Security Manager at Feeding South Dakota, has been collecting baseline data on retail and charitable food access and eligibility requirements within the Rapid City area. With the recent announcement of impending closures of two Family Thrift locations and Prairie Market, the Rapid City Food Security Oversight Committee has elected to share the following relevant mapping work with the community.

Corbine's role in collecting and mapping the baseline data to identify critical gaps in food availability and access is especially important in light of the impending closures. Currently, Rapid City is home to 13 grocery stores, which includes grocery sections in retail supercenters such as Walmart, Sam's Club and Target. Rapid City – the geographic focus of this map – has a population of 74,048, according to the most recent estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau. Per that information, there are currently 5,700 people per grocery store in Rapid City. In October, when the number of grocery stores is set to shrink to 10, the ratio will increase to 7,400 people per grocery store.

Though that estimate is still below the national average of 8,800 residents per supermarket – according to 2016 data from the Food Market Institute and the U.S. Census Bureau – it is likely that many Rapid City grocery stores serve patrons from outside of city limits. Comprised of Pennington, Custer and Meade counties, the Rapid City metro area had a population of 145,641 in 2016, translating to a ratio of nearly 14,600 per grocery store in October, when the three stores are set to close.

The following maps display grocery store locations depicted by blue asterisks. The circles depict a walking distance of one-quarter mile and one-half mile. The graded green shading identifies income level – with the darker end of the scale representing lower income and the lighter end of the scale representing higher income. The maps make it clear that the closure of the three grocery stores will create a geographic access gap for residents in Rapid City, especially those with lower incomes.

For more information on Rapid City Collective Impact's food security efforts, contact Mary Corbine at 348-2689, ext. 205, or email her at maryc@feedingsouthdakota.org.



About the Initiative

Discussions held by Rapid City Collective Impact in 2016 illuminated a need for focused attention on food security in the Rapid City area. By fall, the Food Security Oversight Committee was created with the goal of leveraging existing community resources to better address food needs in the city. The following organizations are represented on this committee:

- Rapid City Collective Impact
- Feeding South Dakota
- Black Hills Area Community Foundation
- Rapid City Club for Boys
- YMCA
- The Hope Center
- Salvation Army
- Cornerstone Rescue Mission
- Youth & Family Services
- Meals on Wheels Western SD
- Rapid City Area Schools Student Nutrition Program
- RCAS McKinney-Vento Program
- RCAS – General Beadle Elementary
- United Way of the Black Hills
- KOTA Care & Share
- Fork Real Community Café
- Chiesman Center for Democracy
- Rapid City Regional Hospital
- Black Hills Farmers Market
- Church Response
- Indian Health Services
- City of Rapid City

In an effort to address local food security challenges and support the work of the Food Security Oversight Committee, Feeding South Dakota and Rapid City Collective Impact jointly hired Mary Corbine as Food Security Manager in March of 2017. Over the past few months, Corbine has been collecting and validating data that is being used to map a variety of food security issues, including housing, incomes, eligibility, transportation and charity food access points. Callie Tysdal of the Black Hills Knowledge Network has assisted with data visualization and analysis. Kip Harrington, city planner for Rapid City, has also assisted in map creation.

Rapid City Collective Impact is a community initiative, run by the Black Hills Area Community Foundation, which supports a long-term commitment to a common agenda for solving specific social problems. Feeding South Dakota is the statewide hunger relief program in South Dakota.