



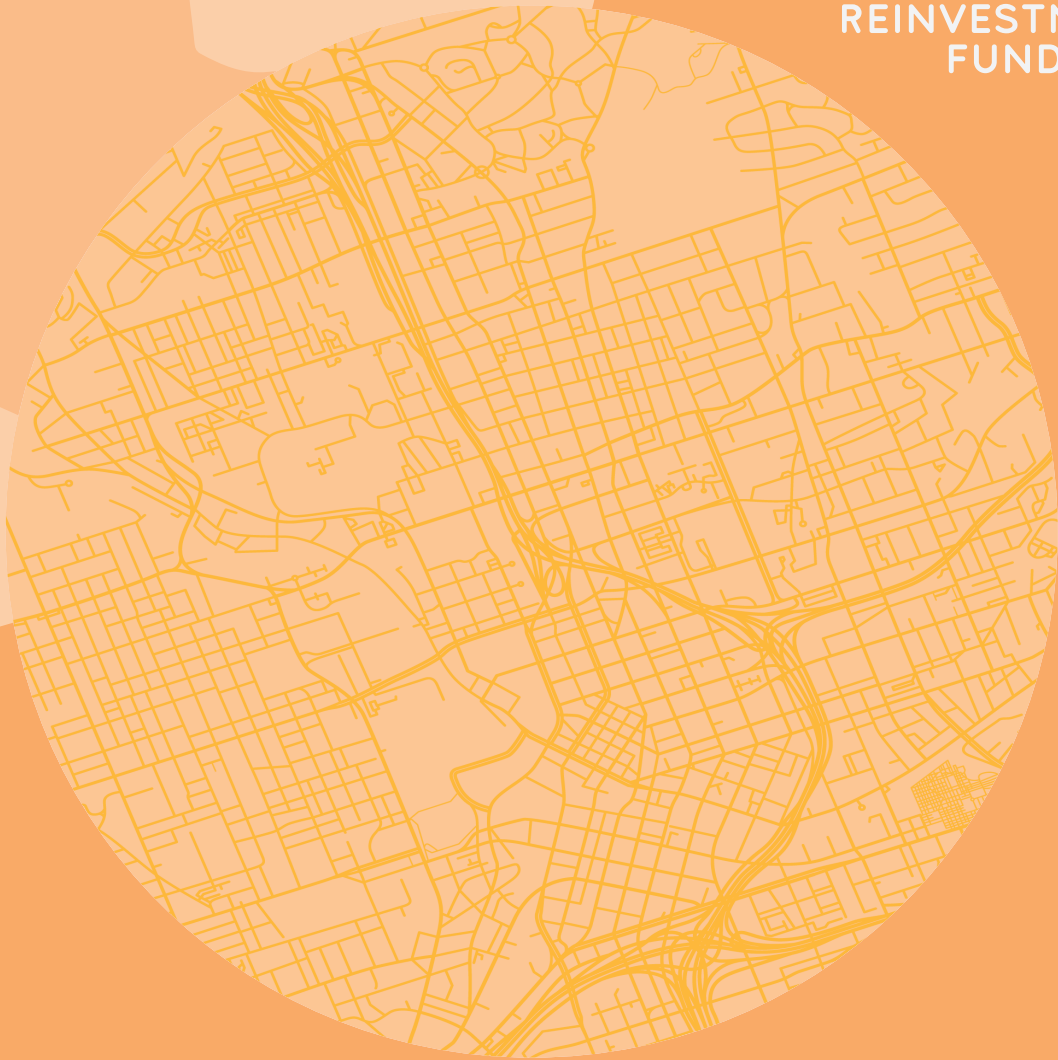
REINVESTMENT
FUND



LIMITED SUPERMARKET
ACCESS ANALYSIS



REINVESTMENT
FUND



Data Informed Investments in Philadelphia

Data Informed Investments in West Philadelphia

Between 2015 and 2021

Reinvestment Fund financed seven healthy food retail projects in West Philadelphia including:

- 1. Brown's Parkside Shoprite** is a full-service grocery store that originally opened with financing from Reinvestment Fund in 2008. When the store initially opened the neighborhood had no large format, full-service grocery stores. In 2018, Reinvestment Fund provided additional financing for store renovations and improvements.
- 2. Honeysuckle Provisions** is a small format store that supports the local economy using food as an anchor for the community. It includes a small sustainable grocery, meat market, café/restaurant, and supper club. In 2020, Honeysuckle Provisions received funding through Reinvestment Fund's Philadelphia Food Justice Initiative (PFJI) – a joint project with the city of Philadelphia's Department of Health.

