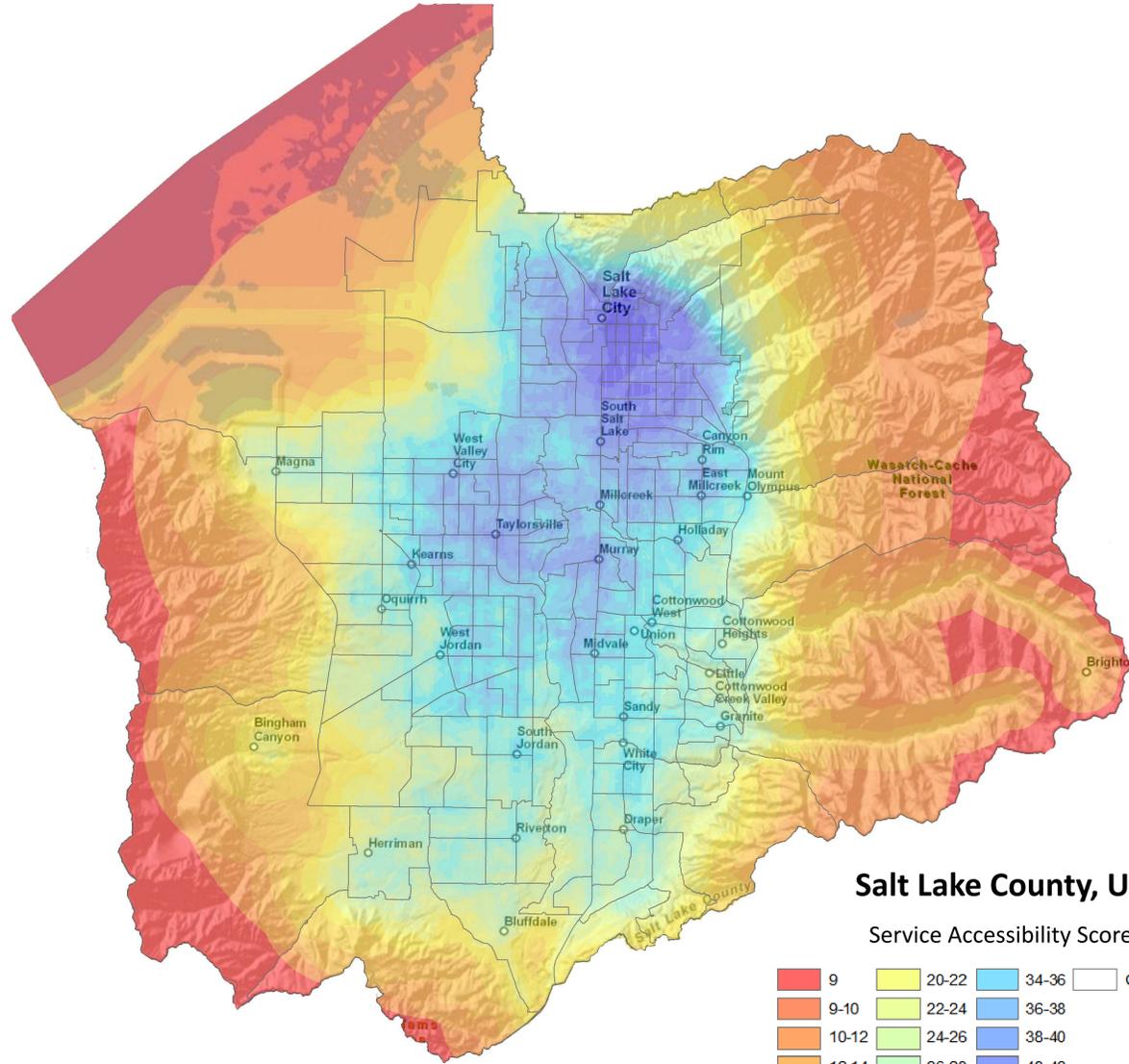


# SALT LAKE COUNTY ACCESSIBILITY MODEL | REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT & ESSENTIAL SERVICES



## INTRODUCTION:

Every year, tens of thousands of refugees are granted asylum and then formally resettled in the United States. Of these, roughly 1,000 are resettled in Salt Lake City, Utah and surrounding areas. Upon resettlement in Salt Lake, refugees' cases are handled by two service providers contracted under the Department of State—International Rescue Committee and Catholic Community Services—which, for a period of at least six months and up to two years, assist refugees in transitioning to life in the U.S. Due to severe limitations in resources—financial, human, and otherwise—refugees are afforded only the most basic of assistance, namely, limited subsidization of housing costs and very basic training and job services. Refugees are rarely able to supplement or leverage these services with their own resources. Accordingly, refugees are typically limited to using public transport. For these and other reasons, geographic and spatial proximity to essential services—some specific to refugees, others more general in nature—are a critical factor in refugees' health and well-being and also in their overall transition to and integration with American society.

## METHODS:

To address these issues, I have created an "accessibility" map of the greater Salt Lake City area. Accessibility is judged against proximity to specific services and public goods, namely: the refugee resettlement agencies, general hospitals, health centers and family clinics, major grocery stores, primary and secondary schools bus routes, institutions of higher education, career and worker services, and public parks and open spaces. Individual accessibility maps for each of these

