BEYOND THE ZIP CODE: MEASURING OUTCOMES AND INFORMING DECISIONMAKERS
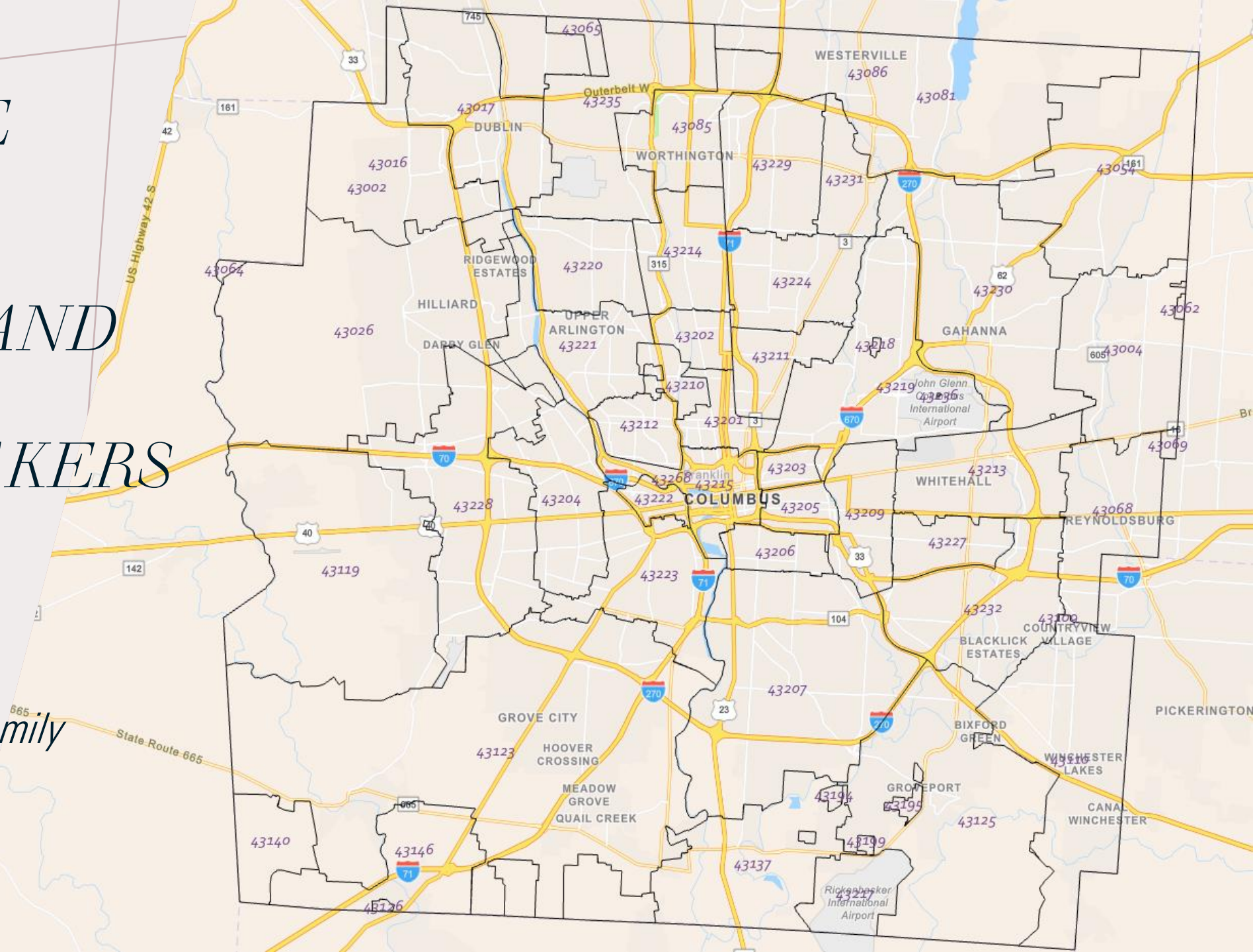
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Data Analyst

