Food Compass Challenge

OVERVIEW

According to Gleaners, roughly 180,000 of Indy's 853,000 residents are food insecure. In a city like Indianapolis with economic momentum routinely making headlines, this rising tide of success is not raising all boats. Poverty is on the rise, and for many, the idea of the American Dream is being threatened by a myriad of barriers to growth.

But when Indianapolis faces a hurdle, we face it together. In February 2017, a two-day session with community members, organizations, and government employees working on food insecurity was held at the Indianapolis Central Library. The result of this session was the idea of a Food Compass app, helping Marion County residents find their next meal. The app would answer questions of program eligibility and help to find available federal, state, and local assistance based on location and individual need.

The Indy Hunger Network's recent *Unmet Needs Study* outlines that while many resources for nutrition assistance exist in our community, those who need it the most are not taking advantage of these programs for a variety of reasons. The Food Compass app can serve as a platform to outline and educate Indianapolis residents on where these resources exist and how best to leverage them. These efforts could leverage and support the work of programs like Connect2Help 211, a call center and resource database created to connect our community with human services providers.

CHALLENGE

We challenge coders and developers to help us create a Food Compass app that utilizes publicly available data to help Indianapolis citizens find their closest nutrition assistance programs and determine their eligibility for these offerings. A successful app will leverage national, state, and local programs and resources in an intuitive mobile-responsive interface.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Senior communities are likely to already be utilizing available nutrition assistance services, but unfortunately younger residents are much less likely. Coders and developers should have a younger, more tech-forward demographic in mind as the end user.

TECHNOLOGIES/REQUIREMENTS SUMMARY

We do not currently require that you use specific technologies or execute your efforts in accordance with other criteria. We're asking for an innovative, user-friendly solution that connects residents with resources in their area. Please keep in mind that functionality for residents to reach out and contact these assistance programs is of utmost importance. Connect2Help 211 could be a valuable connection point. Also, the ability to access the solution across a wide array of technology platforms (mobile, web browser) should be considered.

FUNCTIONALITY

Again, we want to empower you to choose the best method to connect the end user to available resources. We recognize that map tools will be of specific interest, given the nature of the challenge.

DATASETS, FORMS AND RELEVANT FILES

We have provided federal, state, and local dataset links on **indychamber.com/hack** to utilize for this challenge.

QUESTIONS? Contact the Challenge Representative below.

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