For many, the picture of homelessness is a weathered man holding a ragged cardboard sign, begging for help. Most assume he’s there because of laziness, poor choices, or both.

THE REALITY IS MUCH DIFFERENT.
The true face of homelessness is a mom and her children fleeing domestic violence. It’s a veteran battling mental health issues. Or, it’s a neighbor who suddenly fell ill, is facing overwhelming financial issues, and had nowhere to turn but a friend’s couch.

Homelessness stems from a variety of factors—unemployment, unforeseen life changes, substance use, medical emergencies, or mental health issues. Often, it strikes the people you’d least expect.

And it doesn’t happen by choice.

Nonprofit and community organizations throughout Idaho have coordinated their efforts in an unprecedented attempt to secure housing and critical supportive services for the most disadvantaged among us.

Collecting and analyzing the data for this report took considerable collaboration and represents the most comprehensive and accurate picture possible. While the funding and population totals presented here are considered minimums, we believe this report is an important tool as we strive to make Idaho a place where safe and stable housing is an option for all.
CURRENT STATE OF HOMELESSNESS

MINIMUM NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS*

5,546

883

2,785

2,761

29%

8,080

865

719

*INCLUDES LITERALLY HOMELESS AND SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (DEFINITIONS LISTED ON PAGE 7). THIS DATA IS REPORTED FROM HMIS AND CMIS (SEE PAGE 26), AS WELL AS OTHER NON-HMIS AND NON-CMIS PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS. THEREFORE THE NUMBERS REFLECT THOSE WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN A HOMELESSNESS-RELATED PROGRAM THROUGHOUT 2018. THE USE OF MULTIPLE DATA SOURCES DOES NOT ALLOW FOR DEDUPLICATION OF CLIENT RECORDS. THE NUMBERS REPORTED SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A MINIMUM BASELINE AS SOME PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS ARE NOT YET CONNECTED TO A PROGRAM AND SEVERAL LARGE PROVIDERS ARE NOT REPRESENTED IN THIS DATA.

YOUNGER THAN 18*

SINGLE-PERSON HOUSEHOLDS*

MULTI-PERSON HOUSEHOLDS*

PERSONS IN MULTI-PERSON HOUSEHOLDS*

STUDENTS**

SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE*

VETERANS*

**INCLUDES LITERALLY HOMELESS, SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND PRECARIOUSLY HOUSED (DEFINITIONS ON PAGE 7) STUDENTS (K-12).

SOURCE: IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.
STATES OF HOMELESSNESS

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

IMMINENT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS:
A person or a family who will lose their primary nighttime residence within 14 days.

FLEEING / ATTEMPTING TO FLEE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:
Person or a family who is fleeing—or is attempting to flee—domestic violence, has no other residence, or lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

PRECARIOUSLY HOUSED:
A person or a family who lack a fixed, regular, nighttime residence but have been offered accommodation from friends or family for an indeterminate time. This is sometimes referred to as “couch surfing” or “doubling-up.”

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS:
A person or family who has experienced homelessness for at least one year—or repeatedly—while also having a disabling condition.

RURAL HOMELESSNESS

To ensure that homelessness occurs rarely and briefly, every community must develop a coordinated community response that can identify and effectively serve all people at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness. Providing such a robust response can be a challenge for any community. For rural communities, those challenges are often exacerbated by large geographic expanses, more dispersed and fewer resources, a shortage of transportation and quality housing, and fewer economic and employment opportunities.

Homelessness can also be more discreet in rural areas. People living doubled-up or in substandard housing are not easily recognized. And, people living in unsheltered locations may be in less visible places, such as woodlands, campgrounds, abandoned structures, or along riverbanks.

With limited federal and local housing resources, rural areas need to be particularly creative in their efforts to connect households experiencing homelessness to temporary emergency shelter, transitional housing, mainstream resources, and eventually permanent housing.
Every morning, Cynthia makes an hour-long drive from her three-bedroom home among the hop fields of Wilder to the city lights of Boise. It’s a routine she repeats each evening as she works to provide for her family.

“I am working toward sustainability,” Cynthia said.

Every mile she travels is a step toward stability for her and her family. “My biggest issue is making sure that my grandkids are housed. It’s something that I’m fighting to keep,” she said. “We’re going to fight to stay in this situation.”

In spring 2017, Cynthia—who lived with her husband, daughter, and four grandkids—lost her home. At the time, Cynthia was the family’s only source of income because her husband had suffered two strokes. “We would catch up and fall behind, but the last time, we fell behind so bad there was no recovering from it,” she said.