Franklin County Job & Family Services

ABOUT THE PRESENTER

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MPA from Glenn College @ tOSU

Policy Areas: SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, Child Care, Rental Assistance & Housing

Office of Strategic Transformation and Research (STAR) at Franklin County Job and Family Services

Franklin County
Board of Commissioners
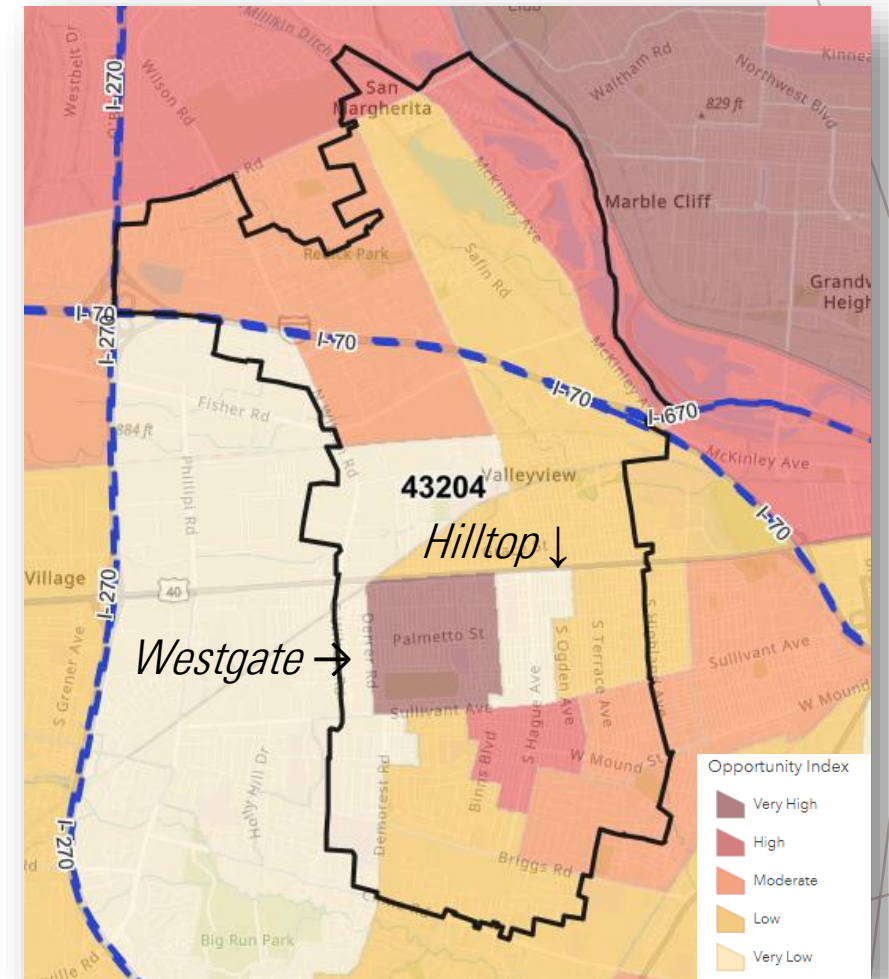
JOB & FAMILY
SERVICES

1803

WHY DO WE STOP AT THE ZIP CODE?

- Data Limitations
  - Most datasets don't reference a census tract, neighborhood, or other drilled down geographic area

- Convenience
  - Zip Code Tabulation Areas are industry standards for geographical analysis
  - "Neighborhood" can mean different boundaries to different people.

