

# Working with Rural and Underserved Communities to Promote a Healthy Food Environment (Core Project 2009-2014)

## Project Summary & Goals

Developed in collaboration with community partners in the Brazos Valley and Hidalgo County, the project targets four rural counties in the Brazos Valley and 22 census block groups in two large areas of Hidalgo County in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. This project uses an innovative sequential mixed-methods design of geospatial, quantitative, and qualitative methods to support community efforts to improve accessibility and availability of healthy foods.

Project goals are:

- To raise awareness of community needs, problems, and assets;
- To inform county and community action on community food problems;
- To enhance community knowledge and awareness of potential interventions;
- To create community-university partnership on community food issues;
- To mobilize and engage a broad network of community residents;
- To improve access to healthful, locally produced foods;
- To inform strategies for improving food security, and
- To evaluate community initiatives throughout the target communities.

## Principal Investigator

Joseph R. Sharkey, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.D.

## Project Dates

2009-2014

## Communities Involved

Burleson County  
Grimes County  
Leon County  
Madison County  
Hidalgo County

## Funder

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention