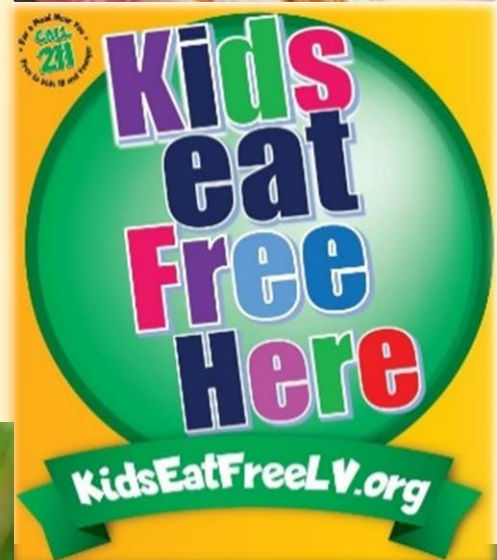


# SUMMER MEALS

A LOOK AT THE IMPACTS  
AND TRENDS 2017-2020



LEHIGH VALLEY  
**FOOD POLICY**  
COUNCIL

We shape the landscape for regional food access, policy, and collaboration.

The Lehigh Valley Food Policy Council is thankful for the generous support of the



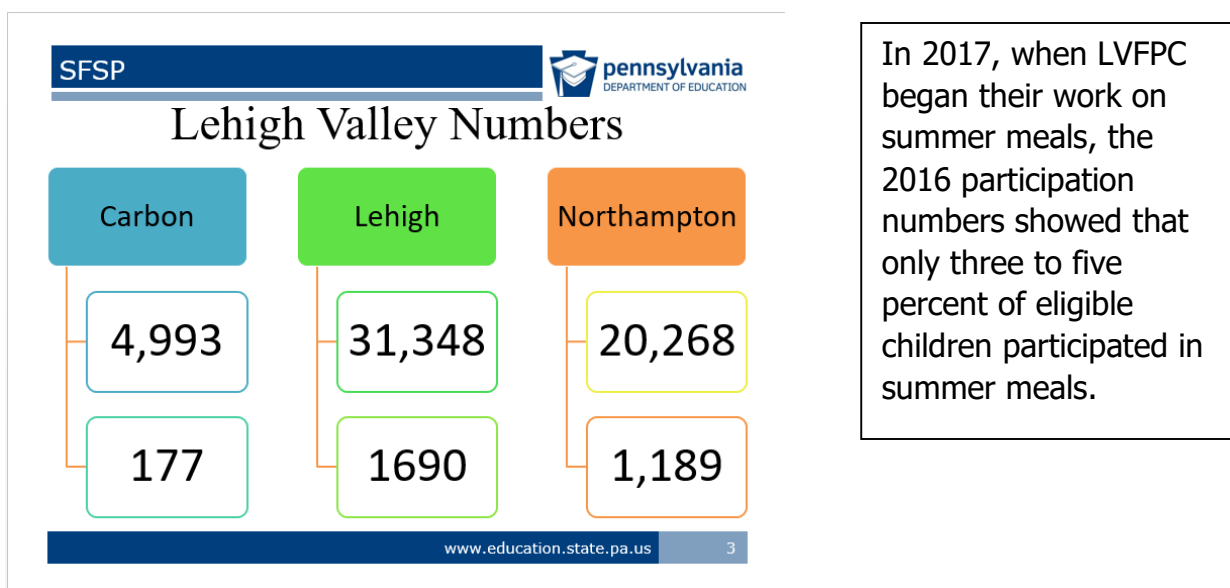
Lehigh Valley Food Policy Council/United Way Summer Meals Campaign.

Their funding provides valuable marketing materials and programming support that increase the visibility and awareness of summer meal programs across the Valley.

We also thank our dedicated partners and charitable donors for their giving and in-kind donations.