- Privacy Concerns
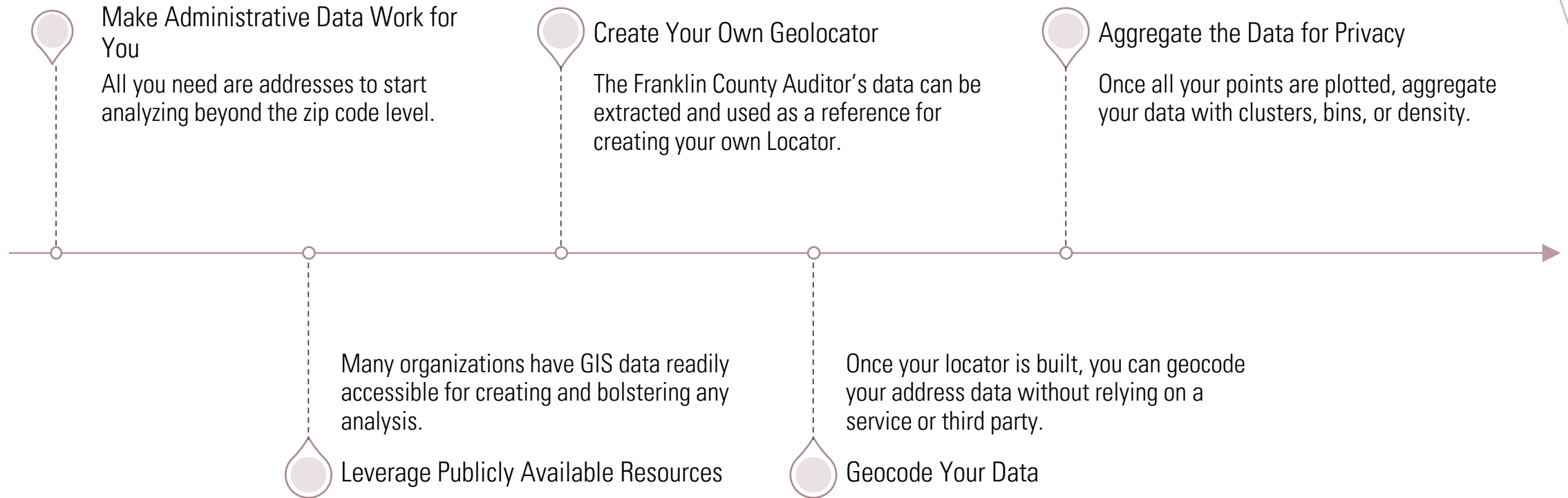 - A person's address is protected information

Top: Short North
Bottom: Scioto Mile/Downtown Columbus

WHY SHOULD WE GO BEYOND THE ZIP CODE?

OPPORTUNITY IN 43204

- One zip code contains a multitude of neighborhoods and communities.
- The composition of each has profound lasting impacts for the people who live there.
- Opportunity Index – Kirwan Institute
- Opportunity is a set of conditions – Health, Housing, Education, Employment, and Transportation.
- Opportunity Index Score: Westgate (*83*) and Central Hilltop (*29*)
- We miss the structural components and historical context of our neighborhoods if we don't look closer.

HOW DO WE GO BEYOND THE ZIP CODE?

Make Administrative Data Work for You

All you need are addresses to start analyzing beyond the zip code level.

Create Your Own Geolocator

The Franklin County Auditor's data can be extracted and used as a reference for creating your own Locator.

Aggregate the Data for Privacy

Once all your points are plotted, aggregate your data with clusters, bins, or density.

Many organizations have GIS data readily accessible for creating and bolstering any analysis.

Leverage Publicly Available Resources

Once your locator is built, you can geocode your address data without relying on a service or third party.

Geocode Your Data

CREATING YOUR OWN GEOLOCATOR

Top Left: North Market
Top Right: The Book Loft
Bottom Left: Otherworld
Bottom Right: Easton Town Center

MEASURING OUTCOMES

Highbanks Metro Park

RENTAL ASSISTANCE AND EVICTIONS

The <u>PRC Emergency Rental Assistance</u> program is geared toward keeping families stably housed when at *risk of eviction*.

