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**Idaho Homelessness  
Community Report 2016**

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**GIVING SHELTER,  
SUPPORTING  
OPPORTUNITY,  
GROWING  
COMMUNITY**



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Idaho Housing and Finance Association is leading a coordinated effort to address the issues of homelessness in Idaho. Outlined in this report are the interventions being carried out by Idaho Housing and partnering community programs to provide housing and support to displaced individuals and families. Through a united effort, we can ensure every Idahoan receives the care and support they need.

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## Current state of homelessness in Idaho

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652

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multiple-person  
households

2,055

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individuals in  
multiple-person  
households

1,913

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single-person  
households

275

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**chronically  
homeless Idahoans**

265

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**homeless veterans  
in Idaho**

5<sup>x</sup>

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**more likely for homeless  
teens to drop out of high  
school compared to teens  
from stable households**

These facts are based on numbers reported in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and not representative of data from all homeless assistance providers.

# A STATE OF DESPAIR, BUT NOT WITHOUT HOPE

**H**omelessness is more than not having a roof overhead at night. It's a parent not being able to put their kids through school. It's growing up with an earning potential that caps below the poverty line, and an increased chance of a life of substance abuse and criminal activity. It's having no traction to build a stable life for yourself or your family.

With the help of our community programs, no one who is without a home has to feel alone. Through local service providers, we provide warm beds and stable shelter, but more importantly, we provide a substantial support system to improve their situations. Our goal is to have all providers put housing first, and then support people on their journey to stable living.

This is the most significant and ambitious attempt

Idaho has ever taken toward combatting homelessness. Through a coordinated, comprehensive approach driven by dedicated Idahoans, we hope to make Idaho a place where no one has to live on the street.

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Homelessness affects over  
4,000 Idahoans every year,

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**30%  
OF  
WHOM  
ARE  
CHILDREN.**



# RESOURCE DISTRIBUTION

Resources for homeless service providers come from a variety of sources. This page summarizes grant funding received from the federal government, donations provided by Idaho Housing, and private donations captured for this report. Homeless service providers may have generated or received other resources to support homeless assistance activities not included herein.

A listing of homeless service providers is shown on the opposite page highlighting the area of the state where they operate and the kind of services these organizations provide.

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\*“Other funding” sources below reflect required match dollars captured for program administration purposes. Organizations may have generated or received other funding to support homeless assistance activities not included herein.

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## REGION 1

- Population: 225,007 | Homeless: 627
- Federal funding: \$734,935
- Idaho Housing funding: \$127,774
- \*Other funding: \$91,867

## REGION 2

- Population: 107,383 | Homeless: 192
- Federal funding: \$302,267
- Idaho Housing funding: \$120,531
- \*Other funding: \$37,784

## REGION 3

- Population: 315,400 | Homeless: 283
- Federal funding: \$419,389
- Idaho Housing funding: \$56,194
- \*Other funding: \$52,424

## REGION 4

- Population: 192,395 | Homeless: 374
- Federal funding: \$336,039
- Idaho Housing funding: \$23,387
- \*Other funding: \$42,012

## REGION 5

- Population: 166,429 | Homeless: 644
- Federal funding: \$537,385
- Idaho Housing funding: \$99,111
- \*Other funding: \$26,869

