

This Educational Tool Is the First
Comprehensive Look at Homelessness
in Idaho

Idaho Housing and Finance Association
Communications: Annual Reports

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Every year, every housing finance association in the country produces an annual report to tout its successes. Idaho Housing does, too. They're important voices for HFAs as we spread our message to stakeholders. But, beyond a narrow audience, annual reports rarely have an impact in the communities we serve.

For the past three years, Idaho Housing has produced a different kind of annual report – one that *does* make a difference in Idaho communities.

Our annual “State of Homelessness in Idaho” report is the first and only comprehensive analysis of the issue in Idaho. The report and associated outreach give state legislators, civic leaders, local government officials, and the public a credible tool to help inform their policy decisions.

This resource helps explain the complex, troubling problem of homelessness. It helps show what is working – and what is not – in our state’s coordinated response to homelessness. In short, it’s the basis for an important community conversation that we hope will ultimately lead to the elimination of homelessness in the state.

Not just an annual report – an important educational tool

The purpose of Idaho Housing’s annual homelessness report is to educate Idahoans about the extent of homelessness in the state and the hard work being done to help vulnerable populations. The “2018 State of Homelessness in Idaho” contains data that defines the state’s homeless population, identifies trends, analyzes patterns, and measures the state’s progress toward alleviating homelessness. The report also:

- Summarizes Idaho’s current homeless situation.
- Familiarizes readers with the system and the funding dedicated to helping restore the lives of individuals, families and children in need.
- Educates readers about housing programs and homelessness services currently employed to combat homelessness.
- Helps readers gain a greater understanding of Idaho Housing’s leadership role in the reduction and prevention of homelessness in the state.
- Shines a light on the personal stories of those who have overcome homelessness, putting a human face on the issue.

The report, though, is just one piece of the puzzle. We know that those experiencing homelessness also need a place to turn for trustworthy help. In conjunction with the release of this year’s report, Idaho Housing created a resource card and a companion website that are targeted at those experiencing homelessness.

The resource card and website include information about what services are available, including the location of emergency shelters and where someone can go for a warm meal, a shower, laundry, and other services. They also show the closest Access Point, where someone experiencing homelessness can go to be matched to services that best fit his or her needs.

Idaho Housing found the resource cards were beneficial for those experiencing homelessness, as well as those in frequent contact with people experiencing homelessness (e.g. libraries, government offices, law enforcement, and nonprofit service providers).

Our partners use the cards as a playbook when people reach out for help. For instance, a shelter provider with a full facility or services not intended for a person's circumstances uses the resource card to educate the person about other local services that may be available. The resource cards have become such a vital resource to our partnering nonprofits that many are calling and asking for more.

Spreading the word

More than 1,000 copies of the report were distributed to lawmakers, corporate partners, service providers, media, and other groups that benefit from a greater understanding of homelessness in Idaho.

Our partners who work most closely with vulnerable populations recognize the depth and breadth of homelessness in our state. However, most of our partners are not aware of the wide array of services and programs available to help those experiencing homelessness.

Hundreds of copies of the report were given to our nonprofit partners and redistributed to help educate any Idahoan who may come through their doors. A virtual version is posted on the Idaho Housing website and available to anyone. Content from the report is leveraged by sharing sections and stories on Idaho Housing's social media platforms.

Idaho Housing released the "2018 State of Homelessness in Idaho" at an annual event for our foundation. The event allowed us to meet face-to-face with many of our stakeholders, including, nonprofits, elected officials, and media. Our vice president of Housing Support Programs, Brady Ellis, gave a presentation that highlighted the report's key takeaways. The presentation was live-streamed by a local television station, allowing us to reach a broad audience. Other media outlets published stories on their websites and in their nightly newscasts. The event provided a platform to pull back the curtain on the homelessness issue in our state and educate broader audience.