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the economic aftershocks, Franklin County JFS began distributing additional assistance from the Treasury's Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program.
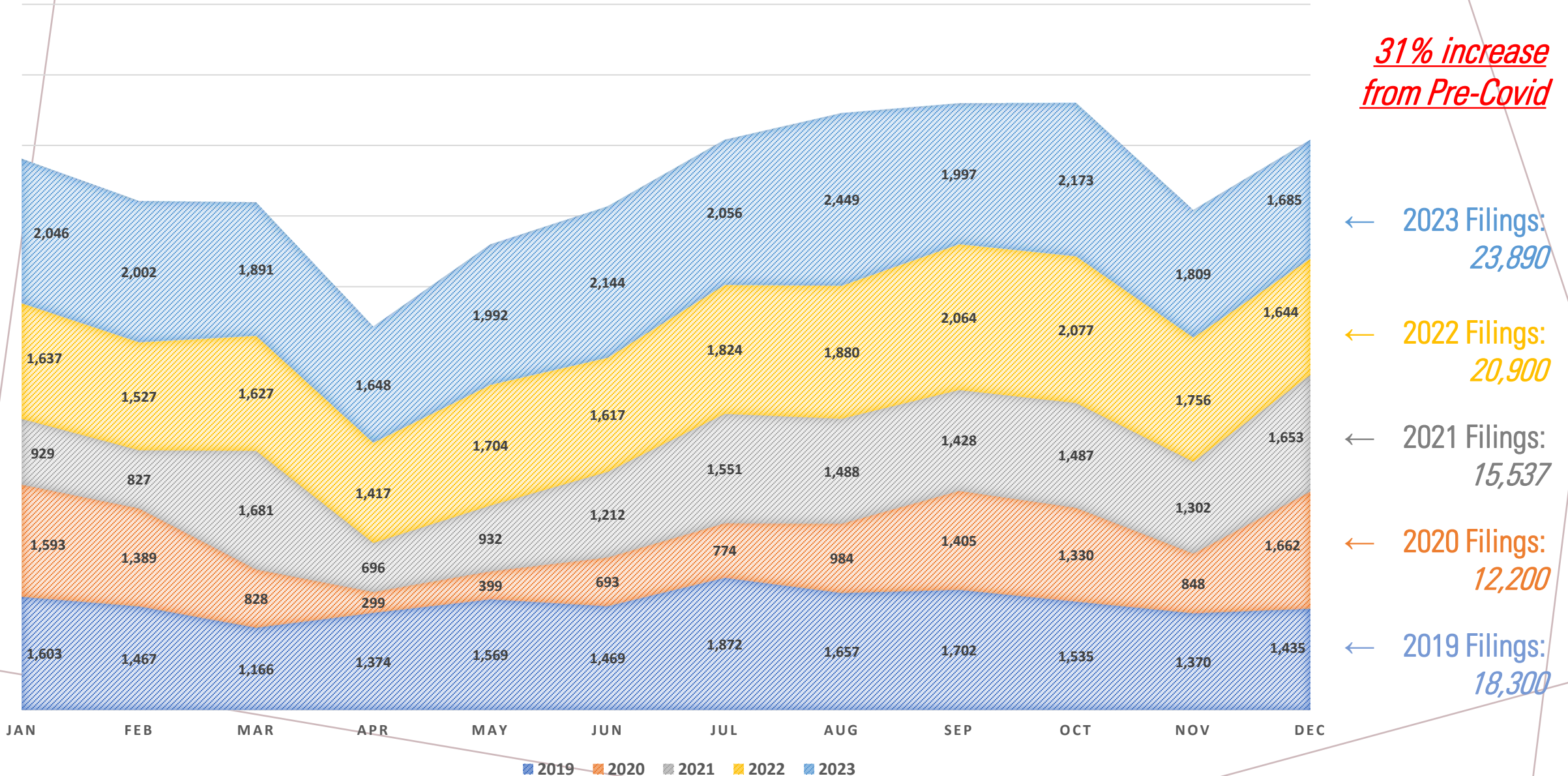
EVICTION FILINGS IN FRANKLIN COUNTY BY MONTH AND YEAR

31% increase from Pre-Covid

← 2023 Filings: *23,890*

← 2022 Filings: *20,900*

← 2021 Filings: *15,537*

← 2020 Filings: *12,200*

← 2019 Filings: *18,300*

2019 values: JAN 1,603 | FEB 1,467 | MAR 1,166 | APR 1,374 | MAY 1,569 | JUN 1,469 | JUL 1,872 | AUG 1,657 | SEP 1,702 | OCT 1,535 | NOV 1,370 | DEC 1,435

2020 values: JAN 1,593 | FEB 1,389 | MAR 828 | APR 299 | MAY 399 | JUN 693 | JUL 774 | AUG 984 | SEP 1,405 | OCT 1,330 | NOV 848 | DEC 1,662

2021 values: JAN 929 | FEB 827 | MAR 1,681 | APR 1,417 | MAY 932 | JUN 1,212 | JUL 1,551 | AUG 1,488 | SEP 1,428 | OCT 1,487 | NOV 1,302 | DEC 1,653

2022 values: JAN 1,637 | FEB 1,527 | MAR 1,627 | APR 696 | MAY 1,704 | JUN 1,617 | JUL 1,824 | AUG 1,880 | SEP 2,064 | OCT 2,077 | NOV 1,756 | DEC 1,644

2023 values: JAN 2,046 | FEB 2,002 | MAR 1,891 | APR 1,648 | MAY 1,992 | JUN 2,144 | JUL 2,056 | AUG 2,449 | SEP 1,997 | OCT 2,173 | NOV 1,809 | DEC 1,685

JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC

■ 2019 ■ 2020 ■ 2021 ■ 2022 ■ 2023

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EVICTION FILINGS 2022-2023

Eviction Hot Spots
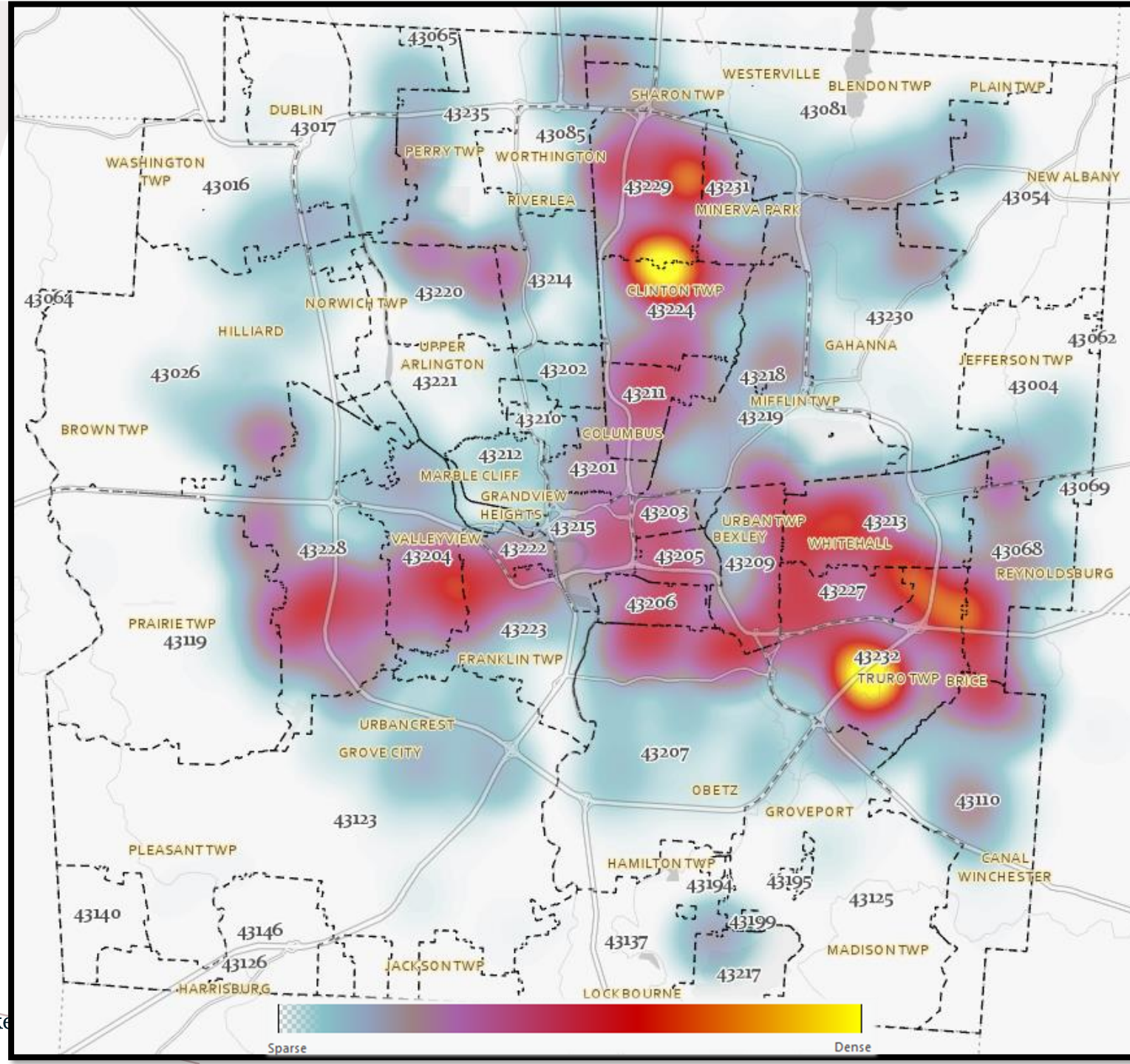
South of I-70, East of I-71

