Example 1: If we locate centers at WA, TX, and NC, the maximum of $f(WA, TX, NC, St)$ over all states $St$, is 4. This is achieved by the states MN, WI, MI, and NY. (For clarity, I am ignoring some small states in the North East. Your solution should account for them though.)
Example 2: If we locate centers at WA, TX, and VA, the maximum of 
\[ f(WR, TX, VA, St) \] over all States \( St \) is 3.

So locating the centers at WA, TX, and VA is better than locating them at WA, TX, and NC. This is because 3 < 4. We want to find the best location of 3 centers in this sense.