They moved from various shelters, to sleeping on friends’ couches, to sleeping in their car.

While the family searched for warm beds and a roof over their heads, Cynthia tried to create consistency with her job. “I tried to keep a routine of waking up and going to work even when I was homeless.”

The family was experiencing homelessness for a year before they started to work with CATCH to find stability. After five months, they found a home they could afford through the Wilder Housing Authority.

This home represents a fresh start and stability for this family of seven. Cynthia is optimistic about the future, and now looks toward other programs she can utilize through CATCH, such as the financial literacy program. “My next step is to learn how to financially secure us.”
CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness interventions should be client-centered by offering programs that meet the needs of each individual and family. To accomplish this, we must identify and understand the characteristics and circumstances of those experiencing homelessness.

- **53%** MALE*
- **46%** FEMALE*
- **36%** UNDER 25*
- **34%** DISABLING CONDITION*
- **6%** ELDERLY*
- **15%** CHRONICALLY HOMELESS*
- **11%** SUBSTANCE USE**

*Includes literally homeless and survivors of domestic violence (definitions listed on page 7). This data is reported from HMIS and CMIS (see page 26) as well as other non-HMIS and non-CMIS participating providers. Therefore, the numbers reflect those who did participate in homelessness-related programs in Idaho in 2018. The use of multiple data sources does not allow for deduplication of client records. The numbers reported should be considered a minimum acre and as some people experiencing homelessness are not yet connected to a program and several large providers are not represented in this data.

**The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) reports that 6% of the U.S. population had a substance use disorder in 2017.
SYSTEMATIC APPROACH

A Continuum of Care (CoC) is a community’s primary decision-making body to organize and deliver housing services that meet the specific needs of people who are experiencing homelessness as they transition to stable housing and maximum self-sufficiency. Idaho has two CoCs: Boise City/Ada County and the Idaho Balance of State. The Balance of State Continuum consists of all counties except Ada County. These CoCs have a variety of responsibilities, such as oversight of the Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS), developing and implementing strategic plans, identifying housing and service capacity, ensuring broad and inclusive participation, and overseeing the pursuit of federal and other funding.

HOUSING FIRST

Housing First is a shift from the more traditional methods of caring for those experiencing homelessness. This approach prioritizes and provides those experiencing chronic homelessness with a clean and safe place to call home. Guided by the belief that housing is a foundation for life improvement, Housing First recognizes the safety and stability a home can offer to resolve underlying issues. Those experiencing homelessness can access housing and do not need to graduate from a series of service programs beforehand. Supportive services are offered to aid stability and prevent returns to homelessness, should they be needed.

Studies supported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) show Housing First to be a highly effective solution for those who require higher service needs or those experiencing chronic homelessness. This approach helps yield higher stability rates, lower rates of returning to homelessness, and reduces public costs.

COORDINATED ENTRY

In efforts to prevent long-term homelessness, systems and providers are building coordinated community responses that identify and effectively serve all individuals and families at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness. This centralized, coordinated assessment system is referred to as Coordinated Entry.

Coordinated Entry helps communities prioritize assistance based on vulnerability, length of time homeless, and severity of needs. These processes also provide information about service needs and gaps to help communities plan their assistance and identify needed resources.

In each region in Idaho, there is a single point of entry (known as an "Access Point") that lets those experiencing a housing crisis connect with resources available in their community. The Access Point assesses individual levels of need to offer resources appropriate for the household. This reduces trauma by placing the knowledge of available resources in one centralized, accessible place.

Across Idaho, the collaborations and partnerships formed around coordinated entry have removed barriers, instituted Housing First practices, and given opportunity to those most vulnerable. Coordinated Entry has also helped ensure those needing assistance have access to resources through a standardized assessment process that is mindful of each household’s needs.

SAFETY & STABILITY
Glen found the help he needed to get back on his feet.

Growing up, all Glen knew was foster care. He moved from home to home until he was adopted at 7 years old. Over the next few years, he lived and worked on the family farm.

But after a dispute with his adopted family, he was asked to leave. At 21 years old, he found himself without a home. He bounced around the West for more than two decades, living on the street, in cars, and in shelters.

Attempts to turn his life around stalled—he lacked a support system and struggled with depression and substance use.

“I kept going back to my old life in hopes that it would kill me,” he said.

Now 55, Glen has moved back to the Gem State in an effort to change his life.

