

## **Project Proposal: SNAP Map**

Team: Donuts and Data Division

Members: Ari Anisfeld, Jasmin Dial, Emma Peterson, Joan Wang

### Goal / Purpose

We aim to create a tool that eases the process of locating important community resources. The SNAP Map will allow low-income consumers to efficiently identify nearby retailers that accept SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits and filter results by a variety of relevant characteristics.

The possibility of expanding this tool to include a broader set of resources – e.g. community banks, health clinics, and free wifi locations – is also under consideration. Overall, the purpose is to provide low-income individuals with improved efficiency and functionality when searching for useful local services.

### Description

The SNAP Map tool would provide users a map of retailers that accept SNAP benefits within a target distance from the address or zip code that the user inputs, in addition to a list of retailers sorted by distance. There currently exists a basic [SNAP retailer locator](#) managed by the US Department of Agriculture, as well as non-government websites with outdated information. The SNAP map tool would improve upon these platforms in two ways:

1. Allowing users to search by appropriate retailer category (grocery, pharmacy, gas station, etc.)
2. Providing filterable retailer features from the Google API, such the contact information, hours of operation, online review score, and cost category. It would also highlight certain benefits of a given retailer, such as selling fresh fruits and vegetables or accepting double value coupons.

If time permits, we are interested in adding more features to this tool in order to give users a comprehensive look at the resources available in their neighborhood. A user searching for SNAP retailers may have that specific purpose in mind, but browsing their neighborhood would reveal resources that are equally as important but not typically thought of on a daily basis. Additional resources might include community health clinics, community banks, and free wifi locations. Though Yelp is a popular tool for finding anything closeby, this tool would provide resources specifically beneficial to the target user. For example, the tool would prioritize free and low-cost financial services while excluding predatory financial services.

### Data sources

- Google Maps API
- Snap Retailer Locations: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/retailerlocator>
- Access Living Resource List: <https://www.accessliving.org/companies>

- Farmer's Markets:
  - <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=44172>
  - [http://www.usdalocalfooddirectories.com/farmersmarketdirectoryupdate/FM\\_Public.aspx](http://www.usdalocalfooddirectories.com/farmersmarketdirectoryupdate/FM_Public.aspx)
- Other resources to consider:
  - Food
    - Food pantries
    - Free meals
  - Health
    - WIC clinics
    - Childcare resources
    - Hospitals
    - Community health clinics
    - Recreation
  - Financial
    - Community banks
    - No-fee ATMs
    - Free tax prep
  - Other/Social Services
    - Free wifi/technology
    - Community centers

#### Work required

- Reach out to potential user base to assess which resources would be most useful to include in the tool
- Clean data and create database of SNAP retailers
- Link SNAP retailers to Google businesses
- Connect search tool to Google API
- Create front-end that is attractive and easy to use

#### Timeline

- Jan 23-29: Meet with community members
- Jan 30 - Feb 5: Create backend
  - Backend "draft" complete
  - Our database design is efficient and able to connect to Google APIs
- Feb 13-19: Create frontend and integrate with backend
- Feb 20-26: Project check-in week
  - Frontend "draft" complete
  - Website accepts basic queries and produced expected results
- Feb 26 - Mar 7: Final edits and improvements
- Mar 8-10: Final presentations
- Mar 14: Software due