Weather Effects on Local Social Programs

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Julie Demuth
and Gina Eosco?
• **Problem statement:**
  – Local social programs—such as Meals on Wheels, homeless shelters, and hospice programs—provide valuable services to vulnerable populations. It’s important for employees and volunteers of these programs to serve these populations in all weather conditions

• **Objective:**
  – Assess whether local social programs use weather information for short-term (i.e., 12- to 48-hour) planning; how they use this information for decision making; and from what sources they obtain this information
• Methods:
  – Select one or two of these programs to assess
  – Conduct interviews (semi-structured?) with program personnel

• Obstacles
  – Perhaps no clear “thresholds” at which program superiors make weather-related decisions
  – Program employees’ lack of willingness to engage in dialogue because of other legal or institutional tasks which take priority
  – Inexperience on my part!!

Changing from what **WAS** to what **IS** the future of integrated weather studies
• Timeline
  – November & December: educate myself a bit more about interview methods!
  – January: initiate contact with one or two local social programs; (hopefully) meet with them and conduct interviews!

• Deliverables
  – Interview results

• Metrics
  – Useful information to assess how weather information might b