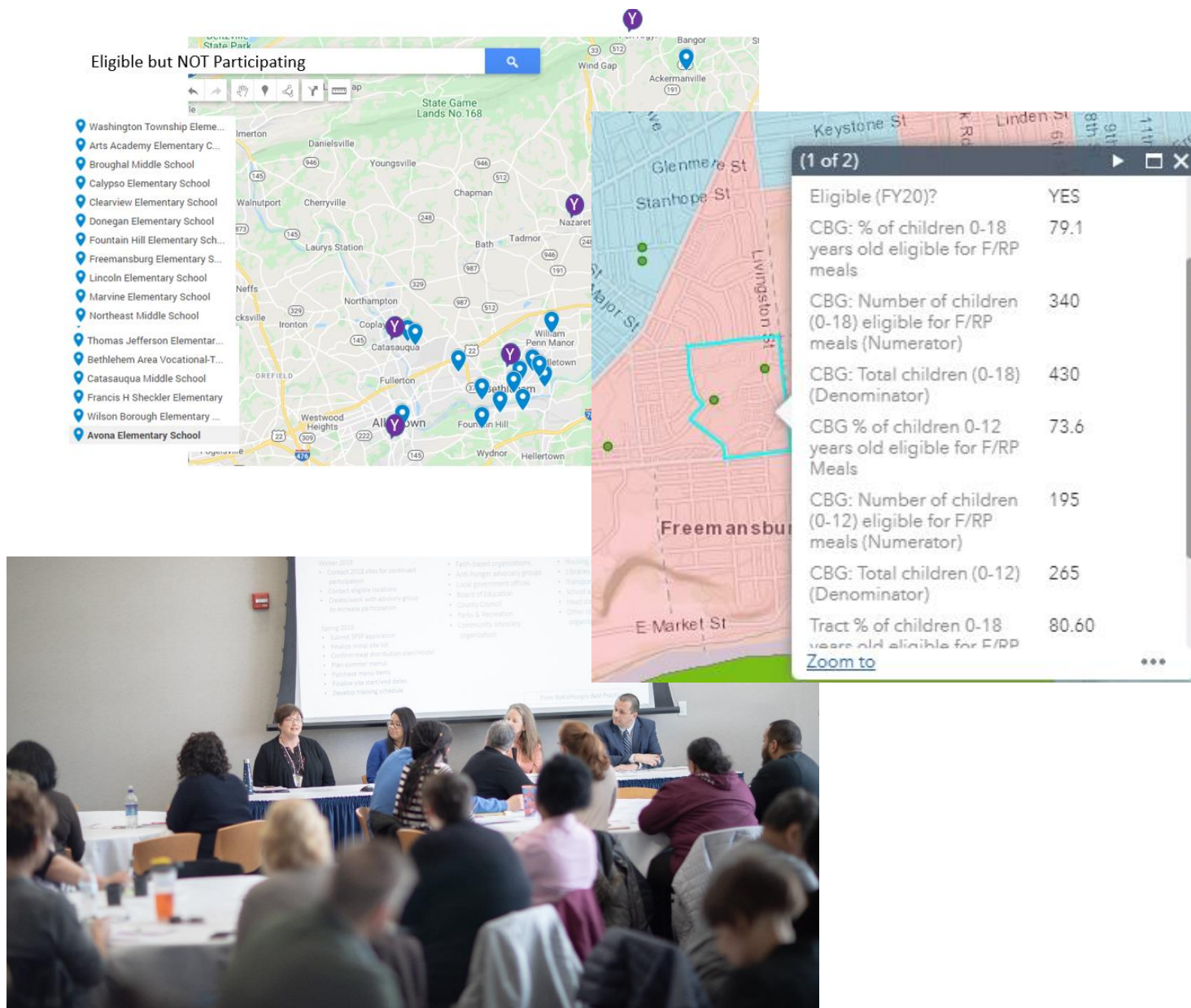
This generous support is helping us improve participation rates in summer meals throughout the Valley, alleviating food insecurity worries for many families. We are leveraging federal resources with private resources, enabling us to reach more children, provide more summer employment opportunities in the Lehigh Valley, and build the investment in our community's future.

Our work with school districts and community partners has brought results and dividends since we started working on improving participation in summer meals for children in areas in which poor economic conditions exist.



- We started a partnership with the PA Department of Education Food & Nutrition Service.
- We networked with school food authorities and community organizations, providing trainings on offering and running the Summer Food Service Program.

- We assisted with analysis of communities to identify underserved areas.
- We held recruitment forums for new sites and new sponsors to increase capacity to deliver the program.



- We provided tool kits and evaluation to assess our effectiveness and improve our outreach.
- We started a branding and marketing campaign – crucial to the success of the program but without funding in Pennsylvania for the SFSP.



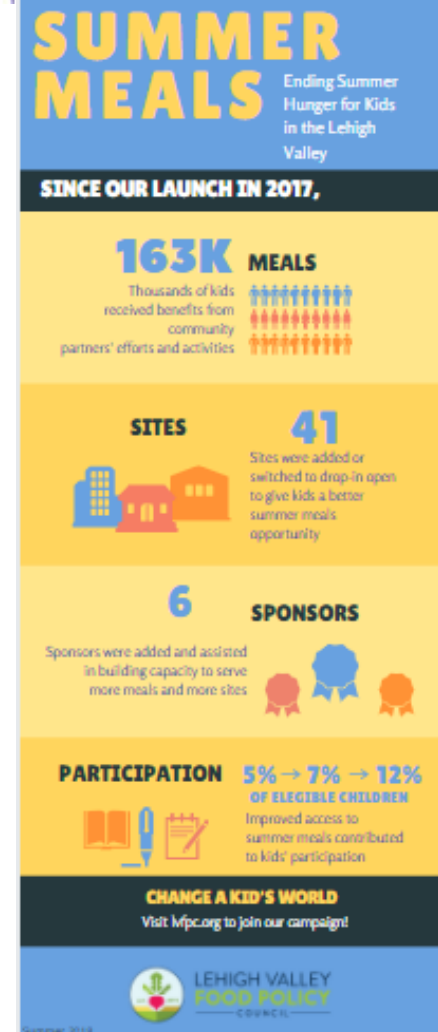
- With United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, we collaborated with partners and other summer initiatives to provide centralized information on meal availability across the Lehigh Valley.



<b>Adelstein Health Bureau at Alliance Hall</b> 534 W. Chew Street July 2 - August 21, M-F Lunch 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM 610-617-7730	<b>Adelstein Public Library</b> 1210 W. Hamilton Street June 19 - August 9, M-Th Lunch 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM 610-629-2400
<b>Community Bike Works</b> Madison Street 275 N. Madison Street June 19 - August 31, M-F Lunch 12:30 PM Snack 3 PM, M-Th, 2 PM-F 610-634-1180	<b>Community Bike Works East Allentown</b> 614 S. Carlisle Street June 19 - August 31, M-F Lunch 1:30 PM Snack 4:00 PM July hours differ, call 610-230-9937
<b>Seaside Village Y - Allentown</b> 425 S. 1st Street June 19 - August 19, M-F Lunch 11:30 AM-12 PM Snack 1:15-2:45 PM 610-751-6627	<b>Lehigh Valley Health Network 17th St. School of Nursing Building</b> 1020 W. Chew Street June 26 - August 24, M-F Lunch 12 PM-2 PM 610-623-3553
<b>Seaside Village Family Center</b> 614 S. Carlisle Street July 9 - August 2, M-Th Breakfast 9:30-10:30 AM	<b>The Caring Place</b> 931 W. Hamilton Street July 9 - August 17, M-Th Breakfast 9:00-10:30 AM



Results started to show in the data.

