

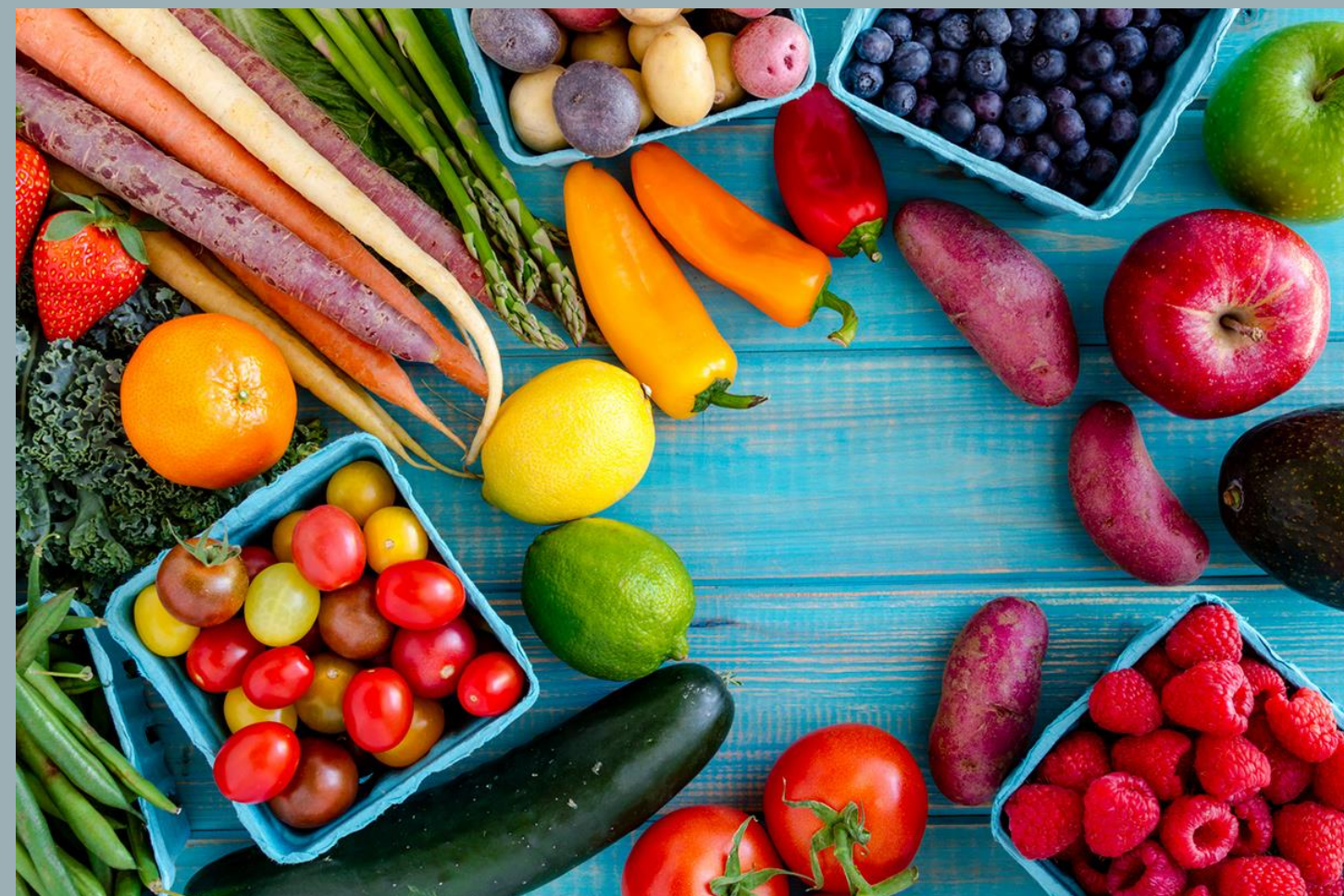
Increasing Access to Food Resources: Providing Park County, WY Fair Attendees Information About Food Resources and Healthy Eating

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Hypothesis: Making food resources and information about healthy food more accessible will increase the number of people in the community who have access to adequate amounts of food, and they will be more knowledgeable about how to eat healthy with those resources.

Background

- Powell, Wyoming is a community of 6300 residents in Park County
- Largest employers are Northwest College, the public school district, and hospital, with many also working in agriculture
- 18.2% of the residents have college degrees, compared to 25.7% of state residents
- Median household income is \$46,862, compared to \$58,840 statewide
- Poverty rate is 14.3%, compared to 11.1% statewide
- According to the Public Health Department, unemployment in Powell has risen in the last year with the coal and oil downturn, as many residents worked in that industry elsewhere. Some maintained residencies in Powell, while others returned to Powell after being laid off



SNAP, WIC, the community garden, and Farmer's Market allow community members to buy and grow healthy food options.

Literature Review

- Studies have found the program Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to be effective in increasing health, growth, and height of eligible infants, regardless of whether the caretaker believes the children need supplemental food
- Education about the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) has been found to increase favorable opinions about SNAP as well as enrollment in benefits
- Women were found to be more likely than men to buy food marked as healthy



A sign welcomes visitors on the outskirts of Powell.

Community Health Project Plan

- Partner with Park County Public Health to present information at their "Rock and Rest" camper at the county fair for parents, caretakers, and small children and infants to rest and get out of the heat
- Goal to educate new parents as they will be under increased economic stress, and specifically target mothers for WIC and healthy eating information, as women are more likely than men to purchase healthy food
- Present in one location that many of Park County residents will visit, regardless of income level. Information will be about how to qualify, phone numbers, locations, and information about food resource programs as well as how to eat healthy.

Deliverables

- Partnered with Park County Public Health, who allowed the project to be hosted in partnership with their county fair booth
- Provided Public Health with literature review and demographic analysis
- Implemented the project several weeks after completion of RUOP



Watermelon and other produce are healthy snack options for children.

Next Steps

- Facilitate discussion and answer questions at county fair booth
- Follow up with Public Health, WIC, and Department of Family Services (DFS), which runs the SNAP program to determine if more individuals signed up for food resources as a result of program implementation