

OTHER KEY INDICATORS FOR LUZERNE COUNTY

There are several ways to measure the conditions in Luzerne County. They include the following:

- **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)** As of the summer of 2006, there were eight sponsors of this Program in the County.
- **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)**. There are four sponsors of this program in the County through home-based and center-based child care providers. There is also an after-school provider- the Commission on Economic Opportunity.
- **The Emergency Food Assistance Program(TEFAP)** and the **State Food Purchase Program (SFPP)** include food pantries and kitchens and are used in this County. TEFAP is federally- funded and distributes food commodities while the SFPP is State-funded and enables counties to buy food, which the pantries and kitchens use in helping to prevent hunger.
- **The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** awards funds to counties to help meet emergency food and shelter needs.

**Amount Awarded: Luzerne County: \$188,005;
PA: \$6,057,751**
**% Spent on Food: Luzerne County: 23%;
PA: 22%**

- **The Women, Infants, and Children(WIC)** Program provide nutrients to newborns to start a healthy lifestyle. 82% of those eligible participate monthly.
- **The Farmer's Market Nutrition Program** provides four \$5 checks to each participant for use at a farmer's market.

Estimated Luzerne County Participation: 9,493
Total Coupon Value: \$189,860
- **The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)** provides low income seniors the opportunity to receive a monthly food box containing federal commodities. This is administered in Luzerne County at the Weinberg NE PA Regional Food Bank through CEO. The data includes 806 homebound seniors, or \$39,494 in funding.

Every person in Luzerne County needs to learn more about food, nutrition, hunger, and the various programs and services that can become part of an anti-hunger arsenal. The war against hunger is always more difficult during times of economic distress, rising costs for all products including oil, gasoline, utility costs, and other basic needs. In this nation, this Commonwealth, this region, and this County, no one needs to be hungry, no one should be hungry, and everyone should be guaranteed a nutritional meal that meets the national standards for good health. Hopefully, this information is a positive step in the direction making this occur, now, and in the future.

Additional Information can be found at:

Bread for the World: Bread.org
Second Harvest: Secondharvest.org
PA Hunger Action Center – Pahunger.org
Share our Strength – Strength.org
Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO) - ceopeoplehelpingpeople.org

The Northeast Regional Weinberg Food Bank

This regional food bank is administered by the Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO). It provides food assistance to Faith-based and 501©(3) non-profit community organizations to distribute to needy families. The Bank collects donations of wholesome but unmarketable food from the food industry, and distributing to these organizations the Food Bank works to reduce hunger and promote nutrition in four counties, including Luzerne. Jewish Family Service is one of these organizations. There are many other activities of the Regional Food Bank. Contact can be made at the CEO office at 570-826-0510 or 1-800-822-0359 or www.ceopeoplehelpingpeople.org



Educational Awareness to Defeat Hunger in our Community

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Have you ever thought about having enough food? This question, seemingly easy to answer, is becoming more difficult in this era of rising prices for almost every basic item of necessity, including the cost of food. The problem is compounded by living in a Commonwealth that has been identified as having a variety of difficult problems, as well as assets. Among the problems are two that many people have to cope with - HUNGER and FOOD INSECURITY.

One of our regional assets is the proud tradition of helping people in need. Secondly, the Commonwealth has some of the most fertile agricultural land in the nation. Our strong tradition for agricultural production and serving the interest of the needy has led to an effective means to address the problems of hunger - a strategy that must be continued into the future.

The Pennsylvania Hunger Action Center (PHAC) has published a nutrition and

Poverty in 2006*

	Luzerne	PA	US
Individuals	41,632	1,505,315	39,819,999
Percent	13.3%	12.1%	13.3%
Children	12,707	474,473	13,499,021
Percent	22.2%	16.9%	18.3%
Seniors	5,953	167,608	3,681,909
Percent	10.4%	8.9%	9.9%

* Information released in 2007 by the PHAC.

FOOD STAMPS

The Food Stamp Program can be utilized to help people in need and provides an opportunity for making food available to families who otherwise might face difficulty meeting their daily nutritional requirements. Luzerne County ranks approximately 33rd of all Commonwealth counties in serving a high percentage of their poverty population through the Food Stamp Program.

food security document for each of the Commonwealth's 67 counties. Their work goes a long way to expanding the state's database and to increasing the awareness of the extent to which hunger and food insecurity play a role in nutritional balance deficiency.

Food insecurity occurs when people, on a recurrent basis, go without eating because of a lack of resources. Low income families face this situation as defined by poverty guidelines used by the federal government, and this, according to the 2007 US Department of Health and Human Services for a family of four, is \$20,650.

LUZERNE COUNTY DATA

In Luzerne County, 13.3% of adults live in poverty, mirroring the national average. However, 22.2% of children in Luzerne County live in poverty, a significantly higher rate than for the nation.

Food Stamp Program Participation for Luzerne County 2006

Individuals Enrolled	31,225
Value of Food Stamps	\$3,212,298
Participation Rate	78.3%

FEEDING YOUNGSTERS

Adults and children are affected by hunger and inappropriate food intake or food insecurity. This is why, at the earliest age possible; nutrition needs to become a key factor in food intake. Therefore, the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP) are vital. Skipping meals and using snacks as their food intake becomes a significant factor in health, obesity, and related issues. The information shown for the school

districts in Luzerne County represent a major step forward in building an evidential base for tracking food intake and nutritional values. Luzerne County, as of the school year 2005-06, had 16, 808 school children that qualify for free and reduced- price school meals. Only about 30 percent of them participate in the School Breakfast Program. The following information is from an October 2007 report from the PA Department of Education's Division of Food and Nutrition on children eligible for free or reduced school lunch.

	Free Enrollment	Reduced Eligible	% Free Enroll	% Reduced Enroll	% Free/Reduced Enroll	
BEAR CREEK COMMUNITY	382	84	31	21.9895	8.1152	30.1047
CRESTWOOD SD	3,150	431	164	13.6825	5.2063	18.8888
DALLAS SD	3,053	341	116	11.1693	3.7995	14.9688
GREATER NANTICOKE AREA SD	2,330	801	240	34.3777	10.3004	44.6781
HANOVER AREA SD	2,091	774	305	37.0158	14.5863	51.6021
HAZLETON AREA SD	10,351	4,372	912	42.2375	8.8107	51.0482
LAKE-LEHMAN SD	2,112	308	145	14.5833	6.8655	21.4488
NORTHWEST AREA SD	1,409	314	199	22.2853	14.1235	36.4088
PITTSTON AREA SD	3,423	878	259	25.6500	7.5665	33.2165
WILKES-BARRE AREA SD	6,852	3,042	468	44.3958	6.8301	51.2259
WYOMING AREA SD	2,601	543	198	20.8766	7.6125	28.4891
WYOMING VALLEY WEST SD	5,101	1,748	438	34.2678	8.5866	42.8544
LUZERNE County:	44,143	14,113	3,591	31.9711	8.1349	40.1060