STATE OF
HOMELESSNESS
IN IDAHO
2020
It’s important for local governments to be an active partner in providing housing stability because having a stable home is tied to so much more. Everything from education, early childhood development, mental health, economic mobility, and more are directly influenced by whether or not someone has stable housing.

MAYOR BLAD, CITY OF POCATELLO

Micron is committed to supporting our communities. Our grants, programs, and volunteers focus on promoting human potential through support of basic human needs, equitable opportunities and STEM education. Our support of housing through IHFA is at the heart of creating a stable environment for families to be able to live their best lives.

DEE MOONEY, MICRON FOUNDATION

We at Regence BlueShield of Idaho exist to safeguard and improve the health of our members, their communities and our entire state. Key to supporting the physical and emotional well-being of those around us is partnering with other like-minded individuals and organizations to broaden access to the fundamentals of food, education and shelter. In my experience, no one addresses the need for stable, affordable housing more compassionately and effectively than IHFA and its Home Partnership Foundation.

SEAN ROBBINS, REGENE BLUESHIELD OF IDAHO
Idaho continues to be one of the fastest growing states in the country. This growth has spurred tremendous economic development and a booming housing market. This environment has created great opportunity for some as well as great hardship for others. Affordable housing has become increasingly difficult to secure as rent rates continue to rise and rental vacancy rates reach virtually zero. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic triggered job loss and reduced wages, further adding to the housing instability of thousands of households throughout Idaho. Ultimately, homelessness is oftentimes the end result, and…

Homelessness stems from a variety of factors—unemployment, unforeseen life changes, substance use, medical emergencies, domestic violence, or mental health issues. Often, it strikes the people you least expect. This year, housing instability was particularly challenging due to the limiting wage opportunity and other financial barriers caused by the pandemic.

Nonprofits, community organizations, and response networks throughout Idaho continue to increase capacity, become more sophisticated, and collaborate in their efforts to provide housing and critical supportive services for the most disadvantaged among us. We must build upon the successes of projects like New Path Community Housing, Valor Pointe, the Housing Preservation Program, Canyon Terrace and other public-private partnerships. With housing affordability challenges increasing and with limited dedicated funding, we must become more invested in this work at the state and local levels through private and public contributions.

We hope that you are inspired by the tremendous success stories presented throughout this report. We also hope that the sheer number of those living without a home will move you to find ways to be actively engaged in the fight against homelessness in Idaho.

We are grateful to all funders and the many community organizations that offer their unceasing energy and dedication to serving our most vulnerable neighbors.

it does not happen by choice.
Point-In-Time Count

The Point-In-Time count is used to help determine the number of those experiencing homelessness in unsheltered environments. The count is done annually on a January night and can fluctuate from year to year based on several factors, including count locations, weather and the number of volunteers surveying. Point-In-Time is best used to look at trends of those unsheltered over time.

Extent of Homelessness

9,146
75%
25%
32%
8,100

**INCLUDES LITERALLY HOMELESS AND SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. THIS DATA IS REPORTED FROM HMIS AND CMIS (SEE APPENDIX).**

**INCLUDES LITERALLY HOMELESS, SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND PRECARIOUSLY HOUSED (SEE APPENDIX) K-12 STUDENTS AS REPORTED BY THE IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.**
Characteristics of Homelessness
## Characteristics of Homelessness

Homelessness interventions should be client-centered by offering programs that meet the needs of each person or family. To accomplish this, we must identify and understand the characteristics and circumstances of those experiencing homelessness. In doing so, we become more effective in our pursuit of making homelessness rare, brief and nonrecurring.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male*</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female*</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disabled*</td>
<td>36%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elderly*</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronically Homeless*</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survivors of Domestic Violence*</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans*</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes literally homeless and survivors of domestic violence. This data is reported from HMIS and CMIS (See Appendix). Five percent (5%) of individuals refused to report their gender.

