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Q1-Q3 2026 People Served Statistics

October 19, 2026

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.

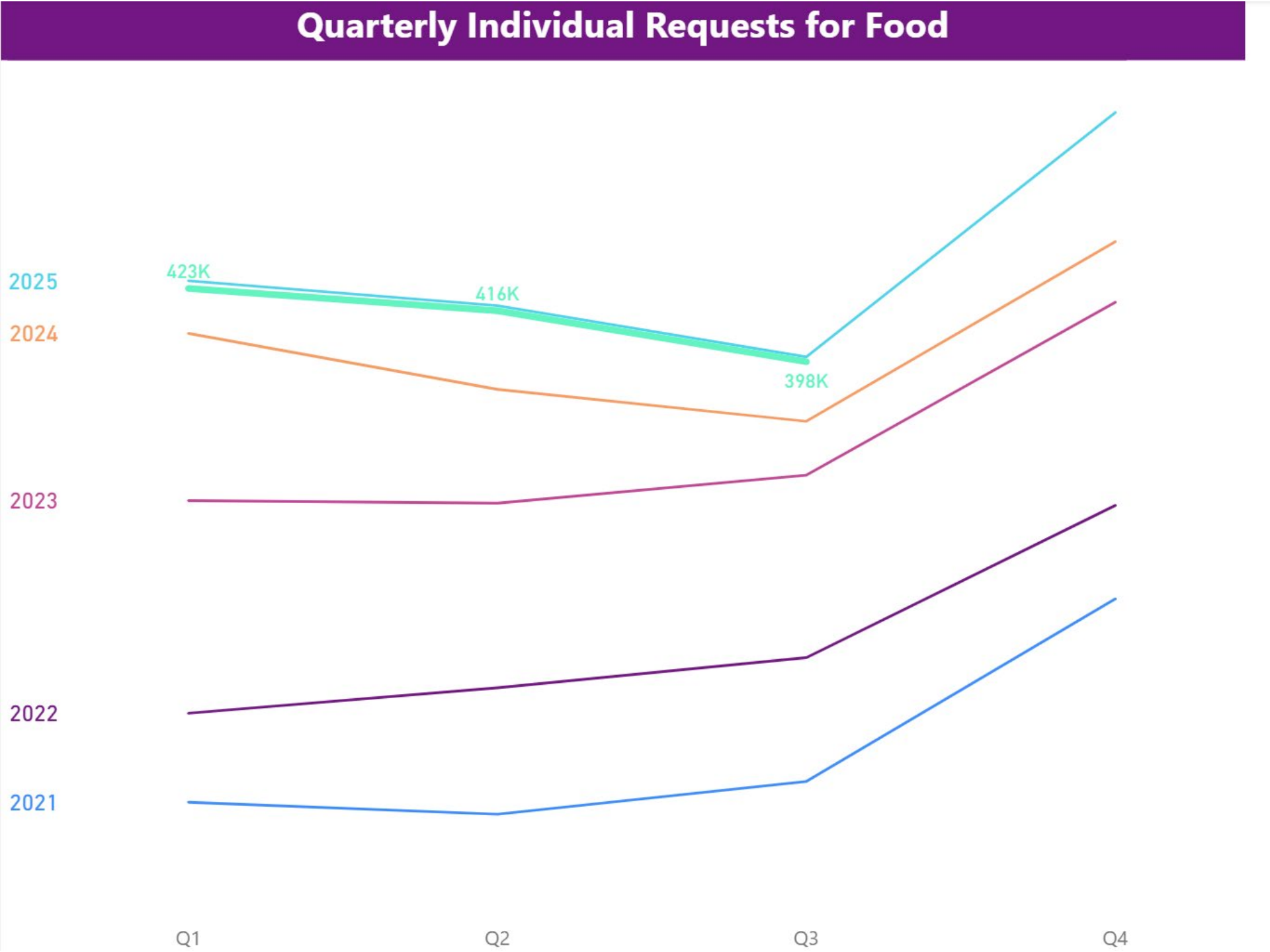
❓ ***Why are we changing now?***

🥕 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 Individual Requests for Food



