

A black and white photograph of two hands clasped together in a supportive grip. The hands are positioned in the lower half of the frame, with the fingers interlaced. The skin appears aged and wrinkled. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light gray.

HELPING *IDAHO'S* HOMELESS

IDAHO HOMELESSNESS
COMMUNITY REPORT 2017

Outlined in this report is the hard work carried out by numerous nonprofit and community-based organizations that help displaced families and individuals find housing and critical supportive services. This group of organizations and their staff represent Idaho's homelessness assistance network. Their coordinated efforts over the past couple of years represent the most significant and ambitious attempt Idaho has taken toward combating homelessness. Through a coordinated, comprehensive approach, driven by dedicated Idahoans, we hope to make Idaho a place where decent, safe, stable, and affordable shelter is available to even the most disadvantaged.

CURRENT STATE OF HOMELESSNESS IN IDAHO

4,831*

TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS
AFFECTED BY HOMELESSNESS

28%*

OF HOMELESS PERSONS
AFFECTED ARE CHILDREN

2,439*

SINGLE-PERSON HOUSEHOLDS

7,816**

HOMELESS STUDENTS

2,392*

INDIVIDUALS IN MULTIPLE-
PERSON HOUSEHOLDS

1,030*

VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

896*

MULTIPLE-PERSON HOUSEHOLDS

287*

VETERANS

*THESE NUMBERS INCLUDE: LITERALLY HOMELESS, AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS, OR SURVIVOR OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (SEE PAGE 22 FOR DEFINITIONS). EXCLUDES PRECARIOUSLY HOUSED.

THESE ARE THE MINIMUM NUMBERS BASED ON DATA COLLECTED, WHICH IS NOT 100% REPRESENTATIVE OF THE POPULATION.

THIS DATA COMES FROM HMIS AND CMIS (SEE PAGE 29) AS WELL AS SOME PROVIDERS NOT PARTICIPATING IN HMIS OR CMIS.

**THIS INCLUDES ALL HOMELESS DEFINITIONS LISTED ON PAGE 22. DATA WAS OBTAINED FROM IDAHO'S DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

EXTENT OF HOMELESSNESS

While there are many different types of homelessness, Idaho's homelessness assistance network makes a coordinated effort to help all homeless persons. Some people experience unexpected and unavoidable circumstances that push them into homelessness. Many times, it's the people who we least expect.

50.68%

Male

47.67%

Female

37.35%

Under 25

33.6%

Disabled

50%

Singles

6.91%

Chronically Homeless

10.89%

Report Substance Use

COMBATING HOMELESSNESS

Idaho's homelessness assistance network has been able to fight homelessness through a variety of programs across the state. Administrators of these programs foster collaboration, facilitate and encourage partnerships, develop funding allocation and intervention strategies, set goals, and create program policy.

HOUSING COMES FIRST

Housing First is a philosophy that is being adopted across the country. It champions a belief that the conditions that drive people to homelessness — unemployment, unforeseen life changes, conflicts at home, behavioral/mental health, and substance dependencies — are best remedied by first providing a stable home. From there, recovery can begin.

Housing First produces permanent housing placements and support services without preconditions or barriers to maximize housing stability and prevent returns to homelessness. Instead of focusing on short-term residential and treatment programs, Housing First focuses on the following:

Homelessness is first and foremost a housing crisis that can be addressed through safe, stable, 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 physical and mental health, self worth, substance use, and employment.

People have the right to self-determination and should be treated with dignity and respect while homeless.

The exact configuration of housing and services depends upon the needs and preferences of the individual or family.

THE EFFECT OF HOMELESSNESS IN ADA COUNTY	
<div>\$5.3M for every 100 homeless persons</div>	<div>Through housing first initiatives, total community costs of \$5.3M ARE REDUCED TO \$1.6M</div>
<div>\$750,000 at the Ada County Jail</div>	
<div>\$3.8M for emergency medical services</div>	

THIS DATA WAS CONTRIBUTED BY VANESSA FRY, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/RESEARCH FACULTY AT BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY.

