

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Grand Challenges

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Grand Challenge: Health

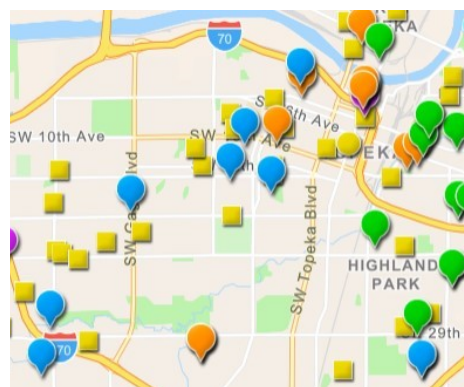
Shawnee County Food Distribution Map: Food Security and Community Partnerships during COVID-19

Why is this issue important?

When Safe at Home Orders were issued in March 2020, the United Way of Greater Topeka convened the COVID-19 Response and Coordination Coalition to bring together community organizations, businesses, healthcare and local government to assist the public with navigating basic needs. Food assistance rose to the top of the priorities, and United Way began working on an interactive food distribution map.

How did Extension address this issue?

United Way asked Shawnee County Extension et al.*, for assistance with the map, specifically with hosting the map on the Extension Website. Through networking, connections were made with Shawnee County Planning Department who had the map software, and the Planning Department designed and launched the initial map. Extension maintains and updates the map as resources change.



https://www.shawnee.k-state.edu/food_distribution_map/index.html

What was the impact?

Clients can enter their address on the map and receive a list of resources near their location. Resources include meals, food pantry items, Blessing Boxes—free standing pantries, delivery assistance, and educational resources. In addition, they will see the various resources on the map. Local agencies have used the map as well to assist clients with finding food resources, and the map has been and will be used by decision makers to identify gaps in food distribution.

*Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, SNAP-Ed Garden to Plate Program and Heartland Healthy Neighborhood Coalition Healthy Eating Workgroup.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
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