In August, community partners celebrated the grand opening of Valor Pointe, a 27-unit housing development in Boise designed to assist veterans in the Treasure Valley experiencing chronic homelessness.
After graduating high school, Josh knew there was one thing that he wanted to do with his future. He found the nearest recruiter and joined the United States Air Force. He became an electrical power production engineer and served one tour in Afghanistan. After four years of service, he decided to go to college. He used his experience in the military to gain a degree in automotive vehicle and industrial technology and then got a promising job as a conductor for the railroad.

However, Josh eventually turned to alcohol as a way to cope with his PTSD. It took over his life and he eventually found himself on the streets of Pocatello. “I lost everything,” said Josh.

He spent three years experiencing homelessness before his alcohol addiction wound him up in jail. It was there, his life would turn around. The Bannock County Veteran’s Court referred him to Southeastern Idaho Community Action Agency’s (SEICAA) Freedom Landing Zone Homeless Veteran Shelter. Upon his release, he entered into SEICAA’s program. “They helped me with everything. They helped me get some clothes and get back on my feet. They helped me with job searching, disability, doctor’s appointments to treat my PTSD,” said Josh.

Josh was able to get a full-time job and even moved out of the veteran’s homeless shelter and into “SEICAA Manor,” a permanent supportive housing development. “I’m sober, clean, I still have my job,” said Josh. “I’m starting to really build a foundation for the future.”

Josh has now been sober for more than two years, carries two jobs, and has just recently secured his own permanent housing in a mobile home park. “I put all new carpet and flooring and fixed it up real nice and it’s ready to move in and that’s what I’m doing now.”

Josh plans to continue his employment and credits SEICAA for helping to get his life back to where he once was. “I appreciate everything that SEICAA has done because they’ve done a lot. If it wasn’t for them, I would be on the streets.”

The facility offers more than just a place to live. It provides its residents healthcare, mental health counseling, and substance abuse treatment. Additional building amenities include an open floor plan with a private balcony or patio, community lounge, classroom, computer lab, onsite laundry, fitness room and a therapeutic garden.

“Ensuring that we have housing options for all of our community members is a top priority for me and the city,” said Boise Mayor Lauren McLean. “I am committed to building on existing partnerships and supporting collaborative efforts to decrease the number of people experiencing homelessness.”

Funding for Valor Pointe came from public and private sources. Low-Income Housing Tax Credits allocated by Idaho Housing and Finance accounted for approximately 70% of the development’s cost. A public-private partnership between the City of Boise, Wells Fargo, US Bank and The Home Partnership Foundation helped secure funding for the remainder of the project.

Valor Pointe’s operating costs will be covered by tenant rent and the Boise City/Ada County Housing Authorities in the form of rental vouchers. Boise’s Veterans Affairs Medical Center will provide the services available to residents.
Effective Initiatives

We define success by how quickly we help people become permanently housed and build stable futures for themselves and their families. Homelessness prevention, eliminating barriers to housing, increasing housing availability, and addressing the most prevalent reasons for becoming homeless are important contributors to our success in helping households find stability and self-sufficiency.

48% WITH INCOME AT ENTRY TO HOMELESSNESS HOUSING PROGRAMS*

98% REMAINED HOUSED TWO YEARS LATER**

272 AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS SPENT HOMELESS OVER PAST FIVE YEARS*

POSITIVE EXITS FROM PERMANENT HOUSING

Positive exits from permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing projects with homelessness entry criteria reflect both the effectiveness of the system or individual project as well as housing availability and affordability within a market. Positive exit destinations may include housing paid for by the household, housing paid for with a subsidy, and entry into a care facility, among other circumstances.

