

PLANNING and FUNDING

2010: LVEDC Sustainable Communities
Lehigh Valley Sustainability Consortium

Comprehensive plan
lacked energy and
climate change plans
and a fresh food access plan.

- Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation (LVEDC)
- Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC)
- Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley (CACLV)
- Lehigh And Northampton Transportation Authority (LANta)
- Renew Lehigh Valley (RenewLV)
- Lehigh County Department of Community and Economic Development (LCDCED)
- Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development (NCDCED)
- Wildlands Conservancy (WC)
- City of Allentown
- City of Bethlehem
- City of Easton
- The Nurture Nature Center
- Lehigh Valley Research Consortium (LVRC)
- Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges (LVAIC)



2011:

Lehigh Valley Economic
Development Commission
administers grant; coalition partners
develop plans and projects.

COMMUNITY INPUT:

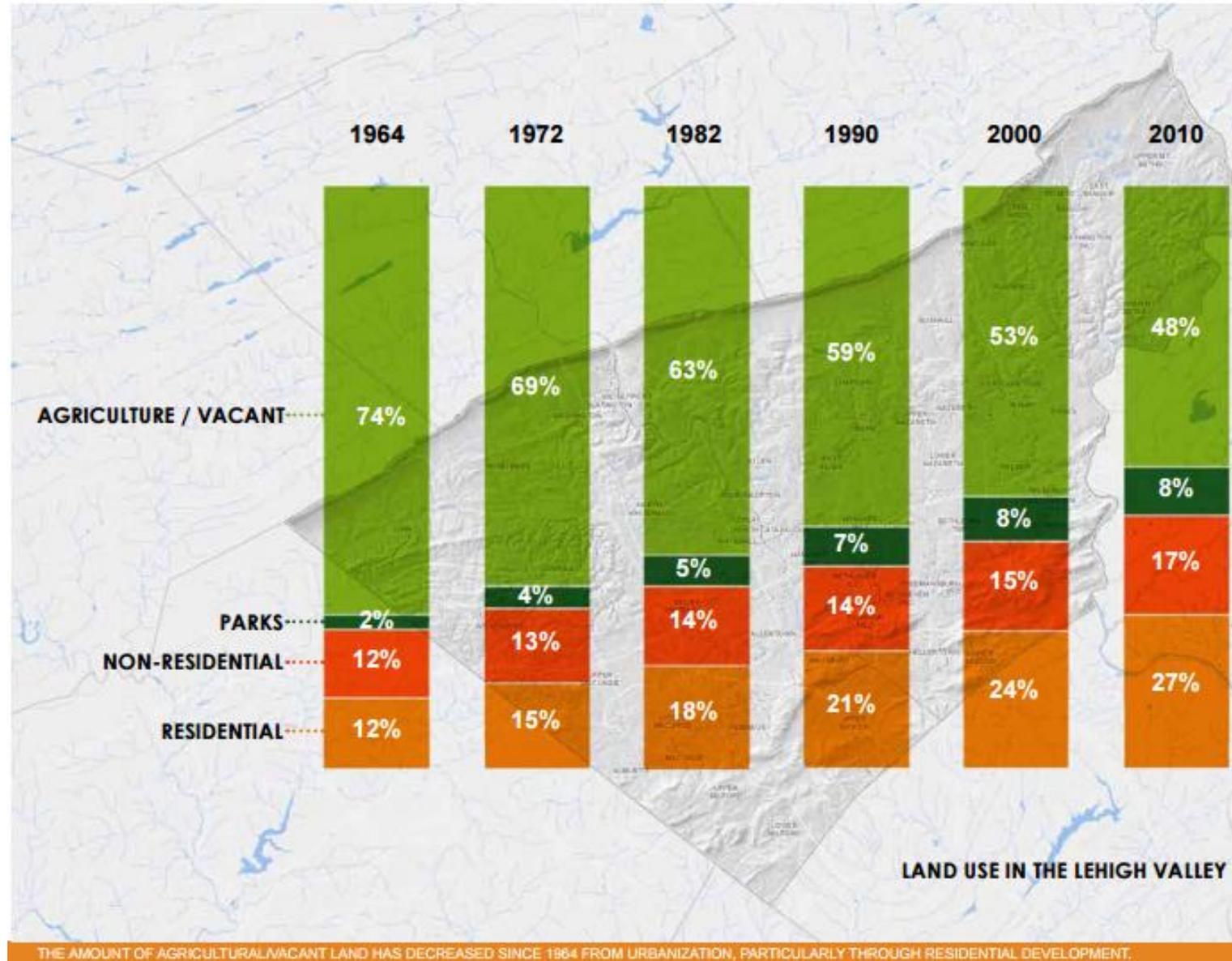
30 public meetings
Over 8 months
600 + attendees
1100 + survey responses
1200 + governmental, non-profit, and
business community partners



KEY FINDINGS:

1. Since 1930, the Lehigh Valley has lost 80% of its farms and 53% of its farmland.

2. Based on the average diet, Lehigh Valley farmers can only produce food for 24% of the Lehigh Valley population. The region is a net food importer.



KEY FINDINGS

1. Eight Lehigh Valley areas have limited fresh food access. Residents in these “food deserts” lack convenient access to healthy, affordable food and sometimes have an over-abundance of fast food restaurants and convenience stores instead.

2. The region severely lacks “food infrastructure”, such as processors, aggregators, distributors, co-packers, food business incubators, etc. to support regionally grown foods.

3. LOCAL FOOD ECONOMY ASSESSMENT:

Locally grown food contributes an estimated \$17 million annually to the local economy. If every household spent \$10 a week during the growing season (May-November) on locally grown food that number would increase to \$97 million annually.

G14



To identify, support and implement market and needs-based solutions that provide ready access to nutritious and healthy food choices in the region's areas of limited food access.

G15



To support alternative agricultural strategies suitable for areas with high existing levels of development.

G16



To strengthen regional food systems by linking food production, processing, distribution, consumption, and waste management to facilitate development and consumption of the Lehigh Valley's food resources.

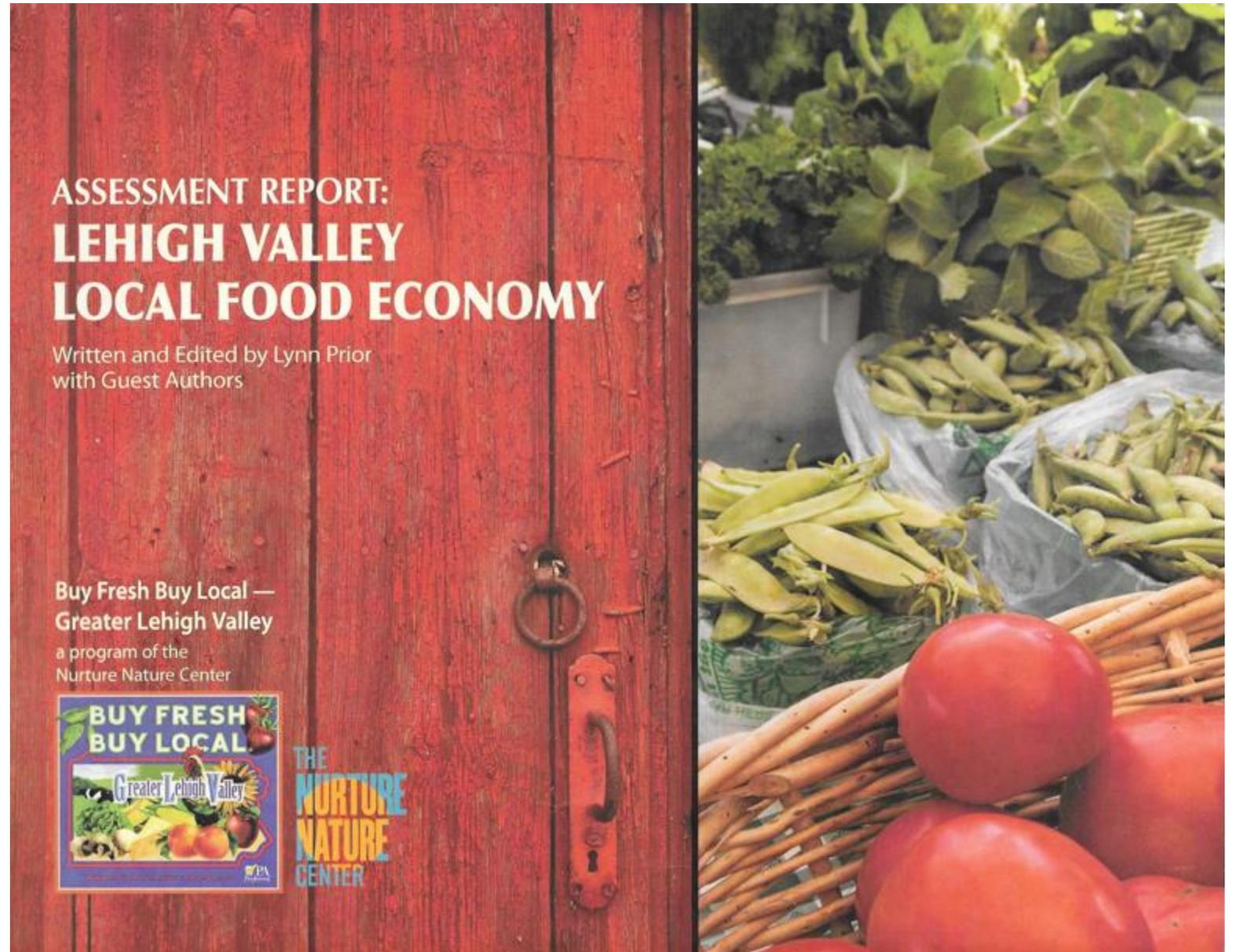
G17



To encourage the implementation of programs that mentor new farmers and those interested in farming.

- Key Findings
- Comprehensive Plan Goals
- Assessment Report
- Public Support
- Committed Stakeholders

NO FUNDING



75,000 people



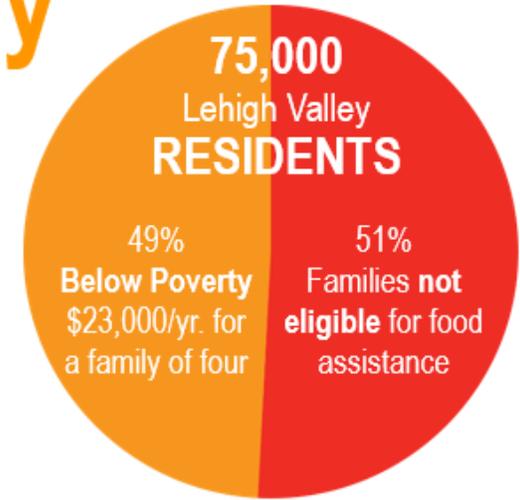
or **one in 10** in the Lehigh Valley are hungry

1 in 10 people in the Lehigh Valley are **hungry** – **69,000** people.

More than half

of the Lehigh Valley residents

are **above poverty** **and hungry**



Food Deserts in the Lehigh Valley

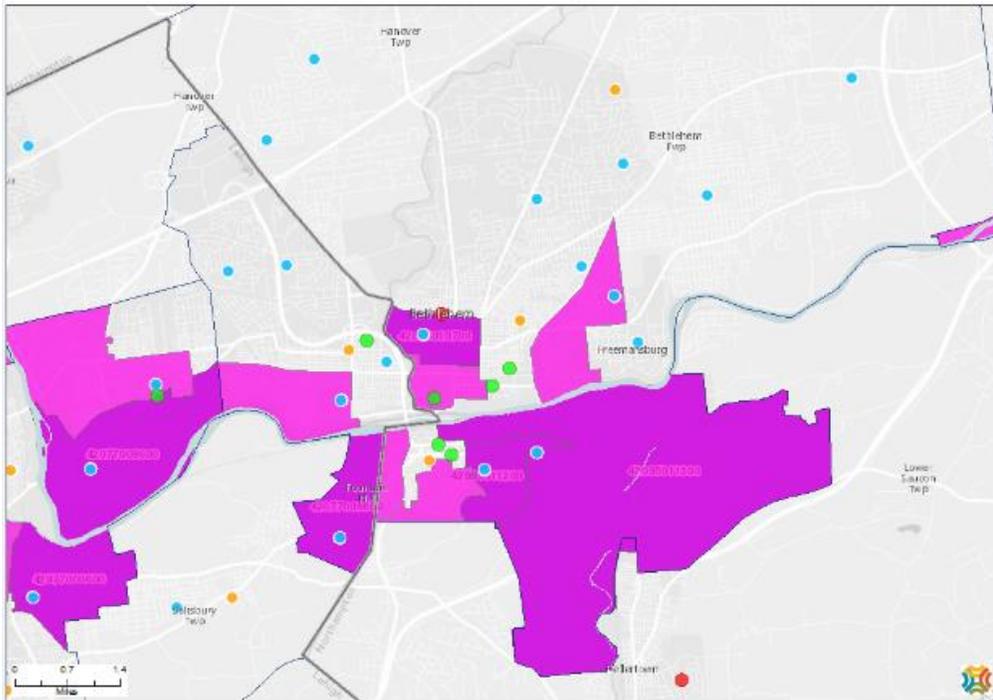
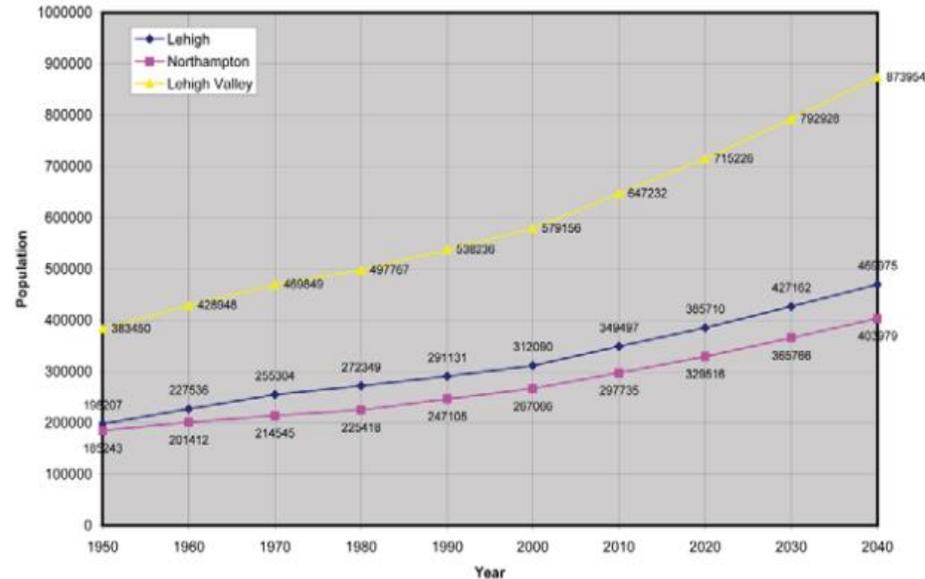


Figure 4
Population for Lehigh & Northampton Counties and the Lehigh Valley 1950-2040



COMMITTED PARTNERS COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS SYSTEMS CHANGE

United Way of the
Greater Lehigh Valley



United Way believes that every resident of the Lehigh Valley deserves access to Healthy, nutritious food.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF OUR FOOD ACCESS PROGRAMS?