## REGION 6

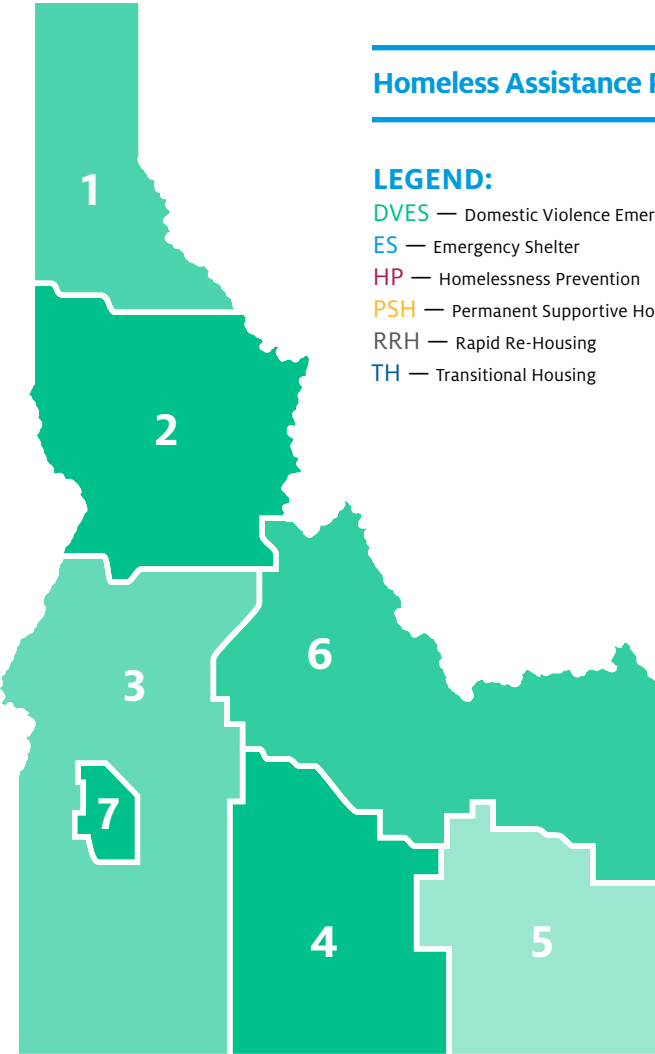
- Population: 214,105 | Homeless: 517
- Federal funding: \$758,286
- Idaho Housing funding: \$101,213
- \*Other funding: \$94,785

## REGION 7

- Population: 434,211 | Homeless: 1,331
- Federal funding: \$1,101,764
- Idaho Housing funding: \$117,538
- \*Other funding: \$275,441

The number of homeless persons is reported from HMIS and is not representative of data from all homeless assistance providers.