2016 2017 2018 2019 2020
76% 84% 83% 78% 81%

PRIMARY REASONS FOR HOMELESSNESS

The top causes of homelessness are experiencing domestic violence or sexual abuse, an unexpected change or loss in income/job, being evicted or having a landlord dispute and having a housing affordability issue. Such information assists in identifying and implementing appropriate and effective homelessness prevention initiatives based on local needs. Each jurisdiction should assess the causes of homelessness that are most prevalent locally to prevent homelessness in their community.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR ABUSE 28%
OTHER 25%
DISABILITY 9%
FORCED OUT OF HOUSING 18%
LACK/LOSS OF INCOME 20%
*INCLUDES LITERALLY HOMELESS AND SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. THIS DATA IS REPORTED FROM HMIS AND CMIS (SEE APPENDIX).
**REPRESENTS HOUSEHOLDS EXITING HOMELESSNESS SERVICES INTO PERMANENT HOUSING THAT DID NOT RETURN TO HOMELESSNESS PROGRAMS WITHIN TWO YEARS. THIS FIGURE IS NOT DERIVED FROM SURVEYING HOUSEHOLDS TWO YEARS AFTER EXITING A PROGRAM, AND THEREFORE CANNOT ACCOUNT FOR SOME UNKNOWN CIRCUMSTANCES LIKE A HOUSEHOLD MOVING FROM THE AREA THAT MAY HAVE RECEIVED SERVICES ELSEWHERE.
***INCLUDES A VARIETY OF CIRCUMSTANCES. FOR EXAMPLE, DISCHARGE FROM INSTITUTION, DISABILITY, OR AN UNWILLINGNESS TO REPORT THE CAUSE, AMONG OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.
Partnerships Pay Off
Housing as a Platform

Housing is a basic and essential need; something that all people share. It strongly influences all aspects of a person’s well-being. The mantra “Housing is Healthcare” has become a common principle across healthcare and special needs housing sectors. As stakeholders invested in the well-being of their constituents (including local government, health systems and employers) have come to recognize this correlation between housing and health, many are in public-private partnerships to develop housing solutions.

Public-Private Partnerships

Housing opportunity is an essential need for all residents in a community. Idaho’s growth continues to push housing costs higher. This leaves lower-income households with housing options that are too expensive or do not meet their needs. In many cases, this leads to homelessness. This market pressure also reduces opportunities for individuals and families to rise out of homelessness by securing permanent housing. There must be affordable options and programs for all income levels that allow each household the ability to fulfill its housing needs.

Currently, much of Idaho’s housing programs and development is accomplished through the use of federal funding. However, these resources cannot keep up with demand. Public-private partnerships are the solution to tackling this issue, and several Idaho communities have laid a great foundation in forming such partnerships.

Public-private partnerships leverage a variety of contribution types, including federal, local and private. The inclusion of local partners brings impassioned leaders, generates innovation and involves financial and non-financial contributions. These benefits are clearly demonstrated in projects such as New Path Community Housing, Valor Pointe, Aid For Friends’ expanded shelter, Canyon Terrace, and St. Vincent DePaul of North Idaho’s EnVision Center.

Canyon Terrace

The Canyon Terrace Apartments project is a unique partnership that is slated to break ground this spring. The complex will include 80 apartments, made up of 1, 2, and 3 bedroom units. Of those, 15 units will be reserved for homeless families with children enrolled in the Nampa School District. The complex, along Garrity Boulevard, will also feature a clubhouse with a leasing office, community space, computer room, laundry, patio and playground.
Funding for the $17.6 million project came from a variety of public and private sources. Idaho Housing and Finance Association allocated nearly $6.1 million in Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, while also contributing $1.6 million in equity financing. The city of Nampa also contributed $150,000 in CDBG funds.

Leading the way on the private sector side is R4 Capital, who provided more than $5.3 million in tax credit equity, along with $12 million in construction to permanent debt financing from its subsidiary R4 Capital Funding. “R4 fundamentally believes that creating permanent housing for formerly homeless individuals is a crucial step in reintegrating those individuals into society and The Housing Company is a developer with a proven track record of creating that safe, clean housing,” said Cory Bannister, Senior Vice President at R4 Capital. “We are proud to partner with The Housing Company because of their work to serve the most vulnerable in the community.”

Trinity Health, the parent company of Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, also contributed $1 million in financing for the project.