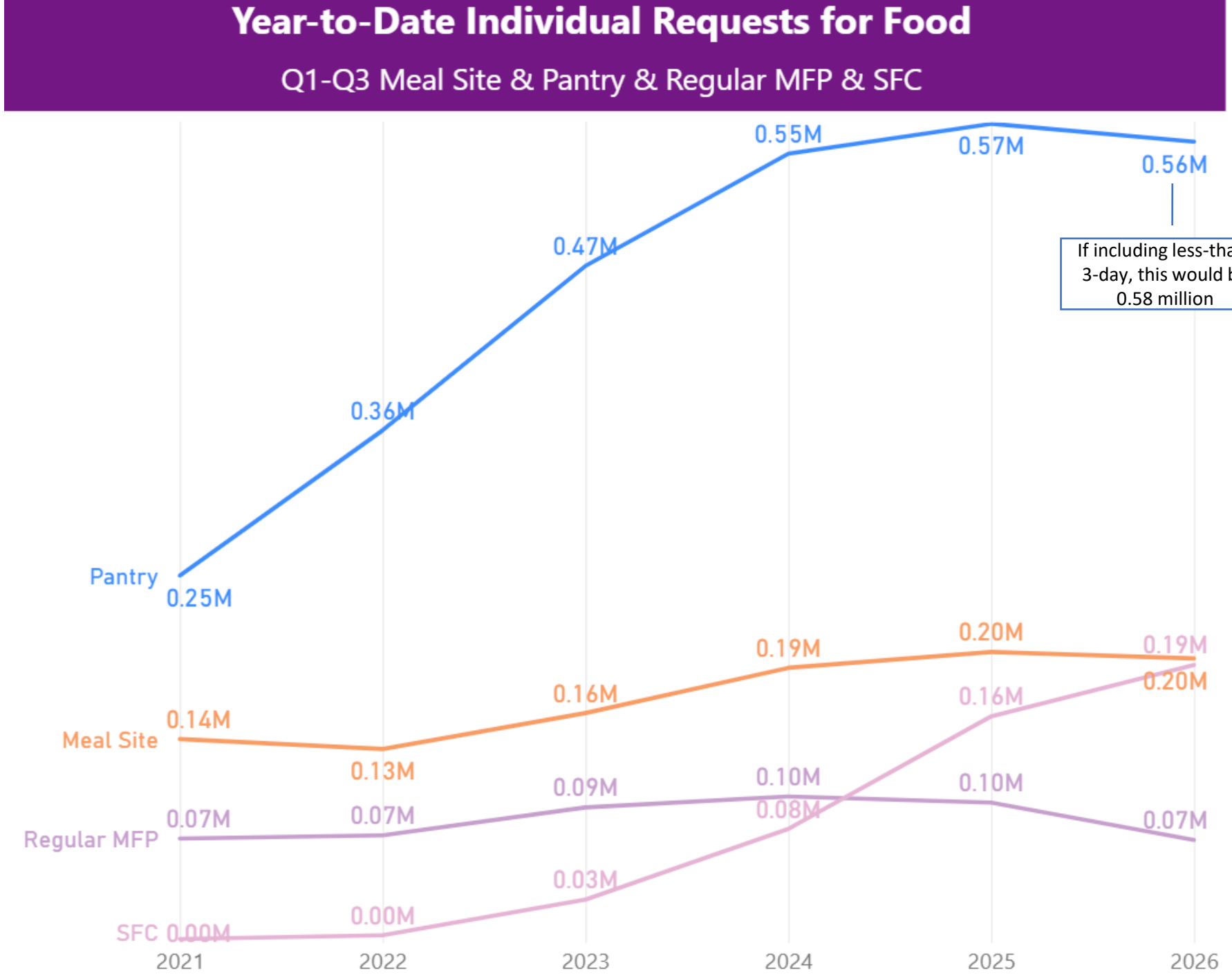
* In Q1 2026 we began tracking snacks for School Food Centers. In Q2 2026, we began tracking less-than-3-day packages for pantries. This graph shows comparable data to prior years, EXCLUDING less-than-3-day.

Total Requests for 2026 INCLUDING those would be:
Q1: 441,000 Q2: 449,000
Q3: 417,000

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

Q3 over the Years

Year	Sum of # Served
2026	397,532
2025	399,270
2024	376,460
2023	357,383
2022	292,798
2021	248,963



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

Pantries:

- 🔻 2% compared to 2025
- ⬆️ 119% compared to 2021

Meal Sites:

- 🔻 2% compared to 2025
- ⬆️ 40% compared to 2021

Regular MFPs:

- 🔻 27% compared to 2025
- 🔻 1% compared to 2021

School Food Centers:

- ⬆️ 23% compared to 2025