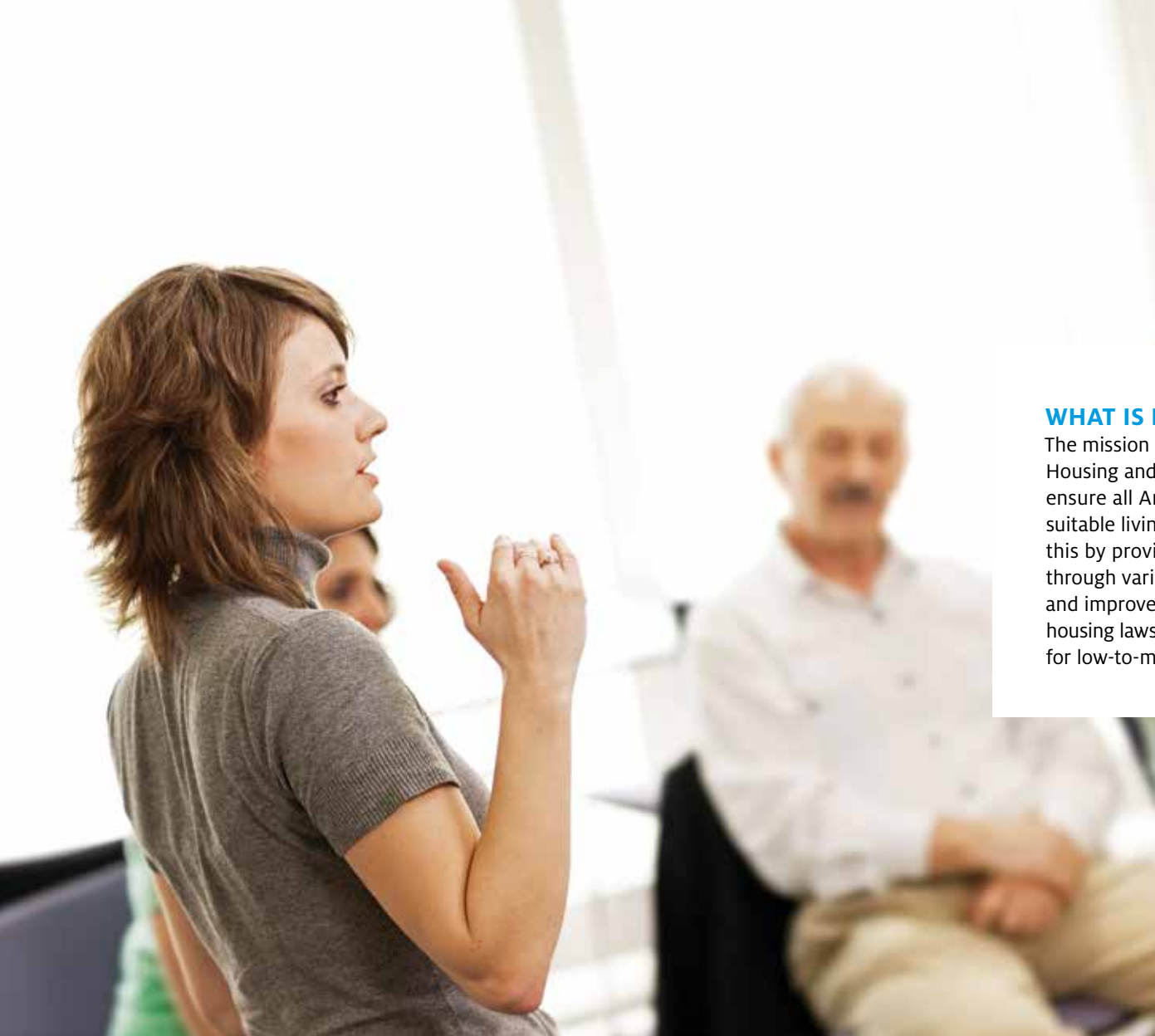


## Homeless Assistance Providers

### LEGEND:

- DVES — Domestic Violence Emergency Shelter
- ES — Emergency Shelter
- HP — Homelessness Prevention
- PSH — Permanent Supportive Housing
- RRH — Rapid Re-Housing
- TH — Transitional Housing

- 1-6 Idaho Housing and Finance Association — PSH
- 1 Bonner County Homeless Task Force — TH
- 1 Family Promise North Idaho — ES
- 1 St. Vincent de Paul — ES, PSH, HP, RRH
- 2 Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse — DVES
- 2 Family Promise of the Palouse — ES
- 2 Family Promise of the Lewis and Clark Valley — TH
- 2 Salvation Army Lewiston — RRH
- 2 Sojourners' Alliance — TH, PSH
- 3 Advocates Against Family Violence — DVES, HP, RRH
- 3 CATCH of Canyon County — RRH
- 3 IDAHO Inc. — TH, PSH
- 3 Salvation Army Nampa — TH, ES
- 4 Crisis Center of the Magic Valley — DVES
- 4 South Central Community Action Partnership — TH, PSH, HP, RRH
- 4 The Advocates — DVES
- 5 Aid for Friends — TH, HP, RRH, ES
- 5 Bannock Youth Foundation — TH, ES
- 5 Bingham Crisis Center — PSH, DVES
- 5 Family Services Alliance of SE Idaho — PSH, DVES
- 5 Oneida Crisis Center, Inc. — DVES
- 5 Southeastern Idaho Community Action Agency — TH, PSH
- 6 CLUB, Inc. — ES, PSH, HP, RRH
- 6 Family Care Center — ES, PSH
- 6 Mahoney House, Lemhi County — DVES
- 7 Boise City/ Ada County Housing Authority — PSH
- 7 CATCH HPRR Ada County — RRH
- 7 Interfaith Sanctuary Housing Services — ES
- 7 The Jesse Tree HPRR — HP
- 7 Salvation Army Boise — RRH



**WHAT IS HUD?**

The mission of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is to ensure all Americans have access to suitable living environments. It does this by providing funding resources through various initiatives to develop and improve communities, enforce fair housing laws, and make housing affordable for low-to-moderate-income families.

