



There are 1.8 million Michigan residents, including 300,000 children, who live in communities where they do not have easy access to affordable healthy food. In an effort to address the issues surrounding this lack of access, the American Heart Association's Michigan Healthy Food Access (HFA) Campaign will continue to hold Town Hall meetings throughout the state to inform community members and leaders how they can take action.

The implications of the lack of healthy food access is reflected by the more than 31.5% of Michiganders who are considered clinically obese. For children, the situation is particularly alarming. In 2011, 32.6% of Michigan's youth ages 10-17 were overweight or obese. If rates continue to increase at their current levels, obesity-related health care costs are expected to climb to \$12.5 billion by 2018.

A Town Hall meeting will take place and facilitated by HFA Campaign Manager, Ted O'Dell, on January 21, 2016, at the Marquette Board of Commissioners in Room 41, located at 234 W. Baraga Avenue in Marquette. There will be two sessions; one from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. and one from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Additionally, we invite you to view the attached video discussing the healthy food access process and its impact on Michigan communities. The Michigan Healthy Food Access Campaign video link is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXLGVIDSn5U>

For questions or to RSVP your attendance to the event, please contact Jeanne Rohder at jeanne.rohder@heart.org or at 517-319-1057.