Whitehall

Northland

Far East

Hilltop

Southside

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Is emergency rental assistance an effective deterrent to a formal eviction?

Does it buy time for families already facing an eviction?

# PROXIMITY ANALYSIS OF GEOCODED DATASETS
WHEN ADDRESS IS YOUR BEST IDENTIFIER

WHY?

➢ Administrative Data is prone to errors

  ➢ Transposed street numbers, missing unit numbers, incorrect street types

➢ Point-to-point spatial joins or relates require precision geocoding

➢ Using proximity largely resolves these and reduces the complexity of matching solely on string variables

HOW?

1. Geocode PRC Approvals and Evictions
2. Generate a Nearby Table of Evictions near PRC Recipients

   ➢ *Potential matches made for Evictions within 225' radius of each PRC Recipient*

3. Merge your datasets and confirm matches with shared data elements

   ➢ *Crosschecked against names, Unit numbers, and timeframe of PRC Application and Filings*

Same Household

PRCApprovals
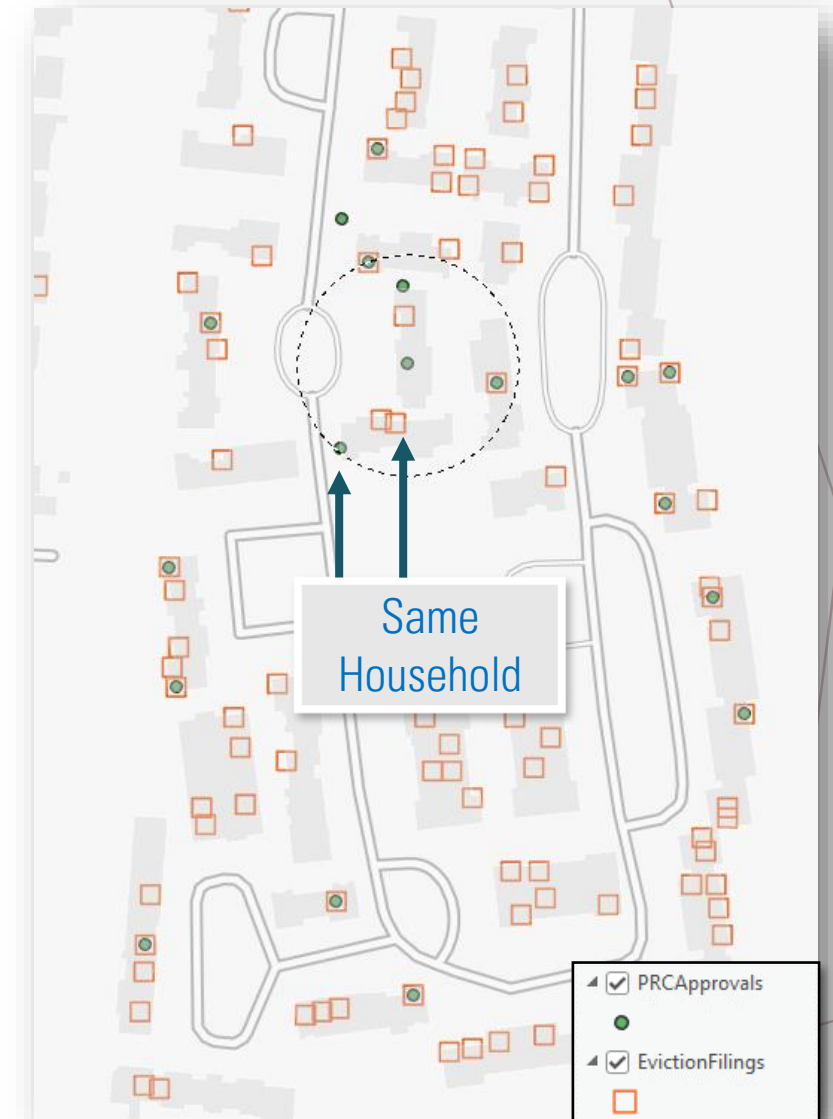
EvictionFilings

Average Time between Emergency Housing Assistance Approval and Subsequent Eviction Filing:

6 - 8 Months

83%
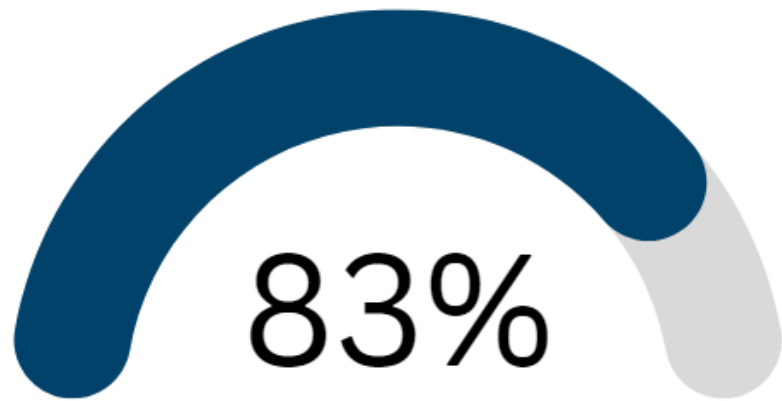
Percent of Households Avoiding Subsequent Eviction Filings

The JCHS at Harvard found ERA is associated with substantial short-term benefits including:

