

Team 4 Updated Project Proposal

Topic: Prince George's Food Inspection App

- **Information Service Idea:** The information service we want to invent is a public health application designed to inform communities about food inspection ratings. This app, inspired by platforms like [HDScores](#) (which is defunct and only for the iOS platform), would offer real-time access to local government agencies' latest food safety evaluations. Users could effortlessly check detailed inspection results for restaurants, cafes, and other food establishments in their area, empowering them to make safer dining choices. The app aims to enhance public awareness and promote transparency in food safety practices across communities by integrating up-to-date data and a user-friendly interface.
- **Information Need:** Consumers in Prince George's County lack easy access to detailed food inspection records, limiting their ability to make informed dining decisions. While food inspection data exists on county websites, it is presented in formats that are not user-friendly or easily searchable. Additionally, the increasing public concern for food safety due to recent outbreaks and media coverage of foodborne illness is one of the driving forces behind the need for this app. The desire for transparency and accountability among local businesses is also a reason for the app; Lastly, the educational gap regarding what food inspection categories mean and why they are critical for public health is a reason for this app.
- **Specific Setting:** A standalone application that utilizes local and state government food inspection data ([PG County Maryland](#) for example) to provide residents with real-time inspection data based on location. Users can review the overall inspection rating, and specific ratings for individual inspection categories, and check the ratings by date.
- **Information Impact:** The app is expected to improve public health, by enabling users to avoid high-risk restaurants, the app reduces the likelihood of foodborne illnesses. Additionally, it can raise awareness by providing educational resources that boost the understanding of food safety standards and the importance of compliance. Food industries will also be held more accountable. The public visibility of violations will encourage restaurants to improve hygiene and operational standards.
- **Unifying Vision:** This app will foster a culture of transparency and trust in food safety while empowering individuals to make informed decisions about their dining experiences. The app bridges the gap between public health agencies and the community by centralizing and simplifying access to food inspection data, making critical information readily available and understandable. This initiative envisions a healthier, more informed society where consumers are equipped to prioritize their well-being, and businesses are encouraged to maintain higher food safety standards. Ultimately, the app aims to create a positive feedback loop that benefits both public health and the local economy.
- **Functions and Utilities:**
 - **About page**
 - **"Who We Are" & "Our Belief" page:** a section introducing the app's purpose.

- **“Understanding the bigger picture” page:** Highlight the importance of food safety with statistics on foodborne illness and its impact.
- **Browse Inspections by City:**
 - Users can click on the city so they will find information about the restaurant inspections
 - On the page of the city, you will see 3 subtabs: **search, map, trends & analytics**
 - **Search:**
 - Can filter for specific out-of-compliance categories, dates, and inspection types.
 - There will be a listing of restaurants, the user can click on the PDF to see the full results of the inspection.
 - **Map:**
 - It will give an overview of the city area inspection grading for all the restaurants in the database.
 - **Trend & Analytics:**
 - Trends
 - Overall trends in the number of critical violations over time in the city and what majority of the inspection grade is in that city as well as the inspection type.
 - Visualizations/Analytics:
 - **Bar plot:** Inspection type count in the city
 - **Pie chart** to count of inspection grade
- **Resource:**
 - **“Educational Resources” page:** Link to PGC Health Department and FDA website. The FDA website includes common food-borne illnesses and risks.

Team Work Plan

1. Project Proposal- Segen, Brittany, Omar
2. Media (slides/presentation) - Omar
3. Literature (project proposal/notes) - Brittany
4. Tableau (Visualizations) - Segen, Avkash
5. Diagrams (DFD/ERD) - Eddie, Omar
6. Website Design - Segen
7. User personas - Segen
8. Main Presenter - Omar
9. To-do lists - All team members
10. Glossaries - All team members
11. References - All team members