Glen found help at Aid For Friends’ homeless shelter. After working with his case manager, Glen received Social Security benefits and was approved for permanent supportive housing.

“Things are still hard, but it is a lot easier because I know I have a place of my own,” he said. He is now drug-free and volunteers several times a week at Aid for Friends to help others who may be in a similar situation.
EFFECTIVE INITIATIVES

We define success by how often we help people take back their lives and build stable futures for themselves and their families.

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS SPENT IN PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAMS**

968

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

89%

**DAYS ON AVERAGE SPENT IN EMERGENCY SHELTERS**

47

**WITH INCOME AT ENTRY TO HOMELESSNESS HOUSING PROGRAMS**

45%

**WITH HEALTH INSURANCE AT ENTRY TO HOMELESSNESS HOUSING PROGRAMS**

49%

*Includes literally homeless and survivors of domestic violence (definitions listed on page 7). This data is reported from HMIS and CMIS (see page 26), as well as other non-HMIS and non-CMIS participating providers. Therefore, the numbers reflect those who have participated in a homelessness-related program throughout 2018. The use of multiple data sources does not allow for deduplication of client records. The numbers reported should be considered a minimum baseline as some persons experiencing homelessness are not yet connected to a program and several large providers are not represented in this data.*
HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION
Homelessness prevention provides limited financial assistance (rent and utilities) and services to people who are at risk of becoming homeless. The assistance is designed to stabilize people in their existing homes or provide other housing options that prevent placement in an emergency shelter or living in a place not meant for habitation.

EMERGENCY SHELTER
Emergency shelters offer temporary, basic accommodations to help people avoid living on the street or other places not meant for habitation. Many shelters support people by helping them connect with resources and necessary benefits and programs. The goal of emergency shelter is to provide temporary relief while those experiencing homelessness resolve their barriers to housing or until more suitable and appropriate permanent housing arrangements are available.

RAPID RE-HOUSING
Rapid re-housing is time-limited assistance that helps those experiencing homelessness 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 best suited for those with lesser service needs.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING
Transitional housing provides shelter and services for an intermediate amount of time to those experiencing homelessness with very specific service needs. This type of housing is shown to be a successful intervention for those recovering from substance use, people fleeing domestic violence, and youth.

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING
Permanent supportive housing is 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 house the most vulnerable who have significant barriers to finding stable housing. Although participation in supportive services is not mandatory to remain in housing, the following are examples of services that are offered and encouraged: healthcare, mental health services, substance use treatment, life skills classes, financial consulting, and job training and placement.

PERMANENT HOUSING
Permanent housing exists in various forms, ranging from subsidized programs with or without services, income-based programs with or without services, and market rentals and owned dwellings. If services exist, they are commonly centered around providing a sense of community rather than addressing individual needs.
Funding is a significant factor in Idaho’s ability to effectively reduce homelessness. However, success requires more than funding. Successful homelessness interventions take sound strategy, strong partnerships, creativity, and dedication. Here are some of the exceptional efforts taking place throughout Idaho.
The state’s first crisis center was developed in Idaho Falls as a potential model for combating mental health and substance use across Idaho. Through their two/four-hour stay program, this center has been able to help many avoid life-altering decisions and circumstances that could create homelessness or extreme physical harm, including death.

In Ada County, IHFA worked with providers to flexibly meet needs that emerged from implementing Coordinated Entry. IHFA provided the seed dollars for a pilot fund designed to quickly move singles with income and in need of move-in assistance into permanent housing.

St. Vincent de Paul of North Idaho is using locally developed artificial intelligence called SARA to encourage clients to remain actively engaged in pursuing goals they’ve set to obtain self-sufficiency. SARA sends text messages, issues reminders, surveys, and records client responses, which improves communication with clients and reduces staff time.

The recent purchase of a mobile home park put many households in jeopardy of being displaced. Through long-standing partnerships and supportive advocates, Sojourners’ Alliance responded immediately by securing $15,000 in homelessness prevention funds and assisting many households in finding and securing a new place to call home.

Nampa experiences the highest percentage of homeless students in Idaho. Unfortunately, many of these students are homeless without the support of any guardians. In partnership with the Nampa School District, the community created a drop-in center for vulnerable youth in need of refuge. At the center, they receive food, warmth, security, fellowship, and educational support.

Through a coalition dedicated to serving homeless veteran households, Pocatello has declared an end to veteran homelessness in the city. An extensive network of providers and resources was deployed to locate, rapidly rehouse, and stabilize these deserving veterans.