Construction on the Canyon Terrace Apartments is expected to be complete in Spring 2022.
“Anymore, you can’t do much if you don’t have public–private partnerships. And this new Aid for Friends shelter is a great example of a public–private partnership that’s working. Government can’t do it all, but government can be a piece of the puzzle. Corporate entity can’t do it all, but they can be a piece of the puzzle as well. We all have to work together to make something like this happen. If we don’t, then it fails.”

MAYOR BLAD, CITY OF POCATELLO

Housing as Healthcare

The data and studies are definitive; housing instability fosters poor health and wellness, and as a result, increased healthcare costs. As sectors previously disconnected from each other, the healthcare and housing industries are beginning to recognize that investing in housing stability improves the lives of community members and produces cost savings to health systems. When housing instability becomes as catastrophic as becoming chronically homeless (see appendix), the stakes are much higher than good health and cost savings. Those who are chronically homeless face substantially higher morbidity rates or irreparable physical and mental health conditions. Creating housing opportunity for all is not just good for community, good for budgets, or good for one’s wellness, it literally saves lives.
Rental Program Promotes Stability During Pandemic

As the COVID-19 pandemic spread worldwide in 2020, the approach to utilizing housing as healthcare has been more important than ever. The loss of housing can cause increased depression, anxiety, substance abuse, domestic violence, psychological distress, and suicide. The economic impact of the pandemic caused many Idahoans to become unstably housed because of their inability to pay their housing expenses. Many more were faced with doubling up with friends or family while others lost housing and became homeless. Fortunately, the negative affects of housing instability were mitigated for many by the Housing Preservation Program (HPP). HPP was initially funded with $250,000 from Idaho Housing and Finance and later with an additional $15 million from Idaho’s Coronavirus Financial Advisory Committee.

Proven Cost Savings

In most cases, homelessness causes an inability to seek primary care on a regular basis, increases use of emergency services, and causes long-lasting adverse health that requires ongoing care. High utilizers of services treated by health systems often incur a large portion of overall care costs. Many of these high utilizers are people experiencing homelessness. Housing has been proven to reduce healthcare costs, even in Idaho.

Entering its third year of operation, New Path Community Housing continues to provide new opportunities for 40 people experiencing chronic homelessness. The facility in downtown Boise provides wrap-around services to help residents achieve recovery and stability.

The Idaho Policy Institute found that, among New Path residents, results show fewer interactions with the criminal justice system and emergency shelters, improved physical and mental health, a reduction in the use of emergency medical services and a significant decrease in overall care costs.

“Affordable housing is directly related to health outcomes. As a trusted health partner for life, we are committed to caring about patient needs, including the need for a safe, affordable home.”

JENNIFER PALAGI, VICE PRESIDENT COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELL-BEING AT SAINT ALHPONSUS
Idaho Housing’s Foundation

HOME PARTNERSHIP FOUNDATION
The Home Partnership Foundation is a nonprofit organization created by Idaho Housing and Finance to help communities meet their most pressing housing needs. For more than 15 years, the foundation has received charitable donations from employers, the private sector, developers, local governments, financial institutions and others to help sustain and grow affordable housing opportunities. Since its founding in 2005, the foundation has invested over $10 million to help address housing needs in Idaho. To learn more, visit idahousing.com/foundation.

AVENUES FOR HOPE 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 10 years, the campaign has raised nearly $7 million for housing nonprofits. To learn more, visit avenuesforhope.org.

Campaign to End Family Homelessness in Ada County
Our Path Home, the public-private partnership working to end homelessness in Ada County, is launching a campaign to end family homelessness in Ada County by 2025. The impacts of this campaign are far reaching and will benefit the state of Idaho for years to come.

The campaign’s goals are simple: Find Home. Empower Families. Invest Upstream.

We achieve these goals by housing the backlog of families currently sleeping in emergency shelter or on the street, keeping families housed who are struggling to pay rent month to month, and strengthening the capacity of Our Path Home to serve families faster and more effectively. By meeting these goals, Our Path Home will be able to invest in solutions that cost less and avoid the record numbers of homelessness seen recently in other Western cities and states.