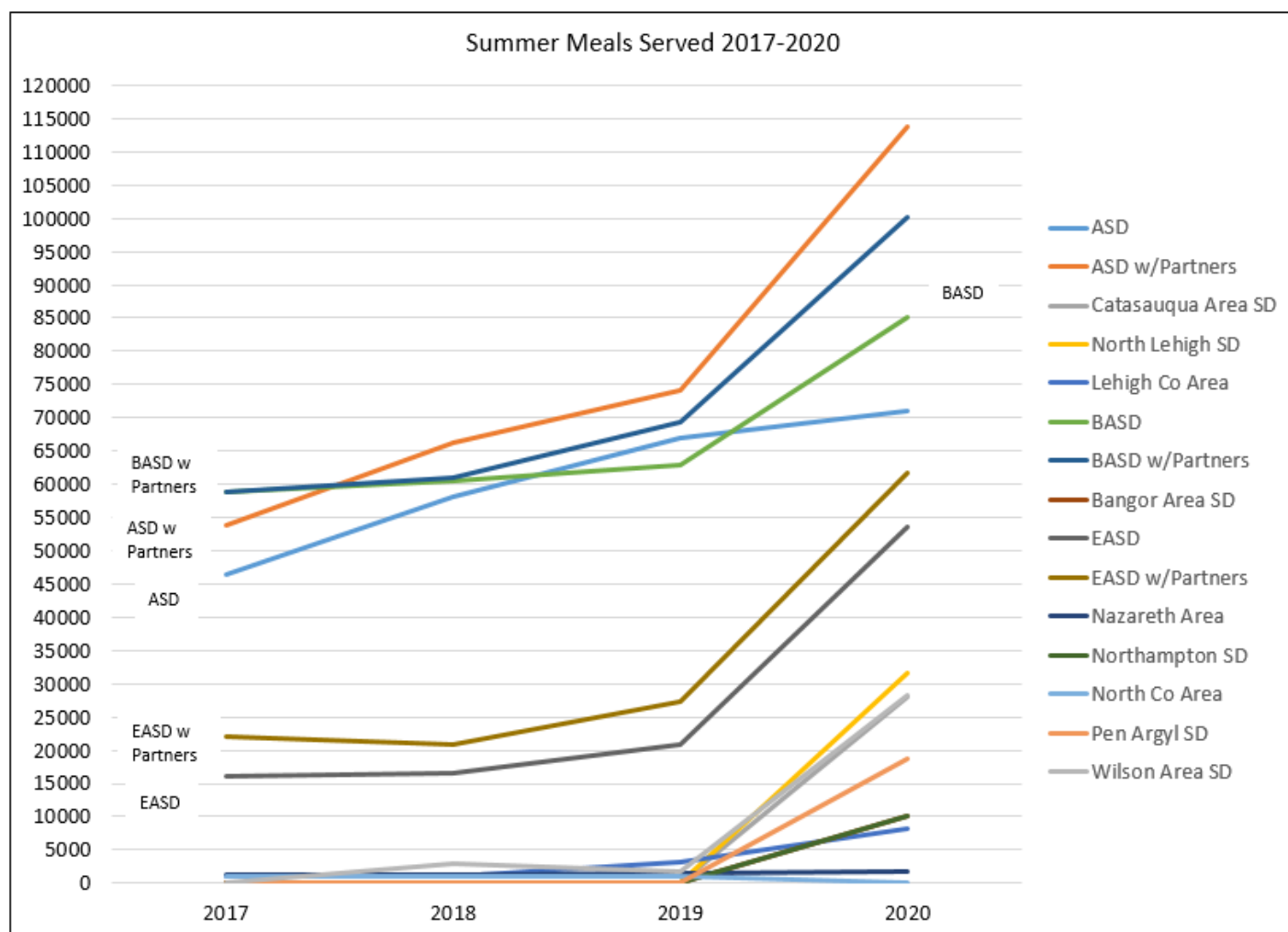


We evaluated our programs and marketing. We focused on building capacity for our program partners and improving our branding and marketing.



When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, our school districts were ready and able to quickly and easily move their National School Lunch Programs to Seamless Summer Option (SSO) and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) so that children would not go hungry.

Districts quickly found community partners to support their meal programs. Despite the challenges of procurement, staffing, and public safety, support for families in economic distress continued and the Lehigh Valley increased meals served to children.