South Central Community Action Partnership holds an annual resource fair in Twin Falls’ city center. Low-income and homeless households are able to connect with numerous resource providers. Without this event, many would not be aware of the support services that exist.
IDAHO HOUSING AND FINANCE ASSOCIATION

Idaho Housing and Finance Association (IHFA) is dedicated to improving the lives of our fellow Idahoans and the communities they live in. We work to achieve this mission by expanding housing opportunities to everyone, including those experiencing homelessness. As an expert in homelessness intervention, we are helping in a coordinated effort to address this issue through community partnerships and programs. Some of the goals we share with our partners across the state are:

INCREASING AWARENESS OF HOMELESSNESS THROUGH COMMUNITY EDUCATION

BOLSTERING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

IMPROVING SUSTAINABLE SELF-SUFFICIENCY

In every phase of this work, IHFA strives to remain sensitive and responsive to the needs of Idaho’s less-advantaged and their families.
**NEW PATH**

The New Path Community Housing development in Boise is the first single-site Housing First project in Idaho. It includes 40 units, along with wrap-around services, for those experiencing chronic homelessness to aid in recovery and achieving stability. The supportive services are provided by Terry Reilly Health Services and CATCH. Services are catered to the needs of each person. Residents have access to case managers, mental health and substance use counseling, and healthcare services. There is a part-time nurse on staff and peer support groups to help build community. An on-site housing specialist helps residents navigate the housing process, including documentation and lease agreements.

**FIRST OF ITS KIND**

This monumental project was made possible through the involvement of many community partners, including IHFA, the City of Boise, Ada County, St. Luke's Health System, Saint Alphonsus Health System, Terry Reilly Health Services, CATCH, and Boise City/Ada County Housing Authorities. Together, IHFA and the City of Boise funded the development. Tom Mannschreck, founding board member of Northwest Integrity Housing Co., and Caleb Roope, president of Pacific West Communities, Inc., developed the project with support from Erstad Architects, Pacific West Architecture, and Pacific West Builders.

**VALOR POINTE**

Homelessness among veterans has become a national concern. Idaho experiences veteran homelessness at an even higher rate than is seen nationally. In response, IHFA dedicated housing development resources with an estimated value of $4.3 million toward the creation of permanent supportive housing for veterans experiencing homelessness. The City of Boise responded to this statewide call by making $1.25 million available to a Boise housing project. With an additional $220,000 raised from the community, Valor Pointe is on its way to becoming a reality.

Boise City/Ada County Housing Authorities issued project-based vouchers to Valor Pointe to provide rental assistance to the veterans who will eventually live there. The Department of Veterans Affairs will provide supportive services to each veteran.

Valor Pointe, which is being developed by Northwest Real Estate Capital Corp., will break ground in summer 2019 with a completion date of spring 2020. The facility will offer 26 one-bedroom units for veterans experiencing homelessness.

**POCATELLO SHELTER**

For the past 30 years, Aid For Friends has been operating out of a single-family home built in the 1930s. It’s difficult for the organization to provide accessible dwelling and appropriate living quarters for the various guests that arrive at the shelter. Additionally, the shelter operates at 114% capacity for 85% of the year.

IHFA is partnering with Aid For Friends in Pocatello to create a new and much-needed emergency shelter facility. The project was spurred by a $500,000 community match incentive issued by IHFA. Since the release of this challenge, the partnership has identified a shelter location and raised more than $800,000, including $350,000 from the City of Pocatello. Fundraising efforts are ongoing to cover additional rehabilitation costs, provide furnishings, and establish a reserve for facilities or operational funding.

This new facility will help house twice as many people while supplying them with the resources they need to get back on their feet. The facility is anticipated to be operational in 2020.
Edgar received the greatest gift a person could get: a place to call his own.

A home can have many different meanings. For 64-year-old Edgar, it means a new lease on life.

“I love it. It’s one of the best things to happen to me,” he said.

After battling homelessness for almost a decade, Edgar has his own place to call home. He was one of the first residents to move into the New Path Community Housing development in Downtown Boise.

“I’ve been slapping myself upside the head here lately, wondering if I’m having a dream.”

Before moving into New Path, Edgar bounced from shelter to shelter for eight years in search of a warm bed and a roof over this head. Now he has his own kitchen, living room, bathroom and bed—things he has not had since moving to Boise for better access to mental and physical healthcare.

“I had been living in the shelter ever since I got here,” Edgar said.

