The Governor’s Summer Meals Programs work to address gaps left by inadequate federal child nutrition programs that don’t meet the needs of all of Ohio’s families. Since their inception in 2012, the programs have served tens of millions of meals to hundreds of thousands of Ohio children. Governor Mike DeWine and his Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives have continued Ohio’s commitment to its underserved, food insecure children.

The **Summer Weekend Meals Program** provides take-home food for children attending Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sites to eat over the weekend, when SFSP sites aren’t open. In summer 2019, we partnered with 34 SFSP sponsors to distribute take-home weekend meals (two breakfasts, two lunches, and two dinners) to about 10,000 children each week, for 600,000 meals total.

- **Food**: $920,243
- **Packing Materials**: $38,900
- **Packaging Labor**: $140,000
- **Delivery**: $32,820
- **Administrative**: $110,293

**Cost Per Meal**: $1.5337

**Total Program Cost**: $1,242,256

$31,524 in Delivery and $3,152 in Administrative was not reimbursed

The **Summer Rural Delivery Meals Program** targets children in rural, underserved areas where SFSP sites don’t exist or where kids may not be able to access a site. In 2019, we partnered with 10 organizations to distribute a week’s worth of kid-friendly, shelf-stable lunches, as well as breakfasts, lunches, and dinners for over the weekend, to about 4,400 children each week, for 484,000 meals total.

- **Food**: $685,549
- **Packing Materials**: $35,708
- **Packaging Labor**: $38,500
- **Delivery**: $21,590
- **Administrative**: $80,935
- **Direct Cost to Sites**: $82,190

**Cost Per Meal**: $1.4164

**Total Program Cost**: $944,473

$16,243 in Delivery, $1,624 in Administrative, and $54,178 in Direct Cost to Sites was not reimbursed

The **Mobile Farmers Market Program** provides fresh fruits and vegetables and popular protein items to families with children participating in the Summer Weekend or Summer Rural Delivery Meals Programs. In 2019, we distributed 334,632 pounds of food at just 48 cents per pound.

- **Food**: $161,843
- **Delivery**: $2,018
- **Administrative**: $16,386

**Cost Per Pound**: $0.4836

**Total Program Cost**: $180,247
Governor’s Summer Meals Programs
We have partnered with the Corporation for National and Community Service to place AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associates across Ohio since 2009. In our 11th year of partnership, we deployed 62 AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associates at 32 locations, including summer meals programs for kids, community gardens, and more.

Many of our VISTA Summer Associates serve at Summer Food Service Programs and work on preparing and serving meals, developing menus, implementing educational and recreational programming, introducing new foods and planning nutrition education, mentoring and supporting at-risk children, and encouraging more children in need to visit their sites for healthy meals. In 2019, our Summer Associates helped their sites to serve 405,377 meals and 48,809 snacks to food insecure Ohio kids. They even helped to recruit nearly 2,500 new participants!

“Thank you, ShareCorps, for making this summer possible. Because of you, kids in our economically challenged community were able to not only have free lunches, but start their day off with a healthy breakfast and go home after having a healthy snack. This means that they received three fruits and three vegetables a day! Our VISTAs not only helped serve the meals, but they also helped expand our meal service to include the service of snacks and breakfast all summer long. The programs that they offered attracted youth and made it a fun place to spend their summer.” Lodi Family Center

ShareCorps members also recruited more than 600 volunteers and implemented more than 90 new processes and procedures to help their sites carry out their missions to address childhood hunger and other food access disparities. They even harvested nearly 8,400 pounds of produce from community gardens at their sites!

“Our VISTAs increased the capacity of this important community landscape by developing innovative new gardening practices that have impacted the garden’s yield while also educating community members about unique strategies for growing their own food. The VISTAs turned recycled pallets into effective and productive growing units, restored vertical gardens to increase our capacity to grow more herbs in small spaces, and educated community members how to safely grow food in small containers. It was the most productive summer yet at the garden.” Otterbein University Community Garden

There are so many other ways that our VISTA Summer Associates make an impact during their terms of service. They provide the capacity that nonprofits, faith-based organizations, schools, libraries, and other organizations need to make their programs and services available to vulnerable children and families.

