

Using the GCFD Community Data Map

<https://www.chicagosfoodbank.org/community-data-map/>

Thank you for your interest in the interactive, online GCFD Community Data Map! In order to get the most out of this tool, please take a few moments to review the notes below.

The map features data at the census tract level, indicating an area with a typical average population around 4,000-6,000. This allows us to have a better idea of possible indicators of need for food assistance at the local level.

There are tradeoffs however. In particular, in order to get reliable estimates at this small geography, the U.S. Census must average data across five years and error margins are larger. All of the data in this map is from the 2011-2015 U.S. Census American Community Survey 5-year estimates. There is always a two year delay.

Please note that depending on your internet connection, it might take a while for the map layers to load!

Key options on Toolbar, from left to right (click on header in top toolbar to turn that menu on or off).

Legend

- The legend shows you all of the layers that are currently active and how they are symbolized (what the colors and scales represent).
- Please take special note of the scales of the different layers, as they each are unique.
- This is always a good place to check which layers are active.

Details

- Shows the source of the underlying data.
- Link to GCFD Agency Locator.

Basemaps

- Choose different options for the foundational map depending on your needs and interests.
- The default is “Topographic.”

Layers

- Each layer represents data you can visualize on the map.
- At this time, layers include, in order:
 - Transportation
 - CTA “L” Stations
 - CTA “L” Lines
 - CTA Bus Routes
 - Metra Stations
 - Metra Lines
 - Pace Bus Routes
 - Boundaries (would recommend always keeping these “on”)
 - Community Area Boundaries

- Chicago Boundary
- Census Data - Each layer, when visualized, also indicates the # of individuals in each set.
 - Population Density (Total population divided by square mileage)
 - % of population in poverty
 - % of population living below 185% of poverty level
 - % of children and youth living in poverty
 - % of older adults living in poverty (age 65+)
 - % of people with disabilities living in poverty
 - % of veterans living in poverty
 - % of full-time workers living in poverty
 - % of part-time workers living in poverty
 - % unemployed
 - % of households receiving SNAP (formerly food stamps)
 - % of people without health insurance
 - % of people receiving Medicaid (alone or in combo with other coverage)
 - **Very important! Only keep one census data layer checked at a time. Otherwise they will overlap each other and you will not be able to read them.**

Print

- Choose to print in a variety of formats with an option for inserting a title and the legend.

Measure

- Use the mouse to “measure” the area (sq. mi) of a parcel, the distance between points, or the coordinates of a specific location.
- After choosing which measurement tool on the top of the menu that pops up (“Area”, “Distance”, and “Location”), use your mouse to click the points on the map that you are interested in measuring. Double click to complete the measurement.

Interactivity

- Click directly on the map to get more information about the active layers. To close the pop-up, click the “X” in the upper right hand corner of the box.
- The pop-up has information on the upper-most active layer. For census data layers, the census tract number is on the bottom italics.

Zooming In and Out

- If your mouse has a scrolling wheel on it, this can be used to zoom in and out. Alternatively, use the – and + buttons on the upper left of the map.

Search function

- The magnifying glass in the upper left corner of the map allows you to input an address.
- Press “enter” or select the magnifying glass to the left and the map will zoom to that location.