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Tompkins County Q1-Q3 2026 Statistics: People Served

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food bank of the Southern Tier

Methodology Note

For the last several years, we shared quarterly service numbers for a subset of our agencies and programs. **As of Q2 2026, these graphs will include ALL agencies and programs**.

❓ ***Why didn't the graphs show all agencies and programs in the past?***

🥕 When people ask how many clients we serve, they are often really asking how demand has changed compared to prior years. For a long time, we used our "Big Three" programs – non-senior Mobile Food Pantries, community meal sites, and food pantries – as a proxy for demand because these sites are fully open to the public. For other programs serving more limited populations, like BackPack, we might not expect much fluctuation in numbers based on demand.

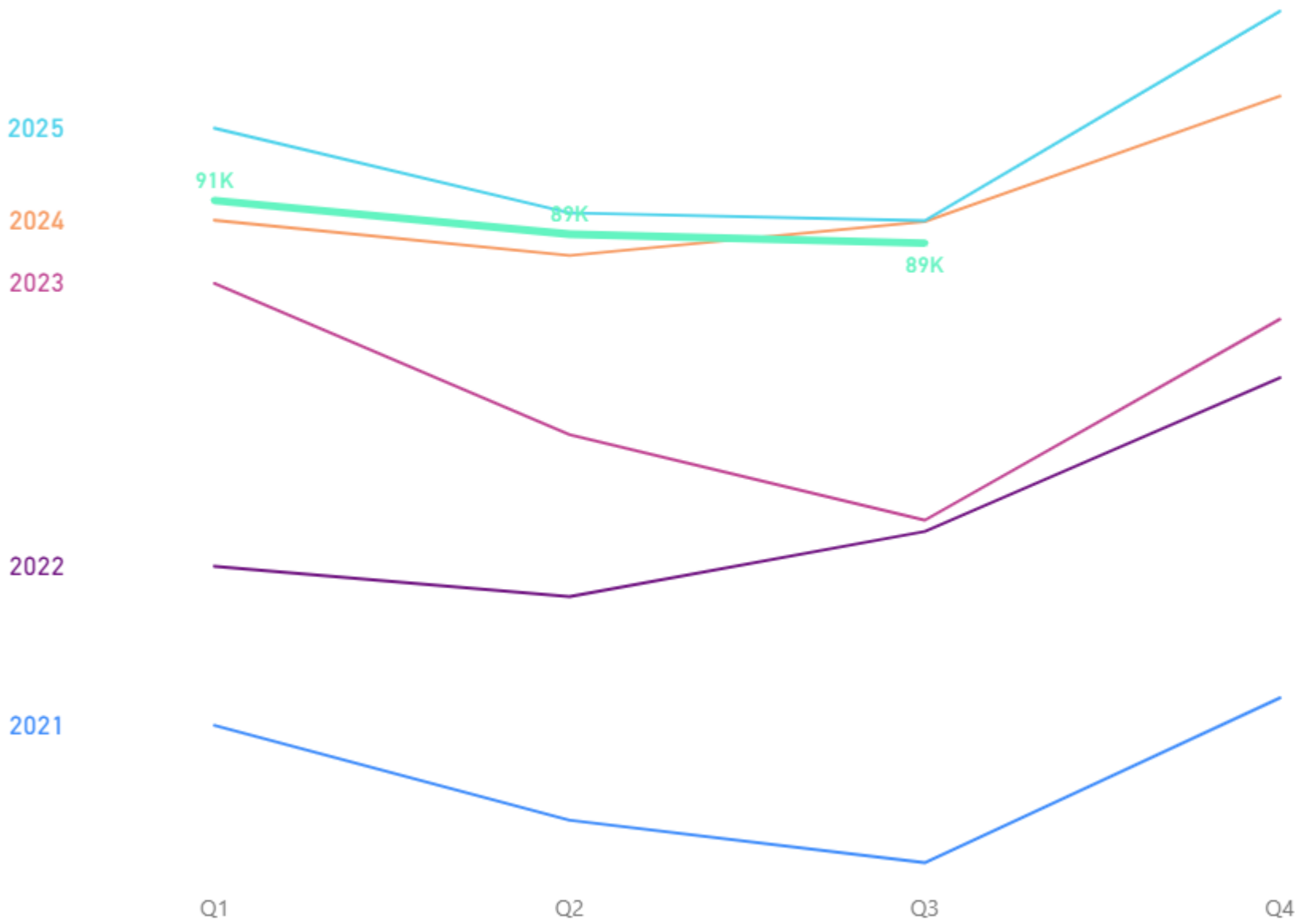
❓ ***Why are we changing now?***

🥕 The Big Three no longer felt like a useful distinction.

🥕 School Food Centers have become an increasingly significant part of our distribution, and they were not included in those Big Three. In some counties, we saw a decline in pantry visits, but this may have been because clients switched from pantries to a new School Food Center in their area.

🥕 Non-senior Mobile Food Pantries – while still a large portion of the pounds we distribute – may have to cap how many people a site can serve, unlike the other two Big Three programs. They may not reflect changes in client demand as accurately or quickly.