FOLLOWING A PROVEN MODEL

Idaho Housing and Finance Association (IHFA) saw the need for a Housing First program in Idaho and set the stage for this proven model of stable housing.

IHFA looked to successful Housing First models in Salt Lake City, San Diego, Portland, and other national examples to create a program to reduce the number of chronically homeless Idahoans. IHFA has partnered with many stakeholders to start implementing Housing First-inspired projects. Now, two permanent sustainable housing initiatives are in the works:

BOISE SINGLE-SITE PROJECT

In partnership with Boise City’s efforts to reduce chronic homelessness, a single-site permanent supportive housing project, “New Path Community Housing,” will create approximately 40 new units and additional space for the delivery of services on-site. It will be the first project of such scale and significance ever created in Idaho.

STATEWIDE SCATTERED-SITE PROGRAM SERVING ALL IDAHO COMMUNITIES

The scattered-site program will encourage the inclusion of an estimated one to three units within newly constructed affordable housing developments across Idaho. This significant resource commitment will provide long-term stable growth of homelessness housing units.



BREAKING NEW GROUND

An exciting partnership to help Boise's chronically homeless is underway. On September 20, 2017, IHFA and the city of Boise broke new ground towards building the New Path Community Housing Development. This housing, when built, will rapidly house the chronically homeless and help residents work to resolve underlying issues of homelessness.

Up to 40 homeless individuals will be housed at New Path. Project-based vouchers from the Boise City/Ada County Housing Authority will subsidize tenant rents.

"It's kind of like an ER for housing interventions," said Diana Lachiondo, director of Community Partnerships for the City of Boise. "Those with the most severe cases will be prioritized and provided care first. In the context of health care, an applicable illustration would be treating a heart condition over a seasonal illness."

Housing First implementations in other cities have found that this unique combination of housing and services saves the community thousands of dollars in avoided ambulance trips and emergency room visits, fewer stays in jail, and lower use of other public services.

This monumental project is made possible through the involvement of many community partners, which includes IHFA, the city of Boise, Ada County, St. Luke's Health System, Saint Alphonsus Health System, Terry Reilly Health Services, CATCH (Charitable Assistance to Community's Homeless) and, Boise City/Ada County Housing Authority. These partners will provide services for the new housing development.

IHFA and the city of Boise are funding the development. Tom Mannschreck, founding board member of Northwest Integrity Housing Co. and Caleb Roope, president of Pacific West Communities, Inc. are the developers, Erstad Architects and Pacific West Architecture are the designers and Pacific West Builders is the general contractor.

Caleb Roope describes New Path Community Housing as "a place someone is proud to call home."

"The Housing First model — getting people off of the streets and out of the shelters while giving them the opportunity to address the root causes of their homelessness — has proven very effective at reducing chronic homelessness in other communities," Boise Mayor David Bieter stated in a press release. "We couldn't be more pleased with the way community partners are stepping up to address this challenging need for our most vulnerable residents."

STATEWIDE SCATTERED-SITE PROGRAM

This program allows housing developers to include homelessness targeted units within affordable housing apartment communities as they are constructed using IHFA's affordable housing development resources. Developers partner with a service provider that will provide supportive services to the household. The first units are anticipated to be made available in 2018.



NEW PATH COMMUNITY HOUSING PARTNERS

IDAHO HOUSING AND FINANCE ASSOCIATION

\$5.83M

In low-income housing tax credits

CITY OF BOISE

\$1,000,000

For land acquisition and/or construction

ST. ALPHONSUS HEALTH SYSTEM

\$100,000

For services, plus in-kind services

ST. LUKE'S HEALTH SYSTEM

\$100,000

For services, plus in-kind services

ADA COUNTY

\$250,000

For services

BOISE CITY ADA COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

\$300,000

In annual rental assistance

These Housing First initiatives were created to take action against homelessness. The Homeless Assistance Network defines success by how often we help people take back their lives and build stable, successful lifestyles for themselves and their families. The data below shows our accomplishments this year:

64

DAYS ON AVERAGE SPENT IN HOMELESS SHELTERS

1,173

AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS SINGLES AND FAMILIES SPEND IN PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAMS

85%

OF HOUSEHOLDS EXITING HOMELESSNESS HOUSING PROGRAMS REMAIN IN PERMANENT HOUSING 24 MONTHS LATER

*ADDRESSING
HOMELESSNESSES*

A COMMUNITY APPROACH

Instead of competing with one another, our community programs are working to unite under a single coordinated support system.

