

Introduction

- Many large grocery store chains are not serving lower income communities like West Dayton
- A cooperative grocery store is worker and community owned. Gem City Market (GCM) is a coop grocery store trying to combat the food desert in West Dayton
- GCM wants 15-20% of their goods locally sourced
- Managing many small local suppliers is more complex and expensive than managing a few large suppliers
- A software platform would lower GCM's management cost

Process

- Studied articles about food insecurity, food deserts and how to solve them
- Interviewed some local suppliers to get their feedback
- Created a map of local and regional suppliers for GCM and other locals to utilize

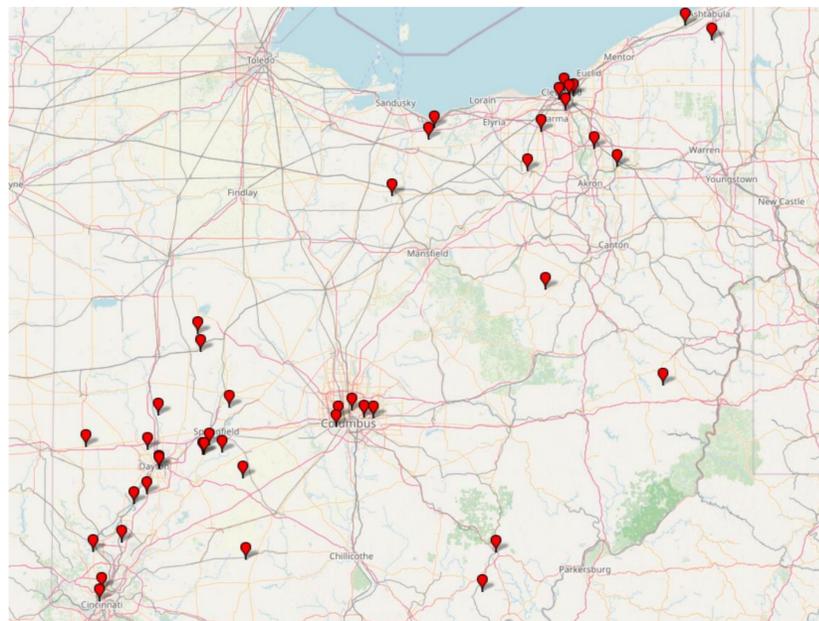


Figure 1: Map of Local and Regional Suppliers

Findings

- Food deserts arise from a combination of many problems: poverty, lack of transportation, and minimal access to healthy food
- Cooperative grocery stores:
 - are more successful in food deserts compared to large commercial chains[1]
 - hire local people and buy products from local businesses
 - have a vested interest in the success of the community
- Grocery stores have low profit margins
- A supplier management software platform would lower costs by:
 - tracking inventory
 - allowing grocery stores to place orders with local suppliers
 - managing delivery schedules
- Local suppliers want a system that will:
 - promote their product
 - manage their order and delivery schedules
 - help manage contact information and history

Next Steps

- Develop a supplier management system:
 - writing the computer program
 - creating a web interface
 - beta testing with local suppliers and grocery stores
- Expand database of local and regional suppliers



Acknowledgements and References

[1] C. Brinkley, C. Glennie, B. Chrisinger, and J. Flores, "If you Build it with them, they will come": What makes a supermarket intervention successful in a food desert?," Journal of Public Affairs, vol. 19, no. 3, p. e1863, 2019, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1002/pa.1863>.

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