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## Food Deserts in Indianapolis

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Dear Audience,

My project focused on the issue of food deserts in Indianapolis. Food deserts are areas, usually measured as block groups, neighborhoods, or census tracts, that have low access to fresh foods through a grocery store and low income. Low access is typically defined as the nearest grocery store being more than a mile from most of the area. Low-income areas are usually defined as areas with more than 33% of the residents living below the poverty line (Andres, Nowlin, and Tepe 2019). Andres, Nowlin and Tepe (2019) found that 22% of Indianapolis residents are living in a food desert, that is 208,000 people. For my project, I focused on the groups working to provide food to anyone in a food desert. It is hard to ignore the intersectionality of race and food justice, so when thinking of solutions, I wanted to highlight groups that are providing food equally and equitably.

One co-operative that I highlight is the Indiana Black Farmers Co-op, they are working in predominantly Black communities to provide fresh affordable foods. They are providing food in these areas because the farmers are from these areas and saw the need their community had for fresh foods. One member farm is Lawrence Community Gardens. This farm was founded by Sharrona Moore. She approached a local beer distributor, who had a large plot of land outside their facility in Lawrence and asked if she could grow a garden on the land to provide to the community. The distributor donated the land to Moore, and now LCG has 7 acres of land growing fresh produce for the Lawrence Community (Contributor 2019, "Home").

I also found that there are state sponsored programs already in place, but they are limited in actions (Andres, Nowlin, and Tepe 2019, Pak-Harvey 2021)

The texts I decided to generate were two Instagram posts, a [carrd.co](https://carrd.co) website, and a [letter to legislators](#). The [first Instagram](#) post highlighted important information about food deserts and their impact on the Indianapolis community. I created this post first because I wanted to educate my followers and audience. The [second Instagram](#) post focused on the groups that were working to end food deserts in their communities around Indianapolis. I originally thought my Instagram posts and other texts would be for the people who need to find these resources, but I quickly realized that my followers, and hence my main audience for these texts would not be those people. I decided that my posts would highlight these two aspects and encourage my audience to donate to these groups or spread awareness of these groups. For the [carrd.co](https://carrd.co) website I made, I again thought it would be a resource for those in food deserts, but that just wasn't my audience. So, I provide linked buttons to go to those groups websites to learn about access to foods, but also resources for my audience to learn more about the groups and food deserts in general. The letter to legislators, which is accessible through a button on the [carrd.co](https://carrd.co) site, highlights three solutions that I could think of as important aspects to getting access to foods that legislators could implement. There is contact information for state and local legislators that serve Indianapolis, so that people can send the letter to their legislators to hopefully get some action from the state. I chose to create these texts in order to empower those groups and to enact further change from the government. I also wanted to create a single resource for people to find access to food, find information on food deserts, and incite change.

## Works Cited

Contributor, Guest. 2019. "Year in Review: Work to end food deserts continues" *Indianapolis Recorder Newspaper*. [URL](#)

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Pak-Harvey, Amelia. 2021. "We've been neglected for years': Indianapolis battles food deserts with new food division" *IndyStar*. [URL](#)