# CONTINUUMS OF CARE

**A** Continuum of Care (CoC) is a comprehensive array of services that help support and guide the journey of every homeless person. Each CoC is responsible for governing the homeless response systems under its jurisdiction. By law, response systems must exist in every HUD jurisdiction. In Idaho, two jurisdictions exist and each CoC body selects a board to oversee its programs:

- Idaho Balance of State CoC
- Boise City/Ada County CoC

The board for the Idaho Balance of State CoC consists of representatives from Idaho State Departments, Idaho Housing, regional shelter and service providers, and one homeless or formerly homeless representative, and are collectively known as the Idaho Homelessness Coordination Committee (IHCC). The Boise City/Ada County CoC board, consisting of those with knowledge or experience in the fields of education, housing, law enforcement, disabilities and homelessness services, is collectively referred to as the Executive Committee.

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Each CoC has a board of directors to plan for the provision of systems of outreach, engagement, and assessment for services including:

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- Emergency Shelter
- Rapid Re-Housing
- Transitional Housing
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Prevention strategies for at-risk citizens
- Collaboration with other systems of care

With a board of directors to oversee the development, recommendation, and implementation of various comprehensive strategies, each CoC has a level of accountability and can better understand how to combat the unique challenges of each Idaho community.

# UNITING OUR RESOURCES

**E**ffort and attention are focused on solving the unique challenges of each community. This requires each program to be accountable for using their resources and funding appropriately.

The CoC is designed to support communitywide response to helping end homelessness. Through the collaboration of multiple community organizations whose services range from homeless shelters to permanent rental assistance programs, homeless individuals and families are rapidly re-housed in supportive housing environments. The program quickly re-houses homeless individuals and families to various housing options. This rapid re-housing philosophy helps minimize the trauma and anxiety from displacement, provides access to mainstream resources and programs, and sets people on a path toward self sufficiency.

## **EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT**

The Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program supports the beginning steps in Idaho's CoC crisis response by preventing homelessness, rapidly re-housing, and providing emergency shelter.

## **HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM**

Idaho's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is an electronic data collection system designed specifically to record and track data that shows the effectiveness of services and housing provided to individuals and families who are homeless or at-risk.





**\$3,713,768**

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**TOTAL CoC FUNDS AWARDED  
TO IDAHO IN THE RECENT  
FUNDING YEAR**

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**\$1,012,329**

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**TOTAL EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS  
GRANT AWARDED TO IDAHO  
IN THE RECENT FUNDING YEAR**

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# \$5.75M

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committed by Idaho Housing from Low-Income Housing Tax Credits to fund Housing First.

# \$5M

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awarded by The Home Partnership Foundation since 2005 for safe, stable and affordable housing throughout Idaho.

# \$970,000

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raised by the Avenues for Hope Housing Challenge since 2011 for housing nonprofits throughout Idaho.





# IDAHO HOUSING AND FINANCE ASSOCIATION

**I**daho Housing works in collaboration with the IHCC — the board of directors for the Idaho Balance of State CoC — helping to administer grant programs and obtain renewal funding, among many other roles.

Idaho Housing provides various federal grant programs for the IHCC, including the ESG, CoC, and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS/ HIV (HOPWA). Idaho Housing also serves as the HMIS administrator for both continuums.

Through its deep integration into community programs, Idaho Housing works to identify and implement new ways to serve homeless citizens with Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC), technical assistance cases, project-based vouchers, and system improvements like Coordinated Entry (explained on page 19).