This approach is based on four client-based and client-informed actions that prioritize services and needs:

ACCESS: Ensure that all people experiencing a housing crisis have fair and equal access.

ASSESS: Identify and assess persons seeking assistance using a standardized, community-wide tool.

ASSIGN: Prioritize those with the greatest need, 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.

Each region of the state will have a single, physical access site where homeless persons will either visit or call to be connected with a range of homelessness assistance programs. The site will conduct assessments to provide recommendations on the housing intervention and services that most closely align with the households needs.



COLLABORATION WORKS

Josie, a single mom, needed help consolidating her three storage units into one. Totalling over \$250 in storage costs, Josie knew she had to make a change in order to afford her rent. After some email exchanges between CATCH and a Boise-based homeless shelter, Interfaith Sanctuary and six volunteers appeared ready and willing to help this family.

The group was able to move all of Josie's belongings into a single storage unit saving her about \$200 in monthly fees. Much of the storage was also identified as donation-worthy, so Josie was able to let go and purge years of gathered items she no longer needed.

This is just one of many examples of different agencies coming together with the same goal: to provide practical, caring support to those in our community experiencing homelessness.

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 to 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 help avoid living on the street or other places not meant for human habitation. The ultimate goal of emergency shelter is to provide temporary relief while persons experiencing homelessness resolve their barriers to housing, or until more suitable housing arrangements are available.



RAPID RE-HOUSING

Rapid Re-Housing is time-limited assistance that helps those who are homeless move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability through a combination of rental assistance and supportive services.



TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Transitional Housing provides shelter and services for an intermediate amount of time to those experiencing homelessness - primarily those recovering from substance abuse, fleeing domestic violence, and youth.



PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Permanent Supportive Housing provides individuals and families in the most vulnerable state long-term housing while making a range of supports and services available. The following services are often times offered and encouraged: healthcare, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, life skills classes, financial consulting, and job training and placement.



PERMANENT HOUSING

Permanent Housing is a long-term housing option that may or may not be income-based or have rent subsidies associated with it. If services exist, they are centered on providing a sense of community rather than addressing individual needs.

\$12,141,756

Homelessness Assistance Dollars Across Idaho

\$3,669,450

Continuum of Care Program

\$1,021,185

Emergency Solutions Grant

\$335,087

PATH Program

\$1,306,610

Department of Health and Welfare Navigator Program

\$278,962

Department of Education Programs

\$753,520

Idaho Housing and Finance Association

\$4,776,942

Other

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND YOUTH SPECIFIC PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE AROUND THE STATE, HOWEVER FUNDING AMOUNTS ARE NOT INCLUDED HERE.

STATES OF HOMELESSNESS

LITERALLY HOMELESS: Individual or family who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. Primarily, this entails living in a place not meant for human habitation or in an emergency shelter.

IMMINENT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS: Individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime resident within 14 days.

FLEEING/ATTEMPTING TO FLEE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: Individual or family who: 1). Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence; 2). Has no other residence; and 3). Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

PRECARIOUSLY HOUSED: Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and nighttime residence, but have been offered accommodation from friends or family for an indeterminate amount of time. This may also be referred to as “couch surfing” and “doubled-up.”



BEN

A single father of two, had already been homeless for six months. His children, both in high school, were able to stay with their mother so they could avoid sleeping in the car. That wasn't an option for Ben, or his three beloved dogs.

Ben was eager to start a new life and get back on his feet. He found a Boise-based agency called CATCH who has a Rapid Re-Housing program that helped him find stable housing. After a few months, he was able to move into an affordable apartment that was also close to his kids' school.

“CATCH has bent over backwards to help me out. I felt so relieved when walking through their doors. I knew someone was trying to help me, even when I was still sleeping in my car.”