- Lower likelihood of being behind on rent
- Reduced chance of having difficulty meeting expenses, using savings funds, or borrowing from friends/family
- Lower probability of food insecurity
- Lower rates of reported mental health concerns

JCHS

JOINT CENTER FOR HOUSING STUDIES
OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Housing Assistance Approvals
Jan '22 – June '23:
3,665

No Formal Eviction
Filing before Assistance
Approved
2,822 *(77.0%)*

Formal Eviction Filed
after App. Submitted,
before Approval
427 *(11.7%)*

Formal Eviction Filed;
Unresolved at time of
App. Submission
330 *(9.0%)*

Formal Eviction Resolved
before App. Submitted
86 *(2.3%)*

No Subsequent
Eviction Filed; No Prior
Eviction History
2,254 *(61.5%)*

No Subsequent Eviction
Filed; Prior Eviction History
780 *(21.3%)*

Subsequent Eviction Filed;
Prior Eviction History
309 *(8.4%)*

Subsequent Eviction Filed;
No Prior Eviction History
251 *(6.9%)*

Sub. Eviction Filed w/in
3 Weeks of Approval*
71 *(1.9%)*

INFORMING DECISION MAKERS

Downtown Gahanna

SNAP AND FOOD DESERTS

Franklin County has nearly **70,000 families** on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly referred to as "food stamps". Families on SNAP can only use their EBT at approved vendors and have limitations on what can be purchased.