## THE HOME PARTNERSHIP FOUNDATION

The Home Partnership Foundation is a nonprofit organization created by Idaho Housing to help communities meet their most pressing housing needs. For 10 years, the Foundation has received charitable donations of various forms from employers, private citizens, developers, local governments, and others to help sustain and grow these efforts. To learn more visit, [homepartnershipfoundation.org](http://homepartnershipfoundation.org).

## AVENUES FOR HOPE HOUSING CHALLENGE

The Avenues for Hope Housing Challenge is a unique, online fundraising campaign created by the Home Partnership Foundation. The goal of the annual campaign is to strengthen housing-related nonprofits throughout Idaho by encouraging individual donations to help prevent homelessness and improve affordable housing options. To learn more visit, [avenuesforhope.org](http://avenuesforhope.org).

# PERMANENT SUSTAINABLE HOUSING PROJECTS

Idaho Housing looked to successful Housing First models in Salt Lake City, San Diego, and Portland in its construction of a comprehensive program for reducing the number of the chronically homeless. Idaho Housing partnered with the Boise Housing and Homeless Roundtables and began implementing Housing First-inspired projects. Now three permanent sustainable housing projects are in the works:

- Boise single-site project
- Statewide scattered-site program serving all Idaho communities
- Twin Falls single-site project

CoCs are adopting standardized policies that will support this work through the required enactment of Housing First practices.

The Boise single-site project will create approximately 40 new units with additional space for the delivery of services on-site. It will be the first project of such scale and significance ever created in Idaho.







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## HOUSING FIRST BOISE PROJECT PARTNERS

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**Idaho Housing**

**\$5.75M** in Low-Income Housing Tax Credits

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**City of Boise**

**\$1,000,000** in capital for land acquisition

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**St. Alphonsus Health System**

**\$100,000** cash for services plus in-kind services

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**St. Luke's Health System**

**\$100,000** cash for services plus in-kind services

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**The Home Partnership Foundation**

**Fiscal Agent**

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**Ada County**

**\$250,000** cash for services

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# HOUSING COMES FIRST

**H**ousing First champions a belief that the ailments and conditions that drive people to homelessness — unemployment, conflicts at home, behavioral/mental health, substance dependencies — are best remedied by first providing vulnerable people with a stable home. From there, a substantial recovery can begin.

Housing First provides permanent housing and support services without preconditions or barriers to entry to maximize housing stability and prevent returns to homelessness.

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Contrasting most short-term residential and treatment programs, Housing First is premised on the following:

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- Homelessness is first and foremost a housing crisis that can be addressed through safe and affordable housing.
- All people experiencing homelessness can better achieve stability in permanent housing.
- Housing is a means to a better quality of life in the areas of health, mental health, substance use, and employment.
- People have the right to self-determination and should be treated with dignity and respect through homelessness.
- The exact configuration of housing and services depends upon the needs and preferences of the individual or family.

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## TOTAL ANNUAL COMMUNITY COSTS TO ADA COUNTY

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\$5.3M

for every 100 homeless persons

\$750,000

at the Ada County Jail

\$3.8M

for emergency medical services

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THROUGH HOUSING FIRST INITIATIVES, COMMUNITY COSTS MAY BE REDUCED TO

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\$1.3M<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Costs of Homelessness in Ada County, Idaho (2016, February) Fry, Vanessa. Presented at the Boise/Ada County Housing and Homelessness Roundtable, Boise, ID.

# HOUSING OPTIONS

## HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

Homelessness Prevention provides limited financial assistance (rent and utilities) and services to individuals and families who are at risk of becoming homeless. The assistance is designed to stabilize individuals and families in their existing homes or provide other housing options that prevent placement in an emergency shelter or living in a place not meant for human habitation.

## EMERGENCY SHELTER

Emergency Shelters offer temporary basic and essential housing accommodations to assist persons in avoiding living on the street or other places not meant for human habitation. Many shelters support persons by helping them connect with mainstream resources and necessary benefits and programs. The goal of emergency shelter is to provide temporary relief while homeless persons self-resolve their circumstances, or until more suitable and appropriate permanent housing arrangements are available.