Big Picture

Idaho Housing can't put together this report without the partnership and collaboration between nonprofits, government entities, and community organizations in Idaho. The awareness and collaboration that started with the homelessness report has grown into public and private partnerships.

Earlier this year, the city of Pocatello and other partners kicked off a fundraising drive to create a new and much-needed emergency shelter. The new facility will help house twice as many people while supplying them with the resources they need to get back on their feet.

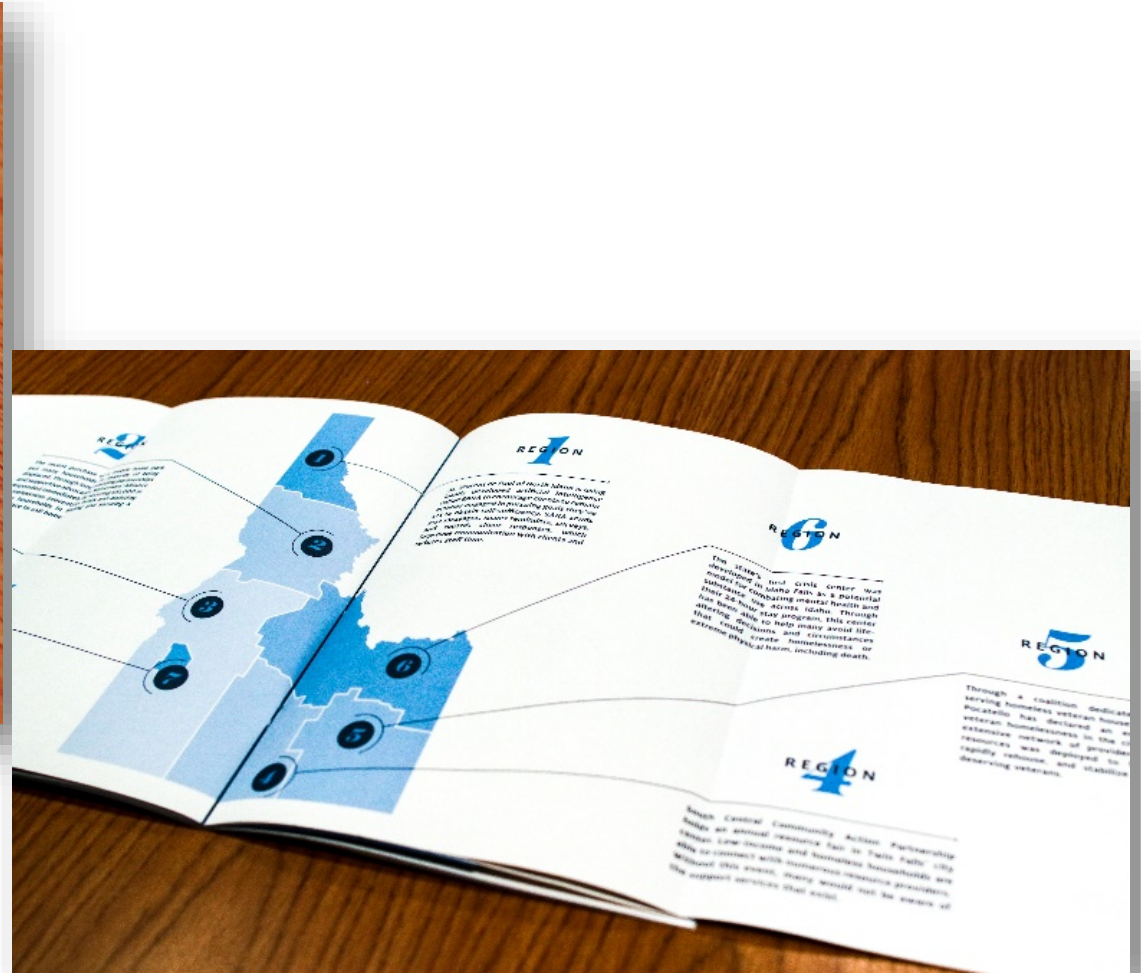
The “State of Homelessness in Idaho” report also found that about 13% of those experiencing homelessness in our state are veterans. In 2018, Idaho Housing partnered with the city of Boise, Boise City/Ada County Housing Authorities, the Veteran’s Administration, and others to build a permanent supportive housing project dedicated to those who served our country. Once complete, Valor Pointe will house 26 veterans experiencing homelessness.