"Until you get the housing piece figured out, it is difficult for all of the other services the state and county offer to families in crisis to have meaningful impact."
– Judge Andrew Ellis, Ada County Magistrate Judge

Children without a safe and stable home are more at risk for costly community and personal consequences like juvenile corrections involvement, school disruption, and long-term health issues. In the last year, COVID-19 has shown a specific light on the solution to homelessness: safe and stable housing. Housing is health. Using a collective impact approach, Our Path Home is committed to helping more families find a stable home using Housing First and trauma-informed approaches.

"This is about getting upstream from a growing problem and ensuring our children and families have the home they need to thrive. When we support our fellow Idaho residents, our entire community is better.”
– MAUREEN BREWER, OUR PATH HOME ADMINISTRATOR, CITY OF BOISE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>FAMILIES THAT WILL BE HOUSED DURING 5-YEAR CAMPAIGN</th>
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<tr>
<td>1,700</td>
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<table>
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<th>CAMPAIGN FUNDING TO END FAMILY HOMELESSNESS</th>
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<td>$9m</td>
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TOTAL FUNDING

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<td>$100,014</td>
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<td>$501,439</td>
<td>$724,305</td>
<td>$875,493</td>
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2021 STATE OF HOMELESSNESS IN IDAHO

PARTNERSHIPS PAY OFF
Resources
Idaho Housing and Finance Association

We are dedicated to improving the lives of our fellow Idahoans and the communities we all live in. We work to achieve this mission by expanding housing opportunities to everyone, especially those experiencing homelessness. As an expert in homelessness intervention, we are assisting the coordinated effort to address this issue through community partnerships, programs, and financing.

$8.85m
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING DOLLARS DISTRIBUTED OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS

$5.2m
RAPID RE-HOUSING DOLLARS DISTRIBUTED OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS

$3m
SHELTER DOLLARS DISTRIBUTED OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS

$2m
HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION DOLLARS DISTRIBUTED OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS

$210m
COVID RESPONSE FUNDING IN 2020-2021*

*This is an approximate figure that includes both funds already awarded and estimated future funds to be awarded. Not shown here are additional dollars distributed by IHFA over the past five years for administrative, planning, data collection, and reporting activities.
Resource Distribution

Resources for homelessness service providers come from a variety of sources: grant funds received from 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, which highlights 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 people experiencing homelessness.
Thank you to all of our valued partners for performing such commendable work and for their contributions to this report.

Advocates Against Family Violence
Aid for Friends
Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse
ARCH Community Housing Trust
Astegos
Bannock Youth Foundation
Behavioral Health Crisis Center of East Idaho
Bingham Crisis Center
Blue Mountain Action Council
Boise City/Ada County Housing Authorities
Boise Pacific NIHC Associates
Boise Rescue Mission
Boise VA Medical Center
Boise Valley Habitat for Humanity
Bonner Homeless Transitions
CATCH
Children’s Village
City of Boise
City of Caldwell
City of Coeur D’Alene
City of Idaho Falls
City of Lewiston
City of Meridian
City of Nampa
City of Pocatello
City of Twin Falls
CLUB Inc.
Community Resource Center of Teton Valley
Corpus Christi House
Crossroads Harbor
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center
Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership
El-ADA Community Action Partnerships
Emergency Housing Exchange
Faces of Hope
Family Crisis Center
Family Promise of Lewis Clark Valley
Family Promise of North Idaho
Family Promise of the Palouse
Family Services Alliance
First Step 4 Life Recovery Center
First Story
Gateway Habitat for Humanity
Good Samaritan Home
Goodwill Industries of the Inland Northwest
Habitat for Humanity Idaho Falls area
Habitat for Humanity North Idaho
Habitat for Humanity Magic Valley
Harmony Park
Home Partnership Foundation
Homeless Veterans Fellowship
Hope House, Inc.
Housing Alliance and Community Partnerships
Idaho Department of Corrections
Idaho Department of Education
Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
Idaho Falls Rescue Mission
Idaho Homelessness Coordinating Committee
Idaho Policy Institute
Idaho State Board of Education
Idaho Youth Ranch
Institute for Community Alliances
Interfaith Sanctuary
International Rescue Committee
Jannus, Inc.
Jesse Tree
Kalaidoscope Community Services
LEAP Charities
Lenhi County Crisis Center
Lenhi County Valley Youth Resource Center
Mercy Housing
Moscow Affordable Housing Trust
NeighborWorks Boise
NeighborWorks Pocatello
NWRECC
Oneida Crisis Center
Our Path Home
Post Falls Police
Priest River Ministries
Promise Ridge
Safe House
Safe Passage
Salvation Army Boise
Salvation Army Lewiston
Salvation Army Nampa
Shepherd’s Home
Sojourners’ Alliance
South Central Community Action Partnership
Southeastern Idaho Community Action Agency
St. Vincent de Paul North Idaho
St. Vincent de Paul of SW Idaho
Supportive Housing and Innovative Partnerships
Terry Reilly Health Services
The Advocates
The Community Builder
The House Next Door
Trinity New Hope
Twin Falls County Safe House
Twin Falls Optimist Youth House
Union Gospel Mission
Valley House
Voices Against Violence
Women’s and Children’s Alliance
YWCA of Lewiston and Clarkston
Appendix
Appendix