REDUCING HOMELESSNESS

IHFA's mission is to provide funding for affordable housing opportunities in Idaho communities where they are most needed and when it is economically feasible. One way we do this is to fight homelessness.

Some of the goals we share with our partners are increasing awareness through community education, increasing funding opportunities, and improving sustainable self-sufficiency. We are able to work towards and achieve these goals through partnerships and collaboration.

As an expert in homelessness interventions in Idaho, we are helping in a coordinated effort to address this issue. Through community partnerships and programs, we work to strengthen Idaho communities.

OUR FOUNDATION AT WORK

The Home Partnership Foundation

The Home Partnership Foundation is a nonprofit organization created by IHFA to help communities meet their most pressing housing needs. For more than 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. Since its founding in 2005, the Foundation has invested over \$5M to help address housing needs in Idaho. To learn more, visit homepartnershipfoundation.org.

Avenues for Hope Housing Challenge

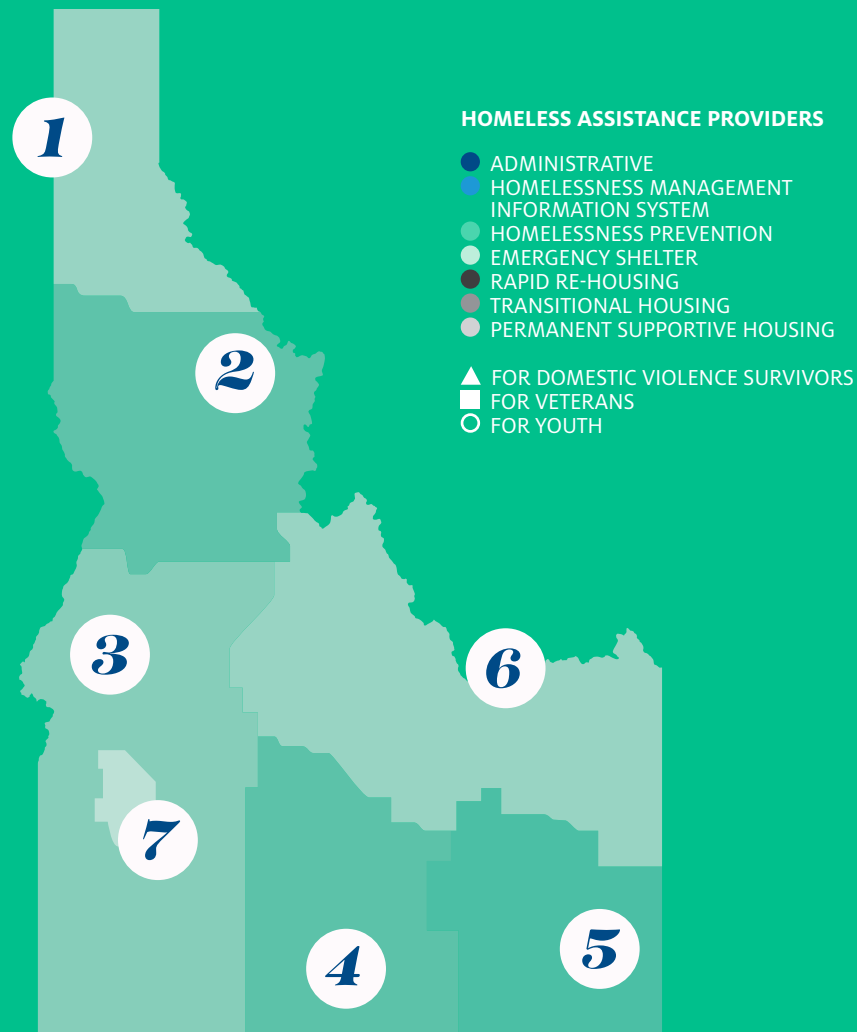
The Avenues for Hope Housing Challenge is a unique, online fundraising campaign created by the Home Partnership Foundation. The goal of the annual campaign is to strengthen housing-related nonprofits throughout Idaho by encouraging individual donations to help prevent homelessness and improve affordable housing options. Over the past six years, the annual fundraising campaign has raised \$1.47M for housing nonprofits. To learn more, visit avenuesforhope.org.