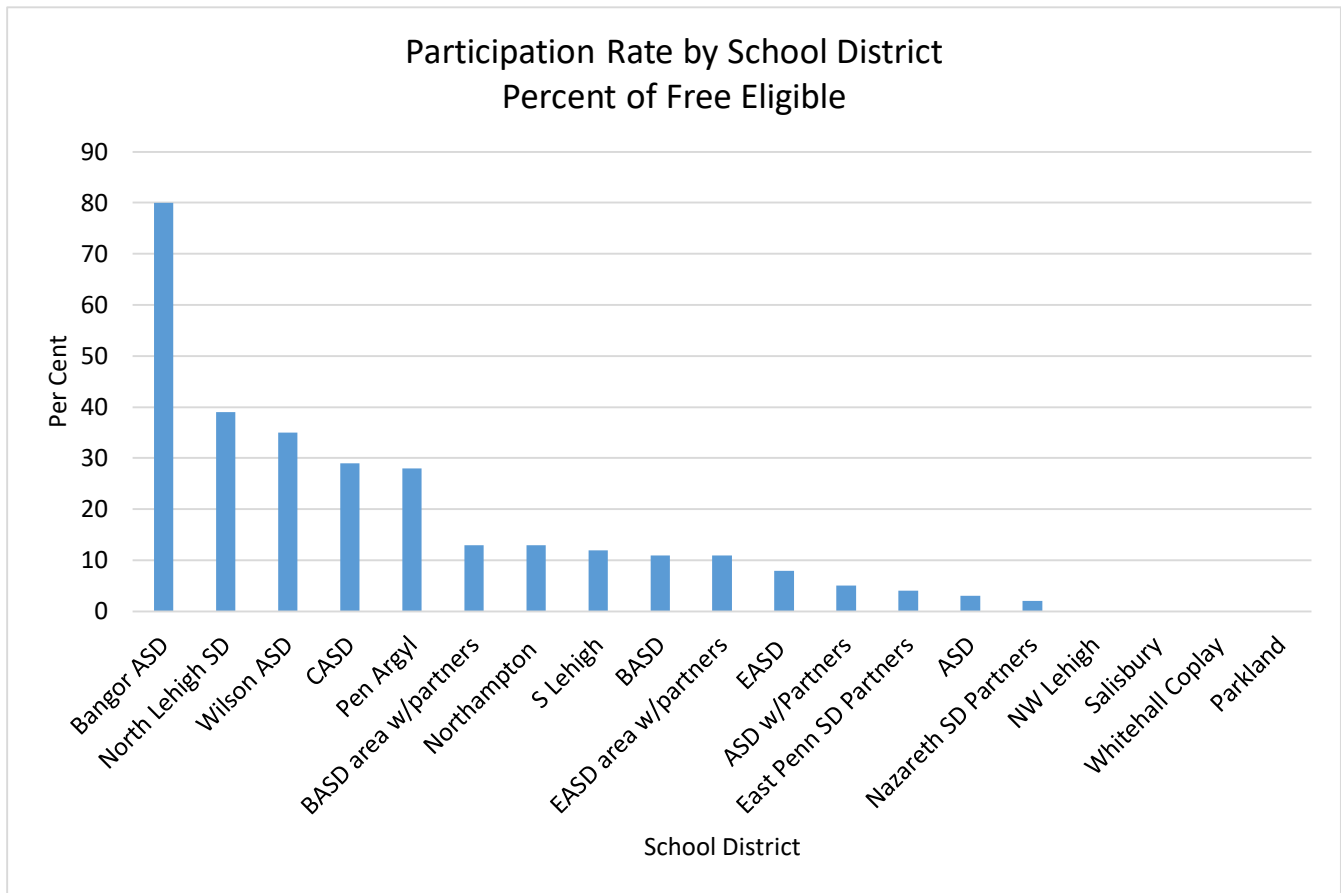
Changes in economic conditions in communities affect the numbers of children eligible for free and reduced meals and for the summer meal programs. Measuring success in the programs is determined using a USDA formula to determine Average Daily Attendance (ADA). In 2017, the PA target ADA was 20 percent of eligible children. The national target set by child nutrition and anti-hunger groups is 40 percent.

The Lehigh Valley lagged at three to five percent ADA in 2017. In 2018, the state target of twenty percent was reached and the state goal was raised to 27% for 2019. The Lehigh Valley effort steadily improved. In 2019, the state did not reach their goal and declined from their 20 percent, but the Lehigh Valley steadily increased the participation rate.

Summer Meals Yearly Summary 2015-2020											
Year	SFSP Sponsors		SFSP/SSO Sites		Open Sites	Total SFSP/SSO Meals Served,	Private Sites	Private Meals Served	Total Meals Served		Participation Rate (% of Free & Reduced Eligible)
<b>2020</b>	<b>18</b>		<b>107</b>		<b>61</b>	<b>411,900</b>	<b>6</b>				<b>8%</b>
Lehigh	8	↑ 29%	26	↓ 19%	23	181,578	3	NA			5%
Northampton	10		81		38	230,322	3	NA			13%
<b>2019</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>132</b>		<b>97** (74 Marketed)</b>	<b>183,521</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5386</b>	<b>188,907</b>		<b>12%</b>
Lehigh	7	↑ 17%	75	↑ 1%		79,437	6	3596			9%
Northampton	7		57			104,084	2	1790			16%
<b>2018</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>131</b>		<b>58</b>	<b>152,146</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10,329</b>	<b>162,475</b>		NA
Lehigh	8	↑ 22%	78	↑ 22%		67,798	6	6,629			NA
Northampton	4		53			82,414	3	3,700			NA
<b>2017*</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>107</b>		<b>46</b>	<b>136,980</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>142,980</b>		NA
Lehigh	5		65			61,277	3	2,100			NA
Northampton	4		42			75,703	1	3,900			NA
<b>2016</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>NA</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>159,466</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4,100</b>	<b>163,566</b>		NA
Lehigh	5	↓ 18%	63			86,573	1	700			NA
Northampton	4		NA			72,893	1	3,400			NA
<b>2015</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>96</b>			<b>168,509</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>168,509</b>		NA
Lehigh	7		59			82,148					NA
Northampton	4		37			86,361					NA
		Year over Year		Year over Year		Year over Year			Year over Year		