The partnerships formed through this annual report are invaluable. Our state government does not dedicate resources toward homelessness and few local resources are available, so we heavily rely on leveraging federal and private funds. The “State of Homelessness in Idaho” will continue to shine a light on the need for dedicating local resources to the cause.

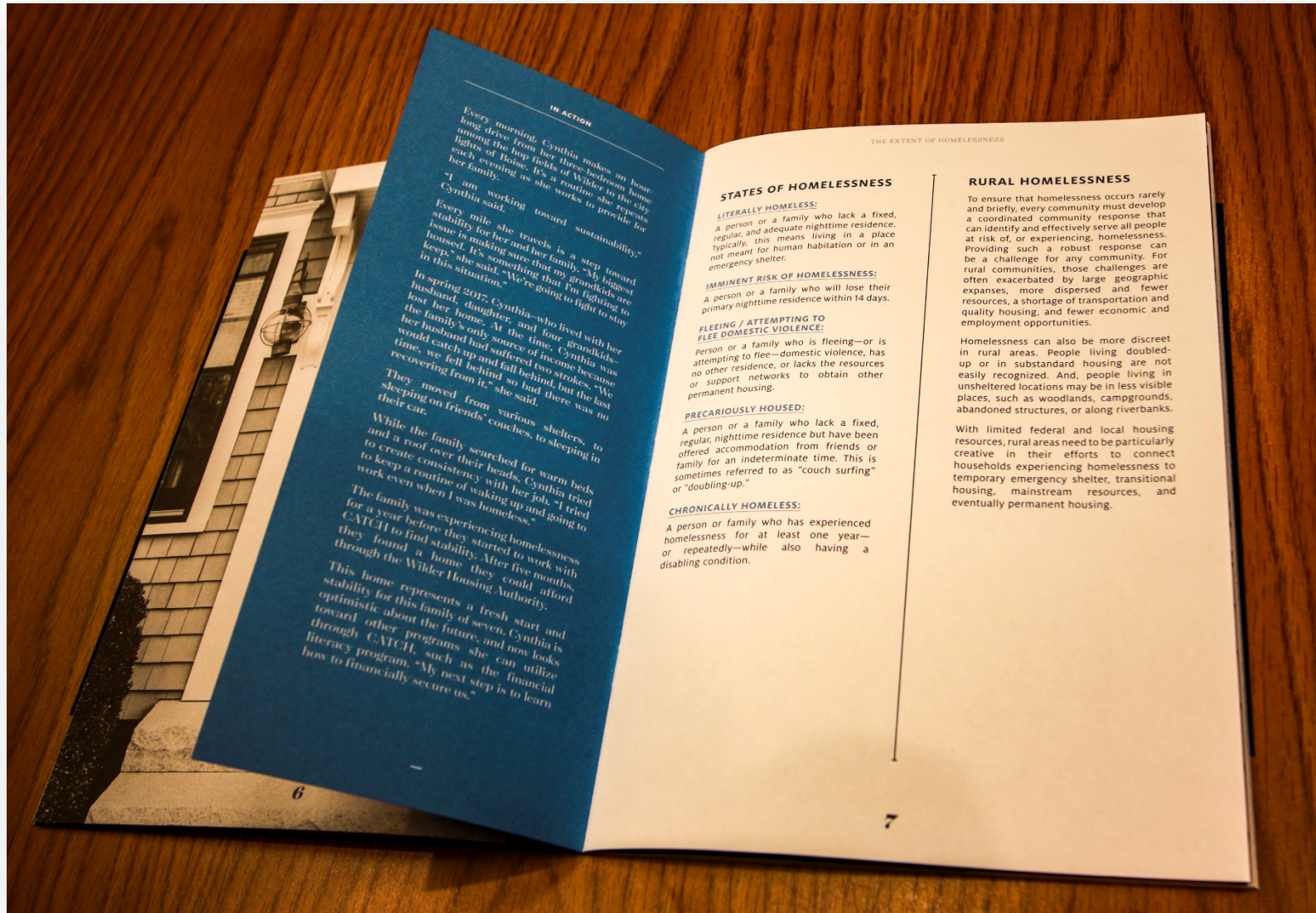
While the report may not answer every question about homelessness in Idaho, we believe it’s a good start and one that has already fostered strong partnerships and meaningful successes. The annual report will continue to spread awareness and education about homelessness and what is being done to combat it. We are proud of this publication and how it’s changed the stigma surrounding homelessness and helps make Idaho a place where safe and stable housing is an option for all.