RESOURCE DISTRIBUTION

Resources for homelessness service providers come from a variety of sources: grant funds received from the federal, state, and local government; donations provided by IHFA; and other private funding sources. Homelessness service providers may have generated or received other resources to support homelessness assistance activities not included herein.

A listing of homelessness service providers is shown on the opposite page highlighting the area of the state they operate in and the kind of homelessness assistance services these organizations provide. Agencies listed may also offer other types of housing and service programs not listed here that are not specifically for homeless persons.



GIVEN THE WIDESPREAD AND DIVERSE GROUP OF PROVIDERS ACROSS IDAHO'S HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE NETWORK AND THE CHALLENGES THAT CREATES IN COLLECTING INFORMATION FROM EACH PARTNER, SOME DATA IS MISSING FROM THE NUMBERS REPORTED HEREIN. AS A MATTER OF FULL DISCLOSURE AND TO ASSIST READERS IN COMPENSATING FOR MISSING DATA, SOME FUNDING AMOUNTS OR CLIENT COUNTS FROM THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES WERE NOT INCLUDED: BOISE RESCUE MISSION, UNION GOSPEL MISSION, GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF THE NORTHWEST, BLUE MOUNTAIN ACTION COUNCIL, FAMILY PROMISE OF LEWIS AND CLARK, YWCA OF LEWISTON, BOISE CITY/ADA COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY, SAFE HOUSE, VALLEY HOUSE, THE ADVOCATES, HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF POCA TELLO, HOMELESS VETERANS FELLOWSHIP, EASTERN IDAHO COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP, FAMILY CRISIS CENTER, LEMHI COUNTY CRISIS CENTER, IDAHO YOUTH RANCH, INTERFAITH SANCTUARY, SUPPORTIVE HOUSING AND INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIPS, WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE, AND EL-ADA COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP.

1 REGION 1

POPULATION* 220,980	HOMELESS 802
FEDERAL FUNDING \$2,334,937	IHFA FUNDING \$185,831
OTHER FUNDING** \$673,516	

BONNER COUNTY HOMELESS TASK FORCE ●
IDAHO HOUSING AND FINANCE ASSOCIATION ●●●
FAMILY PROMISE NORTH IDAHO ●
GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF THE NORTHWEST ●
SAFE PASSAGE ▲
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ●●●●●
UNION GOSPEL MISSION ●

2 REGION 2

POPULATION* 108,071	HOMELESS 120
FEDERAL FUNDING \$457,649	IHFA FUNDING \$138,189
OTHER FUNDING** \$618,037	

ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE OF THE PALOUSE ▲
BLUE MOUNTAIN ACTION COUNCIL ●
FAMILY PROMISE OF THE PALOUSE ●
FAMILY PROMISE OF LEWIS AND CLARK VALLEY ●●●
IDAHO HOUSING AND FINANCE ASSOCIATION ●●●
SALVATION ARMY LEWISTON ●
SOJOURNERS' ALLIANCE ●●●
YWCA OF LEWISTON ▲

3 REGION 3

POPULATION* 321,007	HOMELESS 770
FEDERAL FUNDING \$623,831	IHFA FUNDING \$129,071
OTHER FUNDING** \$865,078	

ADVOCATES AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE ▲
BOISE CITY ADA COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY ●
BOISE RESCUE MISSION ●●●
CATCH OF CANYON COUNTY ●
IDAHO HOUSING AND FINANCE ASSOCIATION ●●●
IDAHO INC. ●
JESSE TREE ●
SALVATION ARMY NAMPA ●

4 REGION 4

POPULATION* 193,947	HOMELESS 305
FEDERAL FUNDING \$1,155,428	IHFA FUNDING \$40,903
OTHER FUNDING** \$382,061	

IDAHO HOUSING AND FINANCE ASSOCIATION ●●●
SAFE HOUSE ●
SOUTH CENTRAL COUMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP ●●●
THE ADVOCATES ▲▲
VALLEY HOUSE ●
VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE ▲

