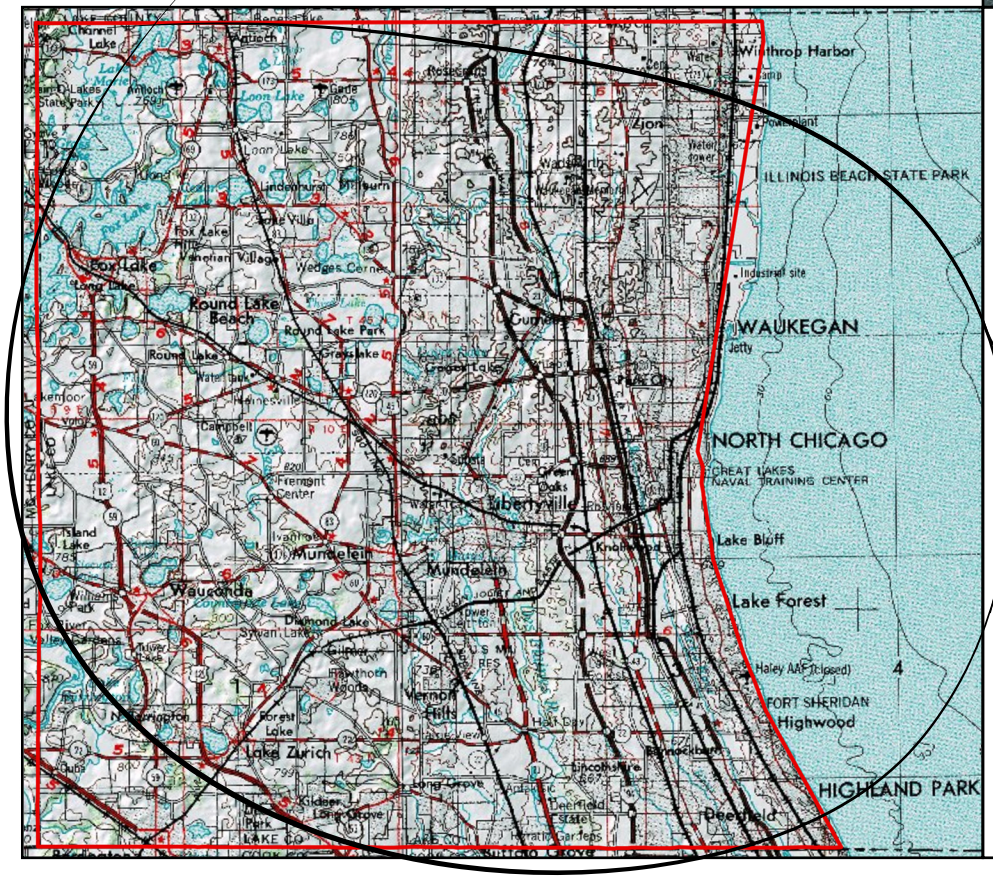
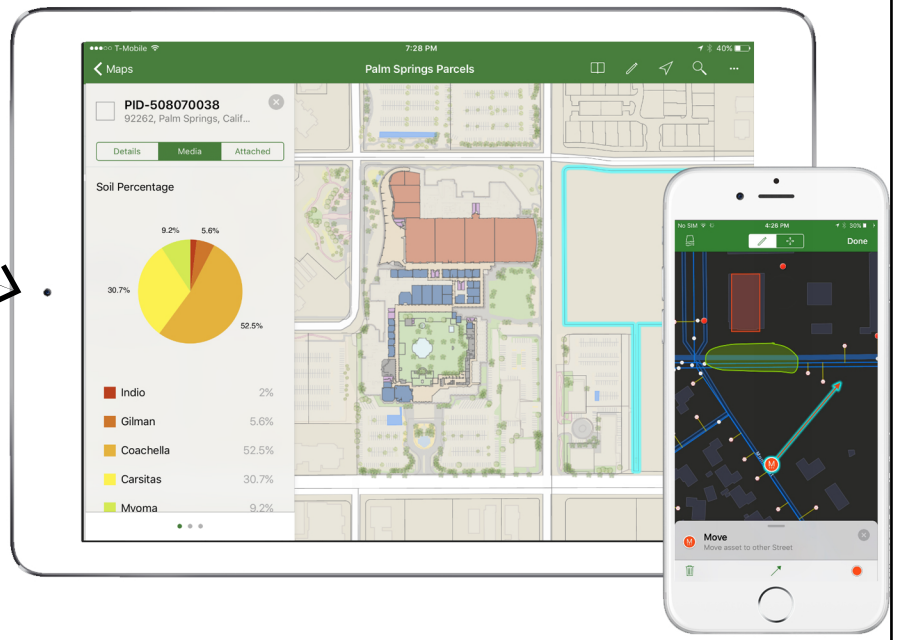
From 2018 - 2019 I worked for the Lake County, IL office of assistance for those experiencing homelessness. The office coordinates the efforts of the county's homeless advocacy programs and administers funding to them. It also holds homelessness assistance efforts of its own.

I coordinated the yearly event where volunteers search over one winter's night for people experiencing homelessness throughout the entire county to offer help and gather information as required by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development. After recruiting 87 volunteers, I coordinated their search efforts through use of the Explorer for ArcGIS smartphone app. I pinpointed suggested locations for those experiencing homelessness on a GIS map and created a smartphone map on Explorer.

With this smartphone app, volunteers found the most people ever experiencing homelessness in the county. The app was crucial to getting people to shelter that night. The actual maps are not shown for privacy.







Images, clockwise from upper right: I sort through donations, an example of the app (photo: esri.com), general map of Lake County.



I created a photo collage of some of the volunteer teams that went out in search of those experiencing homelessness. I also coordinated donations, trainings and materials for team leaders, vehicle logistics (including securing several county vehicles), and communication with team leaders and volunteers.



Through the S.O.A.R. program, people experiencing homelessness can qualify for financial assistance. Social workers play a vital role in applying for these benefits for their clients experiencing homelessness.

I led 16 social workers through the S.O.A.R. program, where they learned the process of applying for funding for their clients. I created 6 lesson plans, learning accountability tools for supervisors of the social workers to keep track of course progress, and a three-hour workshop where leaders in the field provided training (see photos, left, below). Research shows that providing financial means greatly helps people recover from homelessness. Bottom-left photo credits: samhsa.gov,; soarworks.prainc.com.