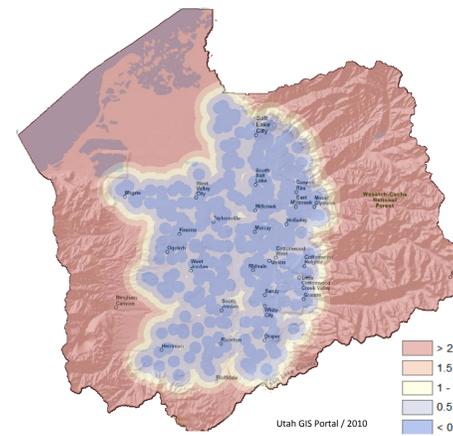
services were created by using spatial analysis tools to define five successive gradients, each within specified distances of the service location or provider. These areas were then assigned a numeric score in the following manner: those closest to the service provider or location were given scores of five, while areas farthest away were assigned scores of one. This method was used to create the nine smaller maps below. Individual maps were then overlaid on each other to create an overall accessibility map of Salt Lake County, wherein areas' scores (relative to each of the maps below) are summed together for an aggregate service accessibility score. Areas with greater accessibility (45 being the maximum score) are colored in dark blue, whereas areas with low accessibility (9 being the minimum score) are colored in shades of yellow, orange, and red.

## RESULTS:

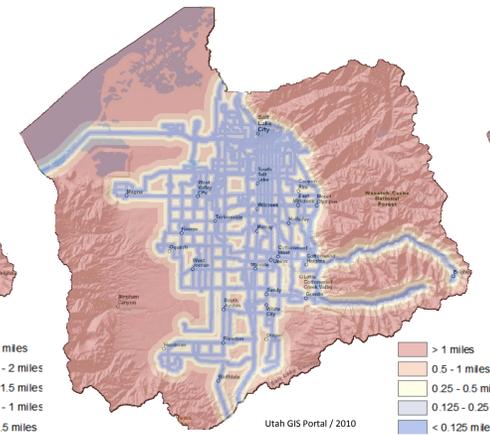
Service accessibility is greatest in the immediate vicinity of downtown Salt Lake City, and, to a lesser extent, in the suburbs and smaller cities surrounding Salt Lake City proper. More refined maps may be obtained by adjusting the sizes of concentric areas surrounding service providers and locations, and/or by weighting services differently based on their importance. In addition, further spatial analysis could be conducted using network analysis tools to derive distance via roads, pathways, bus routes, and the like. Furthermore, the maps included here can be invaluable to refugee service providers, particularly if plotted with the residences of current clients, which could not be obtained for present purposes due to security concerns.