Edgar now lives in a one-bedroom apartment on the fourth floor of the Housing First development, the first of its kind in the state. He pays a portion of his rent with his retirement and Supplemental Social Security income, something he plans to stay on top of.

“I love my apartment and it would break my heart if I lost it.”

New Path will also provide other services to help Edgar stay on his feet, like on-site social services, medical treatment, and life skills training.
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 13 years, the foundation has received charitable donations from employers, private citizens, developers, local governments, financial institutions, and others to help sustain and grow these efforts. Since its founding in 2005, the foundation has invested more than $8 million to help address housing needs in Idaho. To learn more, visit idahohousing.com/foundation.

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 eight years, the campaign has raised more than $3 million for housing nonprofits. To learn more, visit avenuesforhope.org.

AVENUES FOR HOPE HOUSING CHALLENGE TOTAL FUNDING

- 2011: $100,000
- 2012: $140,000
- 2013: $233,469
- 2014: $317,494
- 2015: $373,398
- 2016: $501,439
- 2017: $724,305
- 2018: $875,493

MONEY MATTERS

$3,717,376
Continuum of Care Program

$1,587,148
Emergency Solutions Grant

$397,000
PATH Program

$1,700,000
Department of Health and Welfare Navigation Program

$829,427
Department of Education Programs

$621,900
Department of Corrections

$1,430,402
Idaho Housing and Finance Association

$11,431,252
Other

$21,714,505
Total Homelessness Assistance Dollars Across Idaho

*The funding amounts listed here support a wide range of activities associated with homelessness programs, including administrative and overhead costs. Furthermore, while most of the data presented in this report represents those experiencing literal homelessness or domestic violence, these funds may support any of the circumstances listed on page 7 of this report. “Other” is primarily comprised of local, private funding.
RESOURCES

DISTRIBUTION

Resources for homelessness service providers come from a variety of sources: grant funds received from the federal, state, and local governments; 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 here.

A list 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 persons experiencing homelessness.

HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS

- ADMINISTRATIVE
- HOMELESSNESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM
- HOMELESS PREVENTION
- EMERGENCY SHELTER
- RAPID REHOUSING
- TRANSITIONAL HOUSING
- SUPPORTIVE HOUSING
- FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS
- FOR VETERANS
- FOR YOUTH
- ACCESS POINT

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*ALL COUNTY POPULATION DATA SOURCED FROM IDAHODEMOGRAPHICS.COM/COUNTIES_BY_POPULATION.COM

**FIGURES REFLECT MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRED BY FEDERAL GRANTS AND STATE LOCAL AND PRIVATE FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS MAY HAVE GENERATED OR RECEIVED OTHER FUNDING TO SUPPORT HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES NOT INCLUDED HERE.

THE NUMBER OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IS REPORTED THRU HORIZON Conducted BY THE IDAHO HOUSING AND FINANCE ASSOCIATION AND INTERFAITH SANCTUARY. IHFA FUNDING IS THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE IDAHO HOUSING AND FINANCE ASSOCIATION. OTHER FUNDING IS THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE IDAHO HOUSING AND FINANCE ASSOCIATION. THE FIGURES LISTED. SOURCES REFLECT MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRED BY FEDERAL GRANTS.

IN THE REGION; HOWEVER THEY MAY NOT HAVE CONTRIBUTED DATA TO THE FIGURES LISTED. THE FIGURES LISTED. SOURCES REFLECT MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRED BY FEDERAL GRANTS.
DATA CONTRIBUTIONS

Accurately measuring the number of people experiencing homelessness is a challenging task because of the ever-changing nature of the population, programs, funding, and housing market. The complexity is underscored because there’s no clear definition or uniform method for counting the homeless.

To measure the data presented in this report, providers rely on a variety of sources to inform them about trends, demographics, and outcomes. The majority of the data in this report is generated by Idaho’s Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS, two separate systems in Idaho) and Community Management Information System (CMIS).

HMIS is an electronic database designed to gather the characteristic and service needs of those experiencing homelessness. This system allows providers to improve their understanding of homelessness and measure progress being made to end homelessness.

CMIS is a similar electronic database that was created for domestic violence providers. The CMIS allows for additional privacy, security, and practices that ensure survivors of domestic violence remain safe from abuse.

Although we encourage providers to participate in these electronic databases, some elect not to. This can cause some numbers to be duplicated when individual agency counts are added to those of HMIS or CMIS. Moreover, some providers choose not to provide any data about their clients. Thus, all figures within this report should be considered a minimum number of funding and count of populations experiencing homelessness.