

Reach out today to learn more!

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Food Desert to Food Oasis Research & Consulting

Mari Gallagher is the author of *Examining the Impact of Food Deserts on Public Health in Chicago*, a breakthrough study that popularized the term "food desert" across the country in 2006. She was the first to develop a block-by-block metric for "food deserts" and "food balance" linked with health measures and has since done similar work in Detroit, rural Michigan, Louisville, Wapello County, Iowa, Harlem, Richmond, Savannah, Birmingham, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., Cincinnati, and other areas. She also performed an analysis across the entire state of Florida between food deserts and diet-related deaths. Mari's work motivated Congressman Bobby Rush to address the problem of food deserts through the Farm Bill and through the mandating of a follow-on study by the USDA, which has resulted in designated food desert areas across the country. Unfortunately, these official areas are not always correct; Mari and her team conduct custom research at very low geographies that pinpoint both need and opportunity.

Mari's research shows that some residents of food deserts can die prematurely from diet-related conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, and cancer. Congress has called upon her expertise on the issue. In large part because of Mari's work and that of her firm, millions of dollars have been invested in these underserved areas across the country. Identifying food deserts and directing, tracking, and measuring community investment impact investment to address them is one of her firm's core specialties.

Does your community suffer from food desert conditions?

There are many ways that we can help.

- Custom food desert and health analysis
- Grocer recruitment
- Market studies of good food solutions
- Addressing a grocery store that closed
- Program / solution development: double your bucks, nutrition education, mobile food options, and much more.
- Program evaluation
- Community forums and coalition building
- Other support – let's have a discussion.

We can help!