IHFA: 2018 State of Idaho's Homeless

Full State of Homelessness Report: https://issuu.com/idahohousing/docs/idaho_homelessness_community_report_bd5423e3722c93



IHFA: 2018 State of Idaho's Homeless



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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.



NEW PATH

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.

EDGAR
NEW PATH COMMUNITY HOUSING
RESIDENT



Edgar received the greatest gift a person could get: a place to call his own. >

more than \$800,000, including \$300,000 from the City of Boise. 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.



IHFA: 2018 State of Idaho's Homeless

RESOURCE 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.



WITH THE WIDESPREAD AND ONGOING ISSUE OF HOMELESSNESS IN IDAHO AND THE CHALLENGES THAT CREATES IN COLLECTING INFORMATION FROM EACH PARTITION, SOME DATA POINTS FROM THE NUMBERS REPORTED HEREIN AS A PARTNER FULLY DISCLOSED AND TO BESSY BE ACTIVE IN COMPENSATING FOR MISSING DATA. SOME DATA POINTS FROM THE NUMBERS REPORTED HEREIN AS A PARTNER FULLY DISCLOSED AND TO BESSY BE ACTIVE IN COMPENSATING FOR MISSING DATA. SOME DATA POINTS FROM THE NUMBERS REPORTED HEREIN AS A PARTNER FULLY DISCLOSED AND TO BESSY BE ACTIVE IN COMPENSATING FOR MISSING DATA.

REGION	POPULATION	HOMELESS	FEDERAL FUNDING	IHFA FUNDING	OTHER FUNDING
1	224,848	827	\$836,229	\$132,863	\$792,973
2	77,343	309	\$505,386	\$223,780	\$438,171
3	315,346	537	\$459,670	\$96,249	\$1,255,335
4	192,082	639	\$1,382,354	\$78,953	\$2,378,261
5	167,357	732	\$1,643,377	\$903,049	\$1,902,774
6	215,284	651	\$1,003,770	\$105,587	\$926,762
7	435,117	2,959	\$4,464,756	\$576,996	\$1,941,669

IHFA: 2018 State of Idaho's Homeless

2018 STATE OF HOMELESSNESS IN IDAHO

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.

THE EXTENT OF HOMELESSNESS



*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 REDUPLICATION 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.

**THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (SAMHSA) REPORTS THAT 6% OF THE U.S. POPULATION HAD A SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER IN 2017.

IHFA: 2018 State of Idaho's Homeless



Media Coverage:

<https://www.facebook.com/CBS2Boise/videos/vb.117923841552664/305882830284927/?type=2&theater>

<https://www.ktvb.com/article/news/local/new-data-shows-homelessness-on-the-rise-across-idaho/277-dec7dfbb-9bf1-416f-84ee-625f0e0808d2>