3. https://www.inquirer.com/philly/hp/news_update/20080605_Neighbors_rejoice_as_new_shopping_center_opens_in_West_Philadelphia.html

4. <https://www.inquirer.com/food/restaurants/honeysuckle-provisions-omar-tate-cybill-20221101.html>

Glossary

Supermarket The LSA analysis measures access to healthy food by identifying areas that are well-served by supermarkets and those that have relatively limited and inequitable access to supermarkets. In this report, Reinvestment Fund uses supermarkets (grocery stores with at least \$2 million in annual sales) as a proxy for healthy food access because a review of the relevant research shows that supermarkets, compared to smaller stores (e.g., corner stores), most consistently offer the greatest variety of healthy foods at the lowest prices.

Low-Access Score is the percentage by which a block group's distance to the nearest supermarket would need to be reduced to equal the typical distance for well-served block groups in that class (well-served block groups have median incomes that are at least 120% of the state or metro median). Block groups with Low-Access Scores greater than or equal to 45 are considered Limited-Access. In Limited-Access block groups, residents must travel almost twice as far to a supermarket as residents in well-served block groups with similar population density and car ownership.

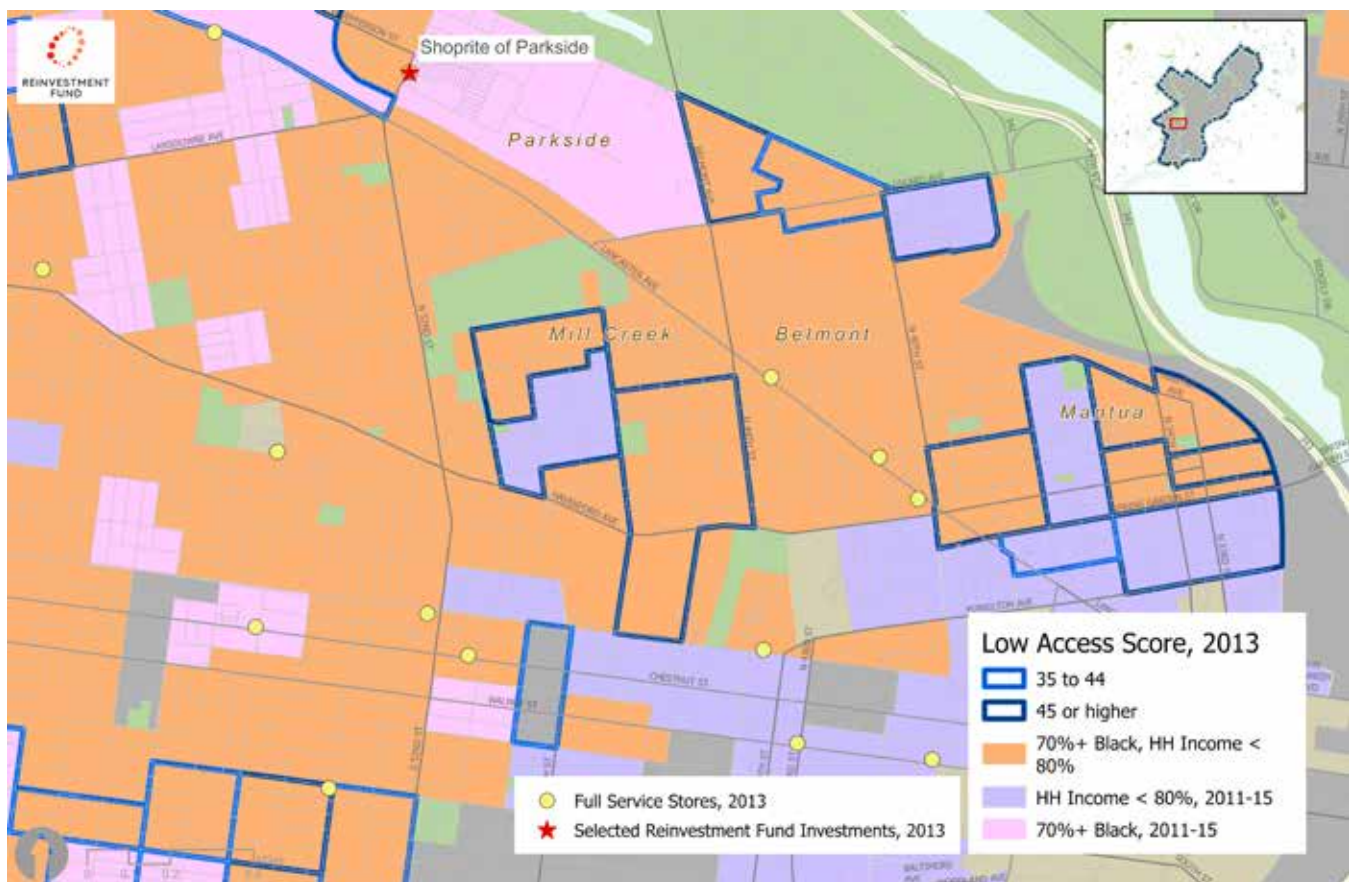
Limited-Access Areas are single block groups, or collections of block groups, where residents must travel almost twice as far to a full-service supermarket as a resident in a block group with similar population density and a median household income that is at least 120% of the **state or metro median**.