The USDA defines a Food Desert as:

- low-income (LI): poverty rate of 20% or greater, or median family income at or below 80% of the statewide or metropolitan area median family income; and

- low-access (LA): a low-income tract with at least 500 people or 33% of the tract's population living more than 1 mile (urban areas) or more than 10 miles (rural areas) from the nearest supermarket or grocery store.

Top: Franklin Park Conservatory
Bottom: Westerville City Hall

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HOW FOOD DESERTS HARM COMMUNITIES

- What's the harm in living more than 1 mile from a grocer or supermarket?
    - Convenience stores fill that void. Meat and produce options are usually nonexistent.
    - Lack of access to healthy food has long-lasting implications for families

- Food apartheid
    - "*Healthy, fresh food is accessible in wealthy neighborhoods while unhealthy food abounds in poor neighborhoods.*" – Karen Washington, food justice advocate

DOES FRANKLIN COUNTY NEED A SOLUTION TO FOOD DESERTS?

- A food benefits program approached the Commissioners on running a Pilot in Franklin County.
  - An aspect of the program would allow SNAP households to order groceries to be delivered at no cost to them.
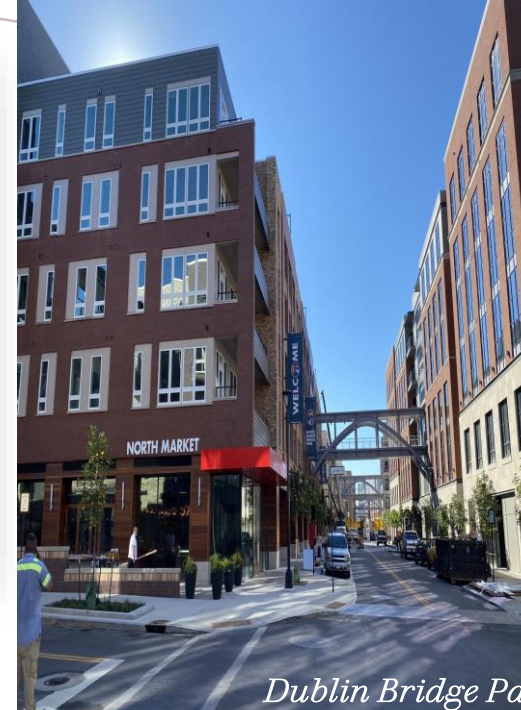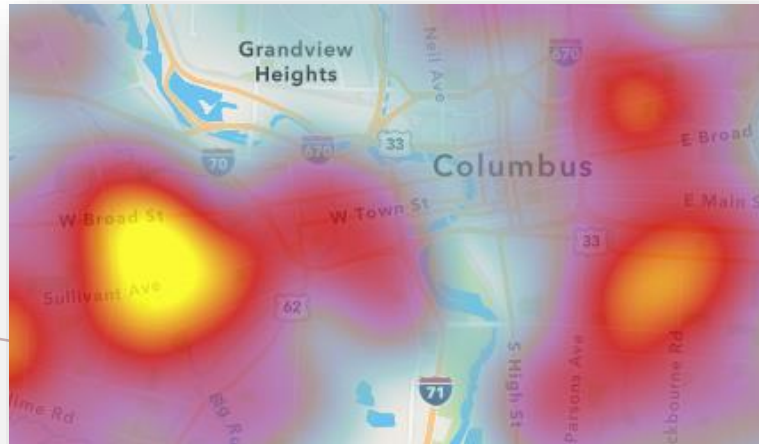 - If the pilot were greenlit, where should it be targeted?

Top: Columbus Commons
Bottom: Old Worthington
Right: Ohio Theatre

PULLING IN EXTERNAL DATA TO INFORM THE NEED

Dublin Bridge Park Milo Grogan
Grandview Ave   Whitehall

THANK YOU DATA DAY!

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The Ohio State University Oval