Increase access and availability of nutritious food by **50%**

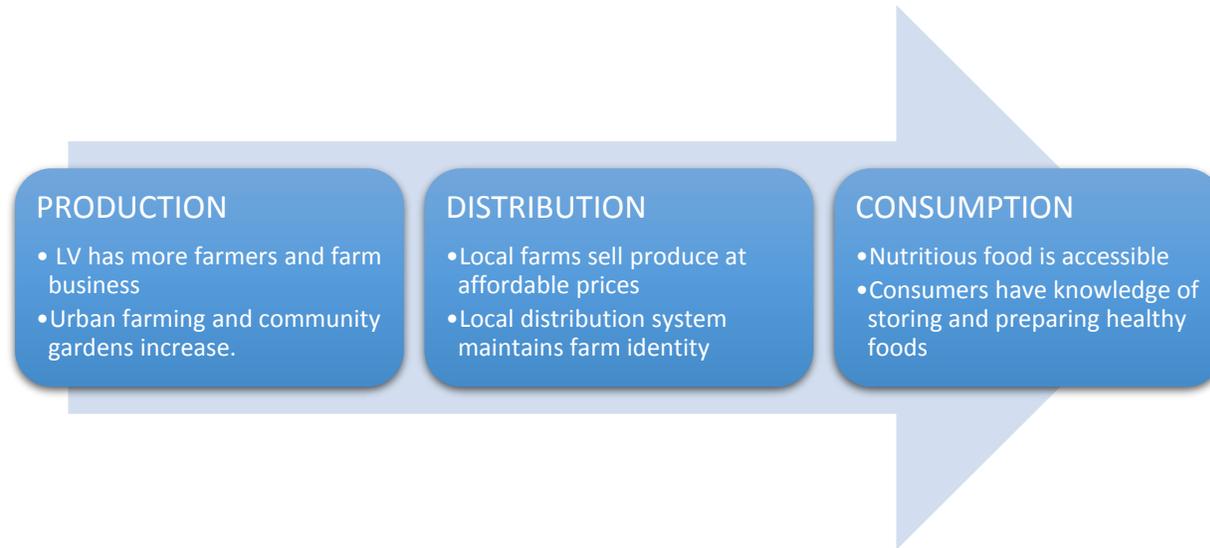


POLICY BARRIERS

INFRASTRUCTURE BARRIERS

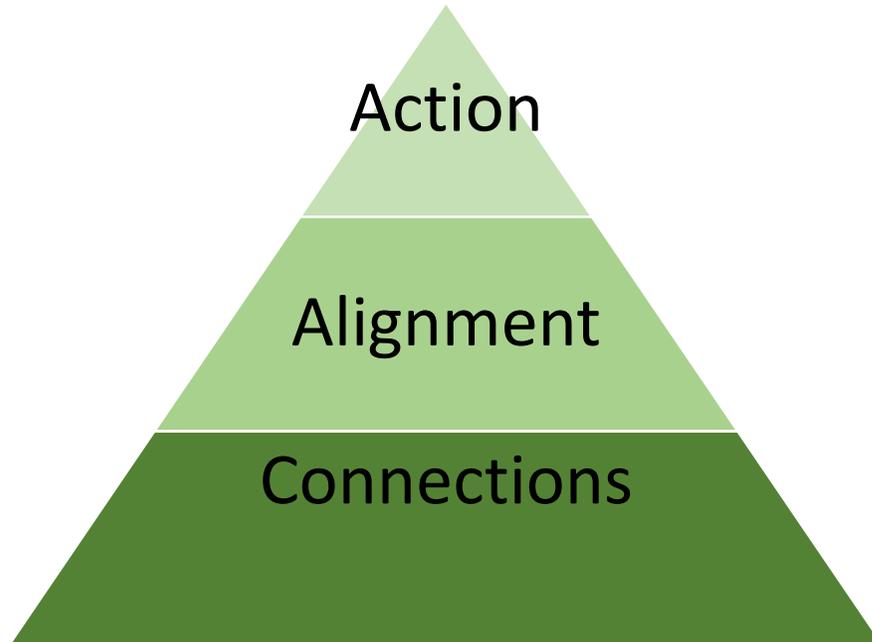
THEORY OF CHANGE

Vision: All residents of the Lehigh Valley are able to eat healthy and nutritious local food for a strengthened local economy.



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

2015



COLLECTIVE IMPACT



- 3 Year Seed Funding from United Way
- Organize around Assessment Report
- Operating Guidelines
- One Voice, One Vision
- Continuous Community Engagement
- Strategic Planning

LVFPC VISION

All residents of the Lehigh Valley eat healthy and nutritious local food for a strengthened local economy.

LVFPC MISSION

The Lehigh Valley Food Policy Council seeks to promote an environmentally healthy food system by strengthening the local food economy, increasing access to fresh foods for everyone, reducing food insecurity, and supporting local farming in the Lehigh Valley.

Adding partners to Steering Committee and Working Groups

Semi-annual Full Council Community Meetings

Steering Committee

9 Working Groups



Food Access



Food Recovery & Respect



Farming



Consumer Education



Land Use



Infrastructure & Logistics



Community Farms & Gardens



Farm to Institution

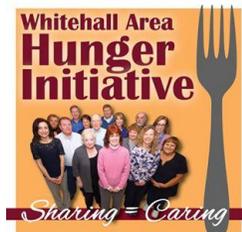


Workforce & Economic Development

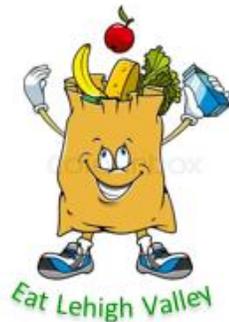
2 Years In....

- Data Collection
- Reporting
- Community Engagement
- Coordinated Projects
- Building Relationships
- Organizational Capacity Building
- Technical Assistance

- Strategic Planning
- Prioritized Areas
 - ❖ Food Access
 - ❖ Food Aggregation
 - ❖ Land Use
- Goal Attainment
- Funding Challenges



Summer Meals Forum



Never before accessed food....new & stronger community efforts.....regional relationships