“Not only were we able to increase the number of meals we served by 920, but we were able to increase the number of days we served and added breakfast to our service. We could not have increased our offerings without a VISTA member. From receiving deliveries to handing out meals to organizing local volunteers, our VISTA was professional, prompt, and a complete asset to our team. She was even able to connect some kids with a local performing arts group, where the kids are thriving and their souls are being fed, not just their stomachs.” Loudonville Public Library
**Summer Weekend Meals Program Sponsors**
Adams-Brown Counties Economic Opportunities
City of Cleveland
COAD/RSVP of the Ohio Valley
Community Action Committee of Pike County
Community Action Organization of Scioto County
Dayton Public Schools
Elgin Local Schools
Freestore Foodbank
Fremont City Schools
Highland County Community Action Organization
Ironton Lawrence County Area Community Action
Kenton City Schools
Marion City Schools
Heart Reach Neighborhood Ministries
New Lexington School District
Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission
Reynoldsburg City School District
Ross County Community Action Commission
Salvation Army of Middletown
Second Harvest Food Bank of Clark, Champaign and Logan
SE Ohio Foodbank & Kitchen
Stark County Community Action Agency
TLC Ministries
University Hospitals
Westerville Area Resource Ministry (WARM)
Washington-Morgan Community Action
Washington St. Upward Bound
YWCA of Van Wert County

**Summer Rural Delivery Meals Program Sponsors**
Adams-Brown Counties Economic Opportunities
COAD/RSVP of the Ohio Valley
Community Action Committee of Pike County
Country Neighbor Program
Freestore Foodbank
Meigs Local School District
The Potter's House Ministries
Ross County Community Action Commission
SE Ohio Foodbank & Kitchen
St. Francis Evangelization Center

**Mobile Farmers Market Program Sponsors**
COAD/RSVP of the Ohio Valley
Community Action Committee of Pike County
Community Action Organization of Scioto County
Elgin Local Schools
Freestore Foodbank
Ironton Lawrence County Area Community Action
Second Harvest Food Bank of Clark, Champaign and Logan
St. Francis Evangelization Center
Salvation Army of Middletown
TLC Ministries
Westerville Area Resource Ministry (WARM)
Washington-Morgan Community Action
YWCA of Van Wert County

**AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associate Host Sites**
Camp Chabad
City of Bedford Heights
Cleveland Heights Library
COAD/RSVP of the Ohio Valley
Community Action Committee of Belmont County
Community Action Council of Portage County
Community Roots
Cornerstone Christian Fellowship
Community Building Institute (CBI) Middletown
Food for Thought
Greater Cleveland Food Bank
The Hardy Center
Homeless Families Foundation
Lodi Family Center
Loudonville Public Library
Mid-Ohio Foodbank
Neighborhood Ministries
Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission
Oberlin Community Services Council
Otterbein University Community Garden
Ohio University Kids on Campus
The Potter's House Ministries
SON Ministries - Upper Arlington Lutheran Church
Thea Bowman Center
TLC Ministries
Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank
The University Church
Viola Startzman Clinic
Westerville Area Resource Ministry (WARM)
Washington-Morgan Community Action
YMCA of Greater Dayton
Made possible thanks to our partners

“Our VISTA members opened a new summer meals site at the fairgrounds we have been trying to get for years. Through our community dinners and produce giveaways we served an additional 494 people. We really appreciate the opportunity to work with the ShareCorps members. We live in a small area but with a big need. And as a small organization, in order to reach as many kids as we do, we need their help. Thank you again! Without the VISTA members we would never be able to reach as many hungry kids as we do.” *TLC Ministries*