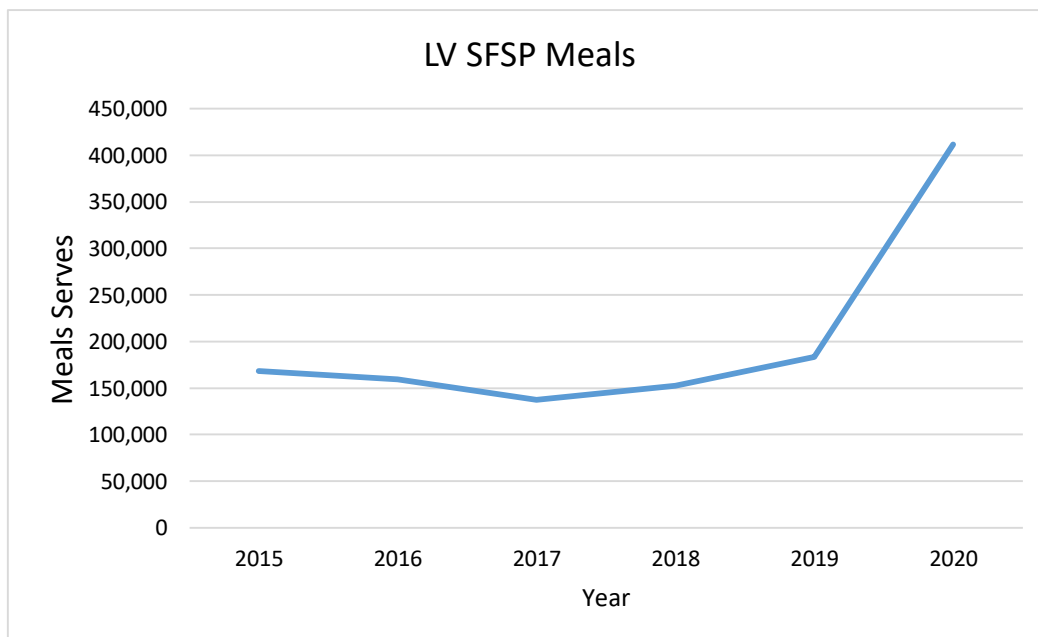
In 2020, the Lehigh Valley participation rate remained at a respectable level in consideration of the stay at home restrictions and the COVID-19 severity levels in the community. School districts that did not previously serve summer meals contributed to the numbers of children being served meals. Community partners continued to provide safe spaces for children to receive meals. Utilizing other programs and funding, community partners were often able to supplement summer meals at their sites and at school sites with additional meals or food products for families.



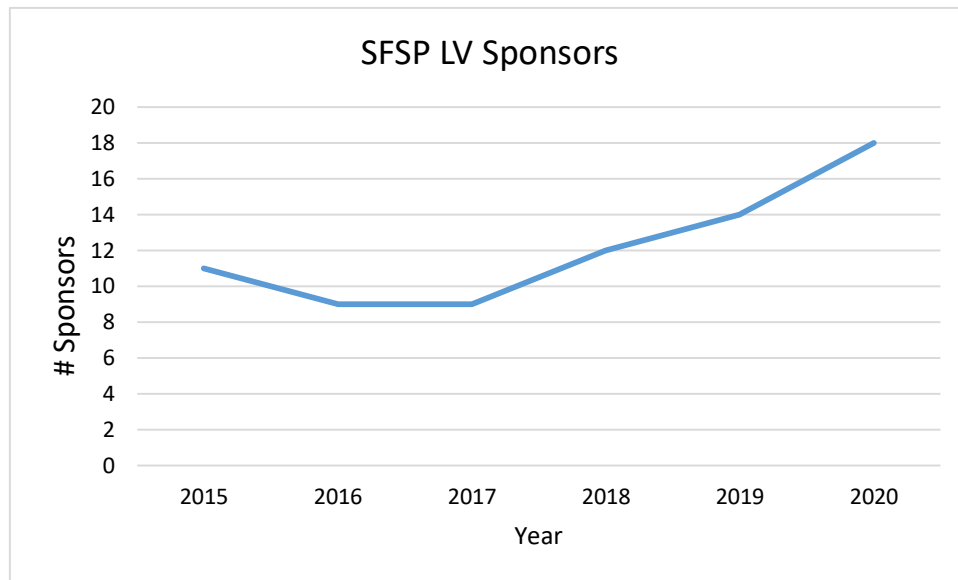


Community partners met the needs of an additional two percent of eligible children in the major school districts (approximately 1,000 children). Community partners also filled the gaps in locations where school districts did not provide summer meals.

