Replate CS184 Project

Replate is a food rescue organization that utilizes a platform to enable businesses to schedule on-demand pickups for their surplus food. Replate then directs the donated food to nonprofits who are working with those in the community who are experiencing food insecurity. Unlike most food rescue organizations, we charge a fee for our service to pay for our drivers.

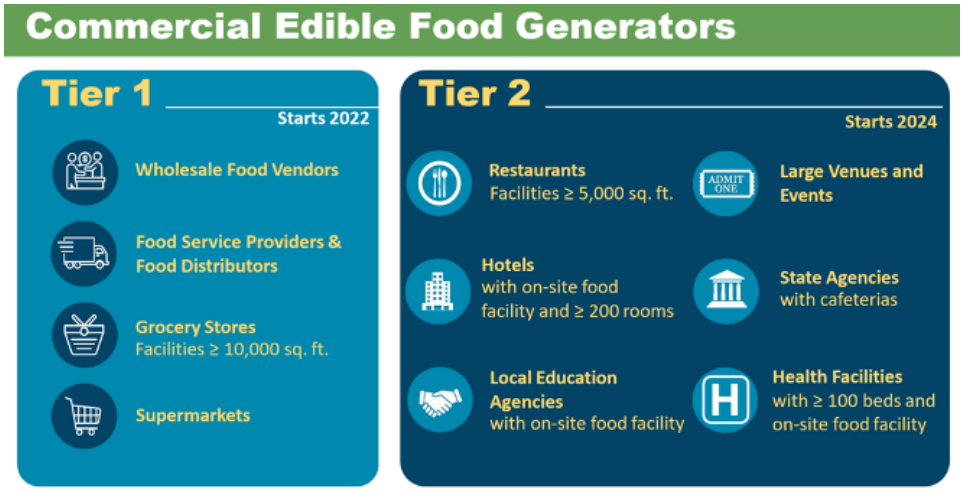
We are looking to understand how to expand our operations and perform food rescues in more rural areas such as the Central Valley for a few reasons. Currently, we operate in mostly larger cities and want to be able to support food insecurity in more rural areas. Additionally, with SB 1383, food generators across all of California will need to comply with laws and regulations that enforce donating surplus food to prevent food waste and food insecurity. Replate is looking to understand how we can tap into new markets that are more rural and work with food generators for SB 1383. We are also looking to understand how demographics in these regions compare to the urban areas we already operate in, in regards to food rescuer and food insecurity. Some key questions we are looking to have answered include:

1. How do different regions of the Central Valley compare in regards to food waste? How does this compare to our urban markets such as the Bay Area or New York?
2. What does food insecurity look like throughout the different areas of the Central Valley?
3. Using the data provided by the EPA Excess Food Opportunities Map, where do these generators fall between being a Tier 1, Tier 2 or non regulated food generator? Any insight on where they fall and trends around the different regions of the Central Valley are helpful. Feel free to use outside sources if you want to, otherwise the data provided by the EPA should be fully encompassing.
4. Any other useful insights around food insecurity, food waste, food generators, or recipients of excess food in rural vs. urban areas.

The deliverables we are looking for is a powerpoint with key findings, any notes on the research and any spreadsheets or notebooks used to analyze the data.

Useful Resources:

1. EPA Excess Food Opportunities Map
    a. The layers list allows you to see excess food generators and recipients
2. EPA Excess Food Public datasets
    a. This link will download the 2020 data around food excess generators, recipients, etc. that is displayed on the food opportunities map
3. Food Insecurity Fact Sheet
4. Food Insecurity Map

5. 

6. CalRecycle is the best resource for a policy understanding of SB 1383

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