3. Mill Creek Farm is a Black-run urban farm in West Philadelphia that grows food, supports farmers' markets, and donates hundreds of pounds of produce to pop-up food distribution sites around West Philadelphia. In 2019, Mill Creek Farm also received financing through Reinvestment Fund's PFJI.

The Parkside, Belmont and Mantua neighborhoods of West Philadelphia are home to roughly 48,755 residents and virtually all block groups are very densely populated. Nearly 66% of West Philadelphia residents are Black, well above the city-wide Black population percentage (42%). In 2021, 46% of households had an annual income of less than \$25,000.

Map 1 presents a snapshot of West Philadelphia in 2013, highlighting block groups with predominantly Black populations, low-incomes relative to the median household income of the Philadelphia metropolitan area, or both characteristics. The yellow circles represent full-service grocery stores that were open in 2013, and the red star shows the location of the Shoprite on Parkside, initially financed in 2008 and again funded in 2018.

Map 1. Food Retail Location, Limited-Access Areas by Race and Income in West Philadelphia - 2013

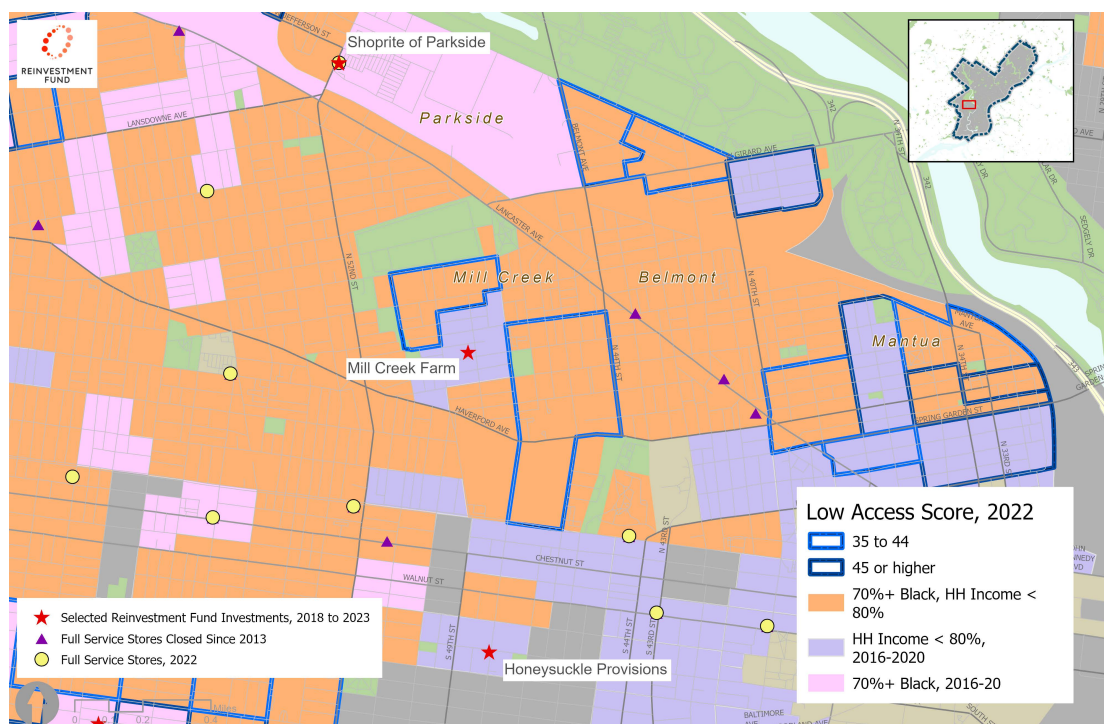


Map 1 also shows how access to full-service grocery stores varies across the neighborhood. Block groups outlined in blue have elevated Low-Access Scores. These areas are underserved relative to similarly dense neighborhoods and residents must travel more than three-quarters of a mile to get to a full-service grocer.

Dark blue outlines show block groups with a Low-Access Score of 45 or higher – block groups defined as Limited-Access. Light blue outlines are block groups with elevated Low-Access Scores between 35 and 44. These block groups are underserved by food retail but are below the threshold to be considered a Limited-Access area. Low-Access Scores in this range (35-44) can be interpreted as places that are not well-served by supermarkets, but where access to grocery stores is not as dire as block groups with a Low-Access Score of above 45.

Map 2 presents a snapshot of West Philadelphia in 2022, again showing block groups that are predominantly Black, predominantly low-income, or both. The yellow circles represent full-service grocery stores that were open in 2022, red stars represent selected Reinvestment Fund financed stores between 2018 and 2023, including an additional investment in Shoprite of Parkside. The purple triangles represent stores that closed between 2013 and 2022.