## RAPID RE-HOUSING

Rapid Re-Housing assistance is one of the Housing First initiatives, helping those who are homeless move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability through a combination of rental assistance and supportive services. Rapid re-housing is a proven, effective strategy utilized by both the Emergency Solutions Grant and Continuum of Care programs.

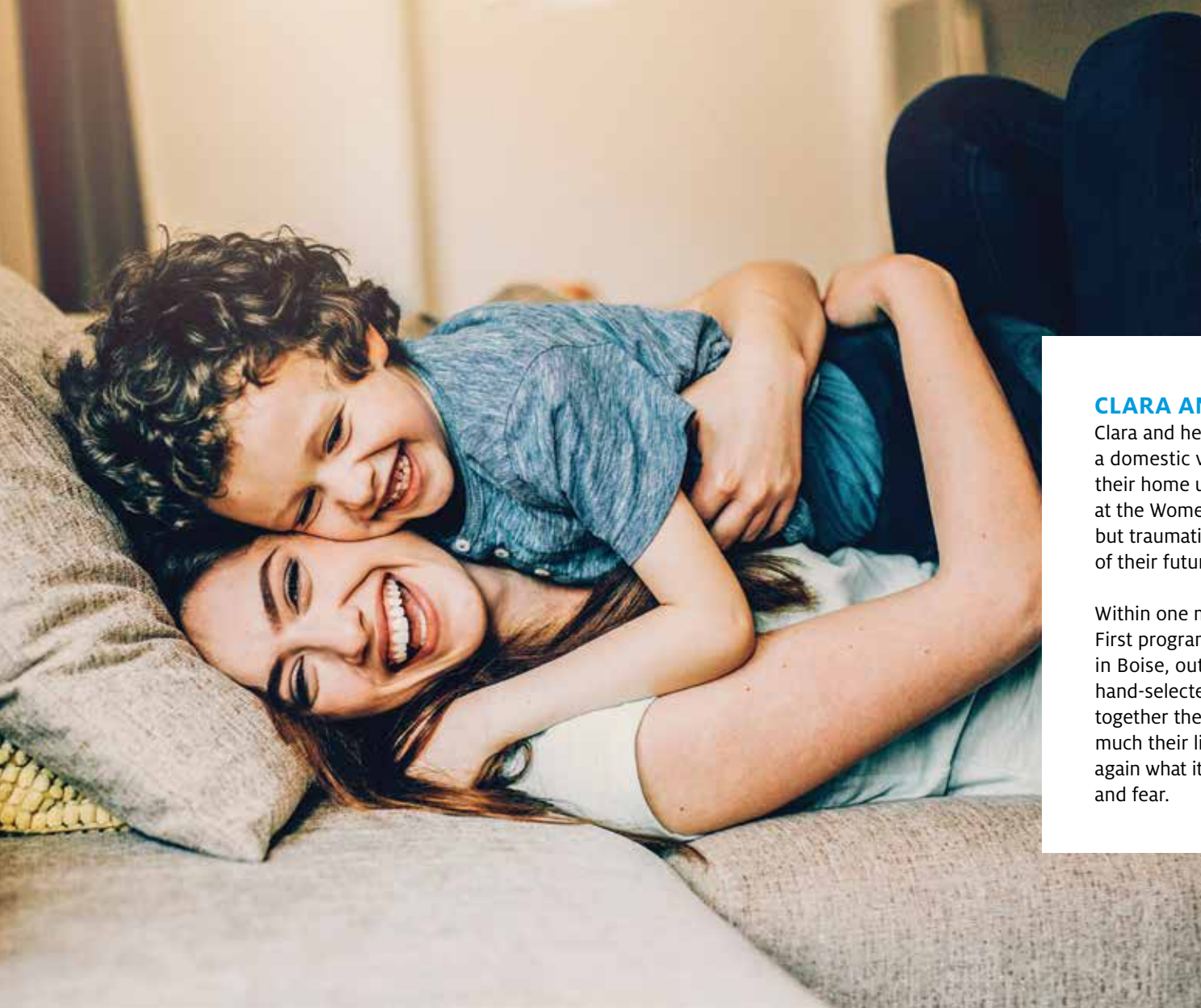
## TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Transitional Housing provides shelter and services for a limited time to those experiencing homelessness. This type of housing is shown to be a successful intervention for those recovering from substance abuse, fleeing domestic violence, and youth.

## PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Permanent Supportive Housing is community-based housing that is safe, decent, and affordable, and provides households with rights of tenancy as well as links to voluntary and flexible support and services. This approach helps those in the most vulnerable states and with the greatest barriers to find stable housing through case management support systems. While participation in supportive services is not mandatory to keep housing, the following services are offered: healthcare, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, life skills classes, financial consulting, and job training and placement.





### **CLARA AND DON**

Clara and her son Don fled home after a domestic violence episode made their home unsafe. They found refuge at the Women's and Children's Alliance, but traumatized, scared, and unsure of their future, they needed a home.

Within one month of being in the Housing First program, they found a safe apartment in Boise, outfitted with furniture they hand-selected, together. As they pieced together their new home and saw how much their lives had changed, they felt again what it meant to live free of violence and fear.



### **ASHLEY**

Ashley lost her husband the same time two of her children came down with serious medical conditions. She'd lost her house, was out of work, and barely had time to sleep in between caring for her kids. This went on for two years.

She then found a local agency called CATCH, a Rapid Re-Housing program of the CoC that gave her a house to stay in. While Ashley worked during the day, another CoC program called Giraffe Laugh gave her kids the care and education they needed. With this support, Ashley and her family achieved a stable lifestyle, and before long, found their own place to call home.

# UNIFIED ACROSS JURISDICTIONS

**O**ur community programs unite our support systems rather than competing against or operating in isolation of each other. This approach is referred to as Coordinated Entry.

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The system is founded upon four client-based actions, where all providers are accountable for prioritizing services to homeless persons with the greatest length of time spent as homeless and the most severe service needs:

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- **Access:** ensure that all people experiencing a housing crisis have fair and equal access.
- **Assess:** identify and assess persons seeking assistance using a standardized, communitywide tool.
- **Assign:** those with the most severe service needs are prioritized, while all are connected to housing and homeless assistance based on their strengths and needs.
- **Accountability:** align all of our providers around common goals and a shared framework.



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These Housing First programs were created to inspire hope where it has been lost. We define success by how often we help people take back their lives and build stable, successful lifestyles for themselves and their families. The only sure way to know if we're making a positive impact on the issue is to review the economics. Below are some facts that support our accomplishments so far:

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**632**

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**average number of days singles and households spend in permanent supportive housing programs.**

**95%**

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**of households exiting homelessness housing programs remain in permanent housing 24 months later.**

**64**

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**days on average spent in homeless shelters.**



A person's legs are visible on the left side of the frame, running across a wooden floor in a hallway. The background is a teal-colored wall with a doorway. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the person's legs and the floor being the primary focus.

**90%**

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**exit the CoC to other permanent housing or retain their permanent housing in place.**

**25%**

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**who remained in permanent housing increased their income within the first year.**

**45%**

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**who exit CoC housing did so with an increase in income.**



### **DATA CONTRIBUTIONS AND ANALYSIS**

The majority of data presented in this report was generated by Idaho's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The data collected by and reported from the HMIS is crucial to the Continuums of Care in Idaho. Homelessness response and initiatives are built to respond to homelessness trends identified through HMIS data analysis. Please contact your community's housing and service providers to see if they are an HMIS-participating agency. If they are not, but are interested in learning more about HMIS, please contact [hmis@ihfa.org](mailto:hmis@ihfa.org).

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Finance Association**

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