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Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N

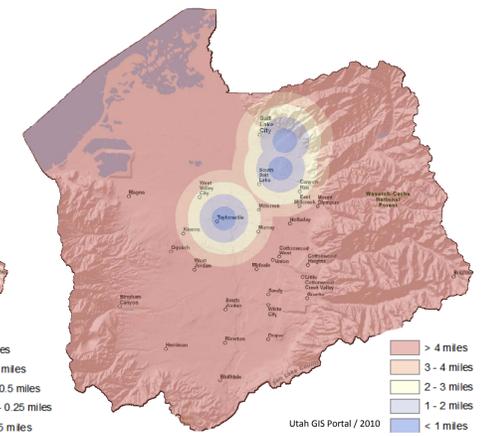
**Primary & Secondary Schools**



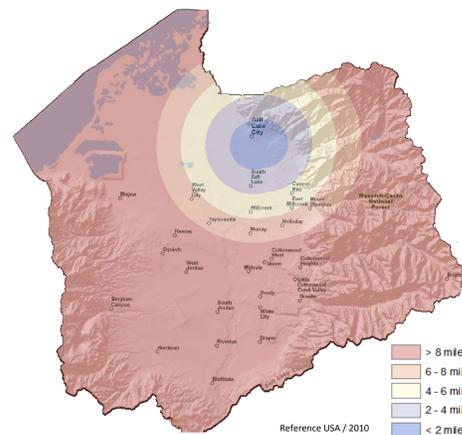
**UTA Bus Routes**



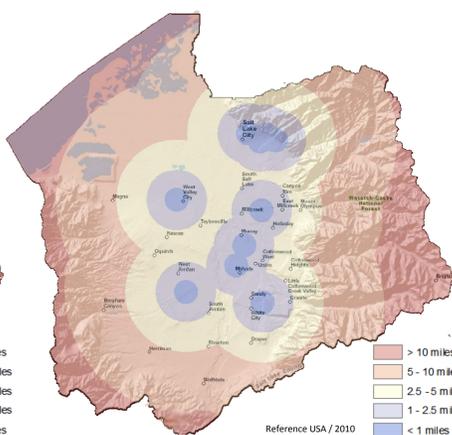
**Universities & Colleges**



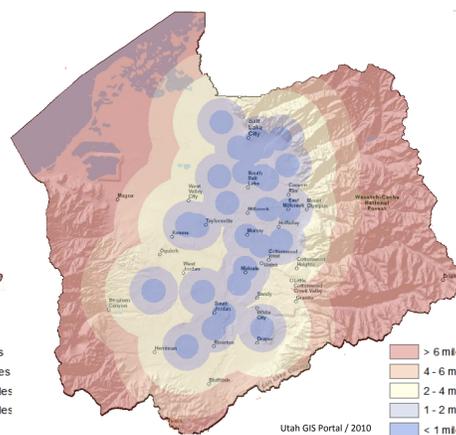
**Refugee Resettlement Agencies**



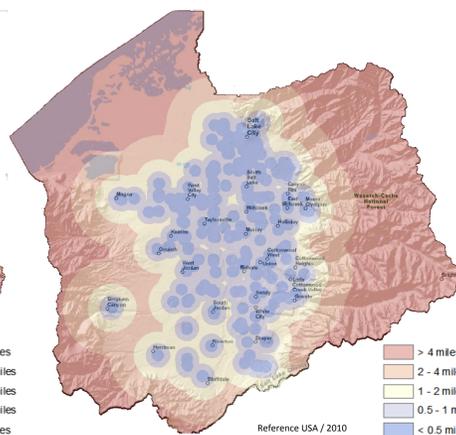
**Hospitals**



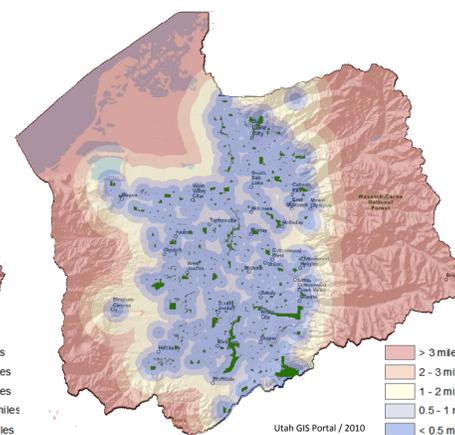
**Health Centers & Family Clinics**



**Grocery Stores**



**Parks & Open Spaces**



**Utah Workforce Services**