Map 2. Food Retail Location, Limited-Access Areas by Race and Income in West Philadelphia - 2022





Reinvestment Fund's investments in a variety of food retail choices highlight the broad range of options available to support neighborhood food access. Additional funding for renovations at the Shoprite in Parkside maintains neighborhood access to a traditional, large format supermarket. Financing for Mill Creek Farm supports a Black-run urban farm that provides community access to fresh foods through seasonal farm stands. Honeysuckle Provisions provides a small format grocery store in a location just blocks away from three shuttered markets. Importantly, neither Mill Creek Farm, nor Honeysuckle Provisions are large enough stores to be included in the LSA analysis. Their presence has 'no effect' on whether a nearby block group would be considered Limited-Access within the LSA analysis. And yet, they occupy critical positions that fill gaps between traditional full-service supermarkets within the broader network of the West Philadelphia food ecosystem and highlight the importance of local, multi-faceted analysis.

Using the LSA analysis alongside demographic and non-traditional food retail data helps provide a fuller picture of neighborhood food insecurity. Burdensome distances are one barrier to accessing healthy food, but there are others. Low incomes are often an impediment for residents to access healthy food. Locating full-service grocery stores closer to low-income households can be an important intervention and can support the local economy. Organizations like Mill Creek Farm address barriers to access that go beyond proximity by supporting neighborhood food drives, particularly important during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Investments made through the PFJI are intended to empower communities to exercise their right to grow, sell, and eat healthy foods. Both Honeysuckle and Mill Creek are Black-owned community-based organizations that reflect the predominately Black neighborhoods they serve, increasing access to healthy food retail and furthering PFJI's food justice objectives. PFJI strengthens these assets by providing funding for innovative, community-led projects that work to further food justice.



REINVESTMENT FUND

About Reinvestment Fund

Reinvestment Fund is a national mission-driven financial institution that creates opportunity for underserved people and places through partnerships. We marshal the capital, analytics, and expertise necessary to build strong, healthy, and more equitable communities. Learn more at **www.reinvestment.com**.