5 REGION 5

POPULATION* 167,813	HOMELESS 694
FEDERAL FUNDING \$814,039	IHFA FUNDING \$88,605
OTHER FUNDING** \$540,692	

AID FOR FRIENDS ●●●
BANNOCK YOUTH FOUNDATION ○
BINGHAM CRISIS CENTER ▲
FAMILY SERVICES ALLIANCE OF SE IDAHO ▲▲
HOMELESS VETRANS FELLOWSHIP ●
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF POCA TELLO ■
IDAHO HOUSING AND FINANCE ASSOCIATION ●●●
ONEIDA CRISIS CENTER, INC. ▲
SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY ●●●

6 REGION 6

POPULATION* 234,358	HOMELESS 718
FEDERAL FUNDING \$834,637	IHFA FUNDING \$61,097
OTHER FUNDING** \$506,299	

CLUB, INC. ●●●
EASTERN IDAHO COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP ●
FAMILY CARE CENTER ●
IDAHO FALLS RESCUE MISSION ●●●
IDAHO HOUSING AND FINANCE ASSOCIATION ●●●
LEMHI COUNTY CRISIS CENTER ▲

7 REGION 7

POPULATION* 444,028	HOMELESS 1,421
FEDERAL FUNDING \$1,121,115	IHFA FUNDING \$67,071
OTHER FUNDING** \$1,077,467	

BOISE CITY ●●●
BOISE CITY / ADA COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY ●▲●
CATCH ●●●
EL-ADA COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP ■■
IDAHO HOUSING AND FINANCE ASSOCIATION ●●●
IDAHO YOUTH RANCH ○
INTERFAITH SANCTUARY HOUSING SERVICES ●
JESSE TREE ●
SUPPORTIVE HOUSING AND INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS ●●●
SALVATION ARMY BOISE ●
WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE ▲▲

*ALL COUNTY POPULATION DATA SOURCED FROM IDAHO-DEMOGRAPHICS.COM/COUNTIES_BY_POPULATION.COM

**SOURCES REFLECT REQUIRED MATCH AND STATE, LOCAL, AND PRIVATE FUNDING. ORGANIZATIONS MAY HAVE GENERATED OR RECEIVED OTHER FUNDING TO SUPPORT HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES NOT INCLUDED HEREIN.

THE NUMBER OF HOMELESS PERSONS IS REPORTED FROM HMIS AND IS NOT A REPRESENTATIVE OF DATA FROM ALL HOMELESS ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS.



DATA CONTRIBUTIONS AND ANALYSIS

The majority of the data presented in this report is generated by Idaho's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and Community Management Information System (CMIS). The data collected by and reported from the HMIS and CMIS is crucial to strategic resource allocation decisions and strategies used to combat homelessness in Idaho. Homelessness response and initiatives are built to respond to homelessness trends identified through HMIS and CMIS data analysis. Please contact hmis@ihfa.org or cmis@ihfa.org if you would like to contribute data to either of these systems.

HMIS is an electronic data collection system specifically designed to capture information on the characteristics and service needs of all persons experiencing homelessness. This system provides standardized data to improve our understanding of homelessness in Idaho and measures progress towards meeting the goal of preventing and ending homelessness.

CMIS is a similar functioning information system that was created for domestic violence providers. The CMIS allows for additional privacy, security policies, and practices to ensure survivors of domestic violence remain safe from their abuser.

We promote the inclusion of all homelessness service providers in data-reporting activities and systems to truly understand the extent of homelessness without worry of double-counting or missing any persons. There are some providers who elect not to participate in the HMIS or CMIS. This can cause some duplication of client count when their client counts are added to those of the HMIS or CMIS. Additionally, some non-participating providers have not contributed client count data to this report, causing all figures within this report to be considered a minimum number of funding or homeless persons.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Educate
Lobby
Volunteer
Donate

USE WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED
TO FIGHT AGAINST STEREOTYPES
THAT EXIST ABOUT HOMELESSNESS.

Idaho Housing and
Finance Association

PO Box 7541
Boise, ID 83707-1541

idahohousing.com

