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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of persons affected by homelessness</td>
<td>4,831</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single-person households</td>
<td>2,439</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals in multiple-person households</td>
<td>2,392</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple-person households</td>
<td>896</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of homeless persons affected are children</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeless students</td>
<td></td>
<td>7,816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victims of domestic violence</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans</td>
<td></td>
<td>287</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>50.68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>47.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 25</td>
<td>37.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singles</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronically Homeless</td>
<td>6.91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report Substance Use</td>
<td>10.89%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IDAHO HOMELESSNESS COMMUNITY REPORT 2017 CURRENT STATE OF HOMELESSNESS

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.
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.

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.

THE EFFECT OF HOMELESSNESS IN ADA COUNTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$5.3M</td>
<td>Through housing first initiatives, total community costs of $5.3M are reduced to $1.6M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$750,000</td>
<td>At the Ada County jail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$3.8M</td>
<td>For emergency medical services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This data was contributed by Vanessa Fry, Assistant Director/Research Faculty at Boise State University.
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:

- 1,173 families supported
- 85% of households remain in permanent housing 24 months later
- 64 days on average spent in homeless shelters
- 1,000,000 in land acquisition and construction funding
- 5.83 million in low-income housing tax credits

The data below shows our accomplishments this year:

- 1,173 families supported
- 85% of households remain in permanent housing 24 months later
- 64 days on average spent in homeless shelters
- 1,000,000 in land acquisition and construction funding
- 5.83 million in low-income housing tax credits
ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS
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. Totaling 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

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### Homelessness Assistance Dollars Across Idaho

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continuum of Care Program</td>
<td>$3,669,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Solutions Grant</td>
<td>$1,021,185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATH Program</td>
<td>$1,306,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Health and Welfare Navigator Program</td>
<td>$278,962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Education Programs</td>
<td>$753,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idaho Housing and Finance Association</td>
<td>$4,776,942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$12,141,756</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.”
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.
RESOURCES 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.
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.