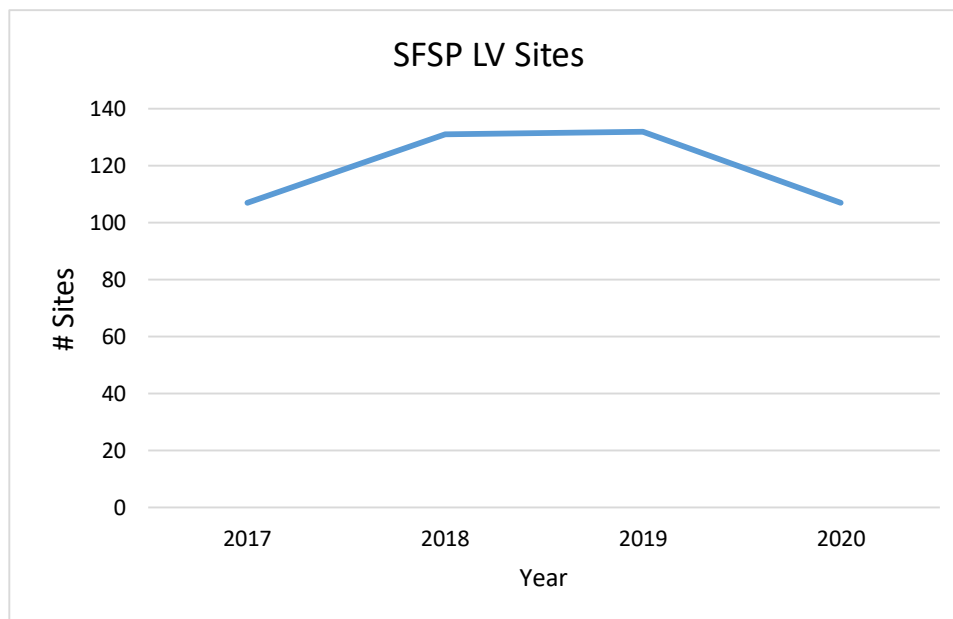
The number of summer meals served in the Lehigh Valley has steadily increased along with need.



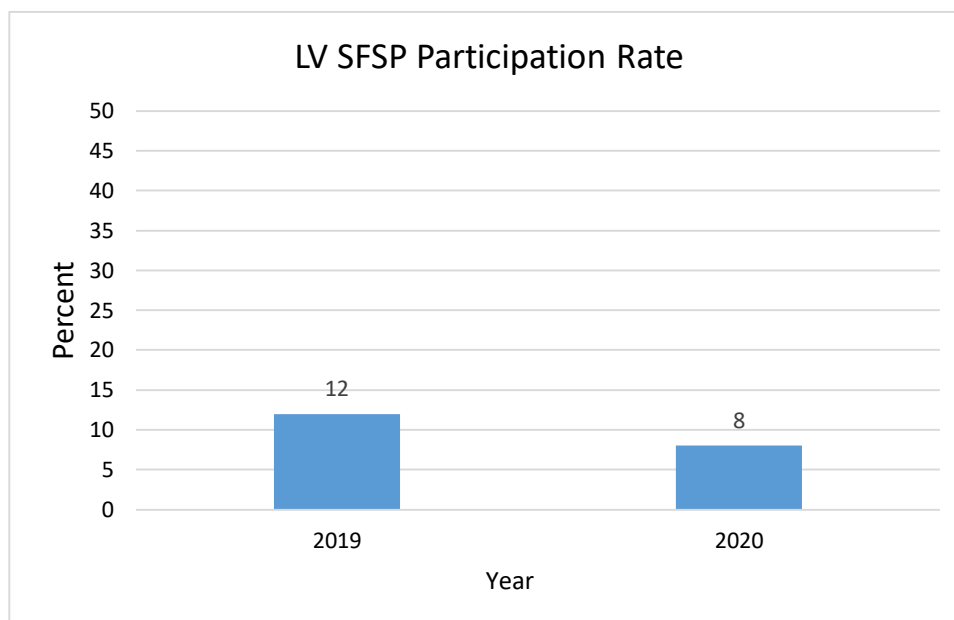
We have worked with school districts and community partners to greatly expand the program.



