

Healthy Food in Underserved Areas



Policy Areas

- Healthy Food in Underserved Areas
- School Gardens
- Summer Food Service Program
- Farmers Markets and Retail Outlets with Fresh Food



Background: Definition and the Issues



- A lack of full service, food retail establishments in many areas throughout the State presents a barrier for access to healthy food options
- These areas are often referred to as ***Food Deserts***



Background: Definition and the Issues

What are food deserts?

Areas that require residents to travel more than twice as far to reach a food store that offers a full-line of grocery, USDA-inspected meats, dairy, fresh produce and bakery items than an alternative and often less healthy food supplier¹

Why are food deserts damaging to communities?

- Children and adults living in underserved areas often have high rates of diet-related diseases including obesity.
- Various populations, including children, have lower rates of fruit and vegetable consumption in underserved areas.
- Buying healthy food requires transportation that is often inconvenient or unavailable to many residents.



Vehicle for Change: Moving Forward with Senate Bill 294 (PA231 of 2008)

- CPAT members became aware that SB 294 – an amendment to the “commercial rehabilitation act” to include qualified food retail establishments – was introduced to the senate on February 17, 2007.
- A coalition of interested organizations from the HKHM Food Retailers CPAT acted alongside Senator Mark Jansen to move SB 294 through the Michigan Legislature.
- On July 17, 2008 Governor Granholm signed SB 294 into law. The bill is now called PA 231 of 2008.



Current Activities

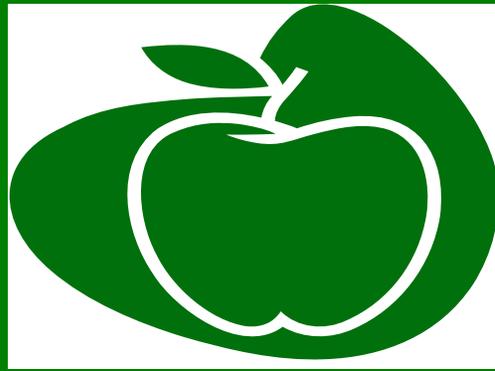
- Working with Michigan Department of Agriculture to:
 - (1) clarify the language within the law**
 - (2) implement a program to facilitate the abatement application process for food retail establishments**
- Economic development agencies are working with food retailers as these retailers go through the process of applying for the tax abatement
- Finalizing a fact sheet to raise awareness of PA 231 of 2008



Next Steps

- Continue to work closely with Michigan Department of Agriculture and other organizations throughout the state on efforts surrounding PA231 of 2008.
- Raise awareness of PA231 of 2008 by educating public health organizations, local communities, food retailers, neighborhood associations, economic development corporations, and other related organizations about the new law and its benefits.
- Food Retailers CPAT will consider addressing other policy recommendations, such as community/school gardens





Complete Streets & Safe Routes to School



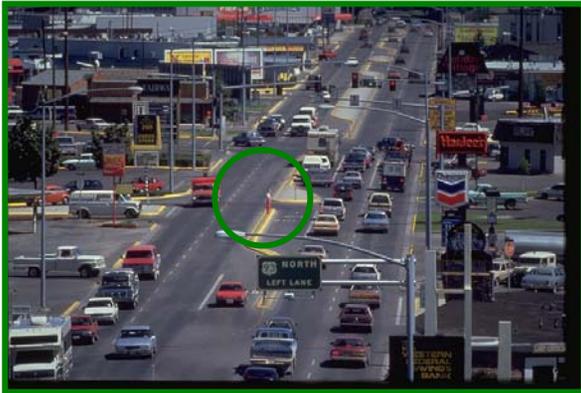
Community Policy Action Team

- League of Michigan Bicyclists
- Michigan Association of Planning
- Michigan Environmental Council
- Michigan Fitness Foundation
- Michigan Trails and Greenways Association
- Michigan State Housing Development Authority
- Michigan Department of Transportation
- Michigan Department of Community Health



The Issue

The built environment impacts physical activity levels



The dramatic rise in childhood obesity rates are linked to changing land use patterns and lifestyle choices because they decrease physical activity opportunities, such as walking and biking to school.

(Institute of Medicine, 2004)



The Connection

- Key to healthier lifestyles for Michigan residents, particularly children.
- An important component for enhancing economic development.
- Connects communities and enhances mobility options for all users.
- Provides high quality of life with bicycle and pedestrian features, transit options, recreational opportunities, and lifestyle and housing choices in many contexts and settings.



The Connection

Children's physical activity level correlates to time spent outside; however, it is greatly hindered by vehicular traffic, lack of sidewalks and open spaces, and community design guided exclusively by motorized transportation systems (Institute of Medicine, 2005).



The Connection

Schools whose non-motorized access routes were improved saw a 15% increase in the number of students who walk or bike to school. This can add up to 24 minutes of physical activity a day for children (Active Living Research, RWJF 2007).



Community Policy Action Team Policy Priorities

- Complete Streets
- Safe Routes to School (SRTS)
- School Siting



Transportation and Infrastructure Reform

Complete Streets- Roadways, planned, designed and constructed to accommodate safe access for all users. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities are able to safely move along and across streets which include sidewalks, crosswalks, and bike lanes.



Transportation and Infrastructure Reform

- **Context Sensitive Solutions:** A collaborative, interdisciplinary approach that involves all stakeholders to develop a transportation facility that fits its physical setting and preserves scenic, aesthetic, historic and environmental resources, while maintaining safety and mobility. CSS is an approach that considers the total context within which a transportation improvement project will exist.



Transportation and Infrastructure Reform

- **Safe Routes to Schools-** An international movement that makes it more safe, convenient, and fun for children to walk or bike to school. The program encourages and educates children and parents about the benefits of walking or biking to school, as well as helping to facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of initiatives that will improve the routes children travel to get to school.



Transportation and Infrastructure Reform

Complete Streets, Context Sensitive Solutions, and Safe Routes to School are long-term, sustainable, and “equitable” solutions.



What do complete street look like?

Before



After



Before



After



Before



After



Complete Streets, Context Sensitive Solutions & Safe Routes to School Action Team Activity

- **White Paper**
- **Resolution**
- **Fact Sheet**



Complete Streets, Context Sensitive Solutions & Safe Routes to School Action Team Activity

- **Integration into programs and missions**
- **Education & trainings occurring**
- **State Pedestrian and Bicycle Action Plan**



Complete Streets, Context Sensitive Solutions & Safe Routes to School Action Team Activity

Next Steps:

1. Resolution
2. Education
3. Legislation



Final Thoughts

www.completestreets.org





Healthy Kids, Healthy Michigan

Advocates for Healthy Weight in Children



Overview

- Luncheon
- Press Event

