

2020 PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

Quality Early Learning All children in our region will have access to high-quality pre-kindergarten, childcare and early learning opportunities.	Increase Grade Level Reading Success All children in our region will be reading on grade level by the end of third grade.	Seniors Healthy at Home Everyone in the region will be able to age successfully and live rewarding, productive and safe lives.	Essential Human Needs Individuals and families in our region are financially stable and thriving.	Reduce Food Insecurity Healthy, nutritious food is available and affordable for all residents.	Nonprofit Effectiveness A strong, healthy nonprofit section in the region.
<p>Ensure adequate funds for pre-K in state budget</p> <p>Continue full support for the Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC), ensuring pre-K scholarships for low-income children</p> <p>Support and promote access to high-quality early childhood education programming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient payments for providers • Better compensation for early learning professionals • Oversight/accountability of the system 	<p>Support state-level systems change to drive third grade reading proficiency across our region</p> <p>Champion equitable education funding for all students</p> <p>Encourage state support for the Community School model</p> <p>Support expansion of and access to behavioral and mental health services</p> <p>Support efforts that help reduce chronic absenteeism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for more funding to be attached to PA 138/ increased funding for improving school attendance • Support transportation solutions that enable safe travel to school <p>Increase access to summer learning opportunities for low-income youth</p>	<p>Improve affordable housing opportunities for seniors</p> <p>Support policies that promote fairness and equity for all seniors, most prominently those populations not covered by local, state and federal civil rights laws (i.e. the LGBTQ community)</p> <p>Ensure protections for Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security</p>	<p>Ensure adequate funds for PA 2-1-1 services in state budget</p> <p>Ensure access to affordable housing for all people</p> <p>Ensure income equity via a livable wage</p> <p>Advocate to reduce the cost of prescription drugs</p>	<p>Support Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) at federal and state levels</p> <p>Continue full support and investment in state and federally subsidized summer meals for children</p>	<p>Ensure timely passage of Pa. budget to ensure continued funding for nonprofit services</p> <p>Support incentives for charitable giving</p> <p>Support regional efforts for a complete count in the 2020 Census</p>
<p>Trauma-Informed Practices</p> <p>Institutions in the Lehigh Valley are aware of the impact of trauma and have implemented policies and practices to enable healing, prevention and resiliency.</p>			<p>Promote trauma-informed care, practices, and resources throughout the education, health and criminal justice systems.</p>		
<p>Diversity, Equity and Inclusion</p> <p>Systemic, institutional and historical barriers based on race, gender, sexual orientation and other identities are dismantled and no longer predict socioeconomic, education and health outcomes.</p>			<p>Support local, state and federal legislation to support fairness for those populations not covered under current legislation.</p> <p>Support legislation that would promote diversity, equity and inclusion policies and practices.</p>		

2019 PLATFORM SUCCESSES:

- New legislation that requires all school staff and school boards receive training on trauma awareness and trauma-informed school practices
- The required age for attending school in Pa. dropped from 8 years to 6 years old.
- PA 211 received a third year of state funding that supported service development, achieved statewide coverage and introduced and passed legislation.
- Increased investment of \$30 million for pre-K.