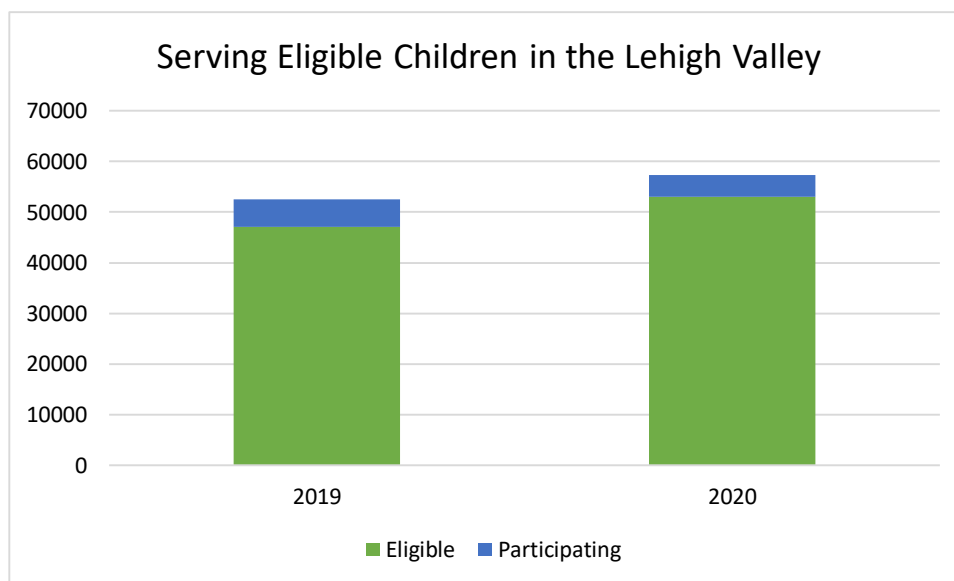
Sites continued to open to offer meals to children through 2019. COVID-19 restrictions prevented many programs from operating in 2020, but we do expect many of them to operate in 2021.



The summer meals participation rate increased substantially from 2017 to 2019, and held steady in 2020 through difficult circumstances.



We have many opportunities to reach more children by implementing innovative programs that reach children, networking and marketing, and leveraging the strength of our community partners.



Some of the policy changes in effect due to COVID-19 pandemic conditions are temporary increases in SNAP benefits and Pandemic EBT payments. These policy improvement opportunities will be presented in the Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act to be considered by Congress in 2021.

Addendum  
Summer Meals Data

**Summer Meals Served 2017-2020**

School District/Area	2017	2018	2019	2020
ASD	46325	58186	66975	71141
ASD w/Partners	53883	66244	74190	113690
Catasauqua Area SD				28054
North Lehigh SD				31626
Lehigh Co Area	1113	960	3253	8208
BASD	58751	60586	62845	85157
BASD w/Partners	58751	61033	69412	100101
Bangor Area SD				10000
EASD	15974	16452	20897	53508
EASD w/Partners	21940	20875	27201	61786
Nazareth Area	1200	1254	1500	1760
Northampton SD				10166
North Co Area	976	953	1103	0
Pen Argyl SD				18678
Wilson Area SD		2860	1843	28240

**Participation Rate by School District Percent of Free Eligible**

School District	Per Cent
Bangor ASD	80
North Lehigh SD	39
Wilson ASD	35
CASD	29
Pen Argyl	28
<b>BASD area w/partners</b>	<b>13</b>
Northampton	13
S Lehigh	12
BASD	11
<b>EASD area w/partners</b>	<b>11</b>
EASD	8
<b>ASD w/Partners</b>	<b>5</b>
East Penn SD Partners	4
ASD	3
Nazareth SD Partners	2
NW Lehigh	0
Salisbury	0
Whitehall Coplay	0
Parkland	0



**SFSP LV Sponsors**

Year	Sponsors
2015	11
2016	9
2017	9
2018	12
2019	14
2020	18

**SFSP LV Sites**

Year	Sites
2017	107
2018	131
2019	132
2020	107

**SFSP LV Meals Served**

Year	Meals
2015	168,509
2016	159,466
2017	136,980
2018	152,146
2019	183,521
2020	411,900

**SFSP LV Eligible and Participating**

Year	Eligible	Participating
2019	47046	5444
2020	53032	4260

**SFSP LV Participation Rate**

Year	Participation Rate (%)
2019	12
2020	8