Quarterly Individuals - All Requests: Tompkins County



* In Q1 2026 we began tracking snacks for School Food Centers. In Q2 2026, we began tracking less-than-3-day packages for pantries. This graph shows comparable data to prior years, EXCLUDING less-than-3-day.

Total Requests for 2026 INCLUDING those would be:
Q1: 91K Q2: 93K Q3: 93K

The number of individual requests for food in Q3 is:

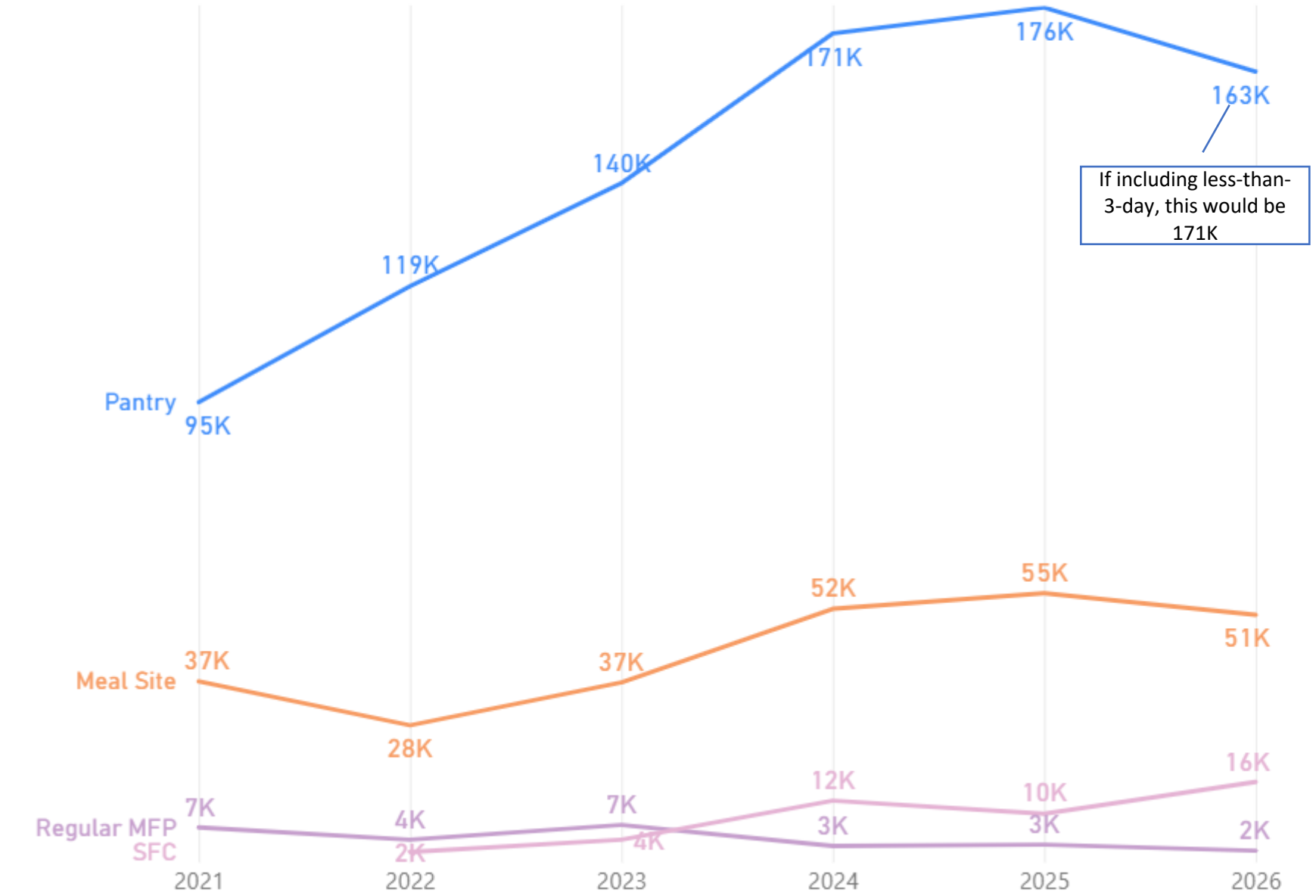
- 🔻 1% compared to 2025
- ⬆️ 72% compared to 2021

Q3 over the Years

Year	Sum of # Served
2026	88,675
2025	90,021
2024	89,959
2023	72,026
2022	71,343
2021	51,436

Year-to-Date Individual Requests for Food: Tompkins County

Q1-Q3 Meal Site & Pantry & Regular MFP & SFC



This graph shows service numbers for **each** of our three biggest programs in terms of pounds, plus community meal sites.

Pantries:

- 🔻 7% compared to 2025
- ⬆️ 72% compared to 2021

Meal Sites:

- 🔻 8% compared to 2025
- ⬆️ 37% compared to 2021

Regular MFPs:

- 🔻 39% compared to 2025
- 🔻 71% compared to 2021

School Food Centers:

- ⬆️ 69% compared to 2025

Overall Narrative

- 2026 continues to reflect the high level of need we saw in 2024 and 2025.
- We expect an increase in Q4 as in a typical year.