HOMELESSNESS DEFINITIONS

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

PRECARIOUSLY HOUSED:
A person or 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 “doubled-up.”

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

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

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

HOMELESSNESS INTERVENTIONS

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 to 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 in 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, fleeing domestic violence, or for youth.

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING:
Permanent supportive housing is housing that is safe, decent, affordable, and provides households with the 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 counseling, 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.

ADDITIONAL TERMS

HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (HMIS):
HMIS is an electronic data system designed to gather the characteristics and service needs of those experiencing homelessness. This system allows stakeholders to improve their understanding of homelessness and measure progress being made to end homelessness.

COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (CMIS):
CMIS is an electronic data system designed to gather the characteristics and service needs of those experiencing homelessness. CMIS is specifically designed for domestic violence providers and allows for additional privacy, security, and practices that ensure personal information of domestic violence survivors remains secure and unidentifiable.

COORDINATED ENTRY:
Coordinated entry is a community- and partnership-based system that assesses people experiencing homelessness to determine their level of vulnerability, length of time homeless, and severity of needs. It prioritizes households based on these factors and refers them to available resources.

HOUSING FIRST:
Housing First is an approach to quickly and successfully connect households experiencing homelessness to permanent housing. This is done without preconditions or barriers to entry. Supportive services are offered with the intent of preventing returns to homelessness and maximizing housing stability.

CONTINUUM OF CARE:
A Continuum of Care is a community-wide network that sets policy, strategies, and priorities for homelessness services and housing, as well as plans and coordinates funding for these activities.
Data Contributions

Accurately measuring the number of people experiencing homelessness is a challenging task due to the ever-changing nature of the population, programs, funding, and ever-changing housing market. The complexity of homelessness is underscored by the use of varying definitions and lack of complete participation in uniform data collection and reporting practices.

Providers, service networks and other key stakeholders rely on a variety of sources to inform them about trends, demographics, and outcomes. 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), as well as other non-HMIS and non-CMIS participating providers. All counts presented in this report reflect people who have participated in, or sought access to, a homelessness-related program during 2019.

HMIS is an electronic data system designed to gather the characteristics and service needs of those experiencing homelessness. This system allows stakeholders to improve their understanding of homelessness and measure the progress being made towards ending homelessness.

CMIS is a similar electronic data system available for use by domestic violence providers. The CMIS allows for additional privacy, security, and practices for data associated with survivors of domestic violence.

Although we encourage all homelessness providers to participate in these electronic databases, some elect not to. The lack of participation by some agencies results in under-reported counts of those who are homeless or unstably housed. Moreover, some individuals experiencing homelessness have not sought out or are not yet connected to services. Thus, the numbers presented in this report should be considered a minimum count of people experiencing homelessness.