



**NATIONAL SURVEY  
OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES  
FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES**

[www.icprwb.org](http://www.icprwb.org)

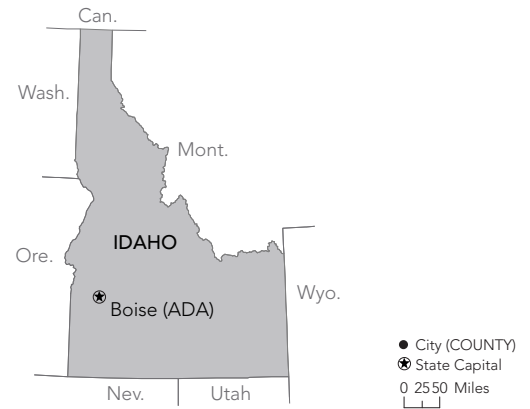
from the INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN, POVERTY, AND HOMELESSNESS

Idaho had an estimated 280 homeless families on a single night in 2009, with providers serving nearly three times their bed capacity over the course of the year.<sup>1</sup> This brief summarizes some of the state's public and private initiatives to assist these families.

**State Taskforce on Homelessness**

**Taskforce:** The Idaho Homelessness Policy Council (established by executive order in July 2005) develops short- and long-term strategies to alleviate homelessness in Idaho.

**Governor's Appointee:** Gerald M. Hunter, President and Executive Director of the Idaho Housing and Finance Association, has chaired the Idaho Homelessness Policy Council since its inception in 2005.



**Demographic Summary and Overview of Regional Organization**

	Idaho	Ada County
Persons in homeless families <sup>2</sup>	822	200
Number of family shelter beds <sup>3</sup>	1,044	359
Persons in homeless families (per 10,000 population in families) <sup>4</sup>	14	13
Percent of families in poverty <sup>5</sup>	13.44%	7.90%
10-Year plan date approved or implemented	2005	2007
10-Year plan target population	Chronic	Chronic
Point-in-time count frequency	Annually*	Annually
Point-in-time count managing agency	Idaho Housing and Finance Association*	Idaho Housing and Finance Association
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) managing agency	Idaho Housing and Finance Association*	Idaho Housing and Finance Association
Main organizing agency or Continuum of Care (CoC) lead applicant	Idaho Housing and Finance Association*	Community Action Partnership Association of Idaho

\*Corresponds to the Balance of State Continuum of Care, which comprises areas of Idaho that are not included in a regional or local CoC.

**Investing in Community Partnerships to Alleviate Homelessness**

In 2005, Idaho Housing and Finance Association, a non-profit organization, created the Home Partnership Foundation, Idaho's only charitable housing institution. This independent organization gathers tax-deductible donations from government agencies, local businesses, and private citizens to combat housing instability through a variety of programs that promote self-sufficiency. The foundation's Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Program offers financial support to local service providers and homelessness prevention efforts. As part of the program, the foundation provides up to a 75% match (\$426,000 this year) on donations made to secure federal grants for transitional and permanent housing projects across Idaho. The Homelessness Prevention Program offers financial counseling and one-time monetary support to families and individuals in crisis, while the Self Sufficiency and Asset Building Program offers qualified families and individuals with a match for savings of up to \$2,000 toward a home down

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The National Survey of Programs and Services for Homeless Families is an online resource for service providers, advocates, researchers, and public policy makers working in the field of family homelessness. The Web site provides a state-by-state snapshot of the interconnections between governmental and nonprofit work to end family homelessness. For additional information on Idaho and other states, visit [www.icprwb.org](http://www.icprwb.org)

payment. In the 2010 fiscal year, the foundation received \$959,713 in donations and awarded \$1,354,524 in grants to facilities and programs across the state.<sup>6</sup>

### Homeless Families in Idaho

On a single night in January 2010, there were 1,001 persons in homeless families in Idaho, representing a 45.1% increase since 2008. Nampa had the highest number of homeless persons in families (268) in 2007, which briefly declined by over half (51.9%) in 2008 only to increase by 57.3% in 2010. Coeur d'Alene (the northern most region of the state) has seen family homelessness increase by 109.1% since 2008 and had the most persons in homeless families (274) in the state in 2010. Boise has witnessed a 28.0% increase in the number of persons in homeless families since 2007 and had the second highest number of persons in homeless families (242) in 2010.<sup>7</sup>

### Charitable Assistance to Homeless Families in Boise

In 2006, the City of Boise implemented the Charitable Assistance to Community's Homeless (CATCH) program—a community collaborative of local businesses, congregations of faith, the United Way of Treasure Valley, and the city—to aid to homeless families. Through CATCH, businesses and congregations sponsor families by providing 100% of affordable market rental assistance for up to six months (ranging from \$500 to \$800 per month). The United Way and the city finance administrative costs and case management targeting individualized needs to foster future economic stability. Since 2006, CATCH has served 110 families with 214 children and at least 85% of families have been able to pay for their rent six months after program entry. CATCH received the National League of Cities' Silver Award for Municipal Excellence in 2008 and was replicated in Canyon County in 2009. Although the recent economic downturn has challenged local sponsors, the program continues to serve up to 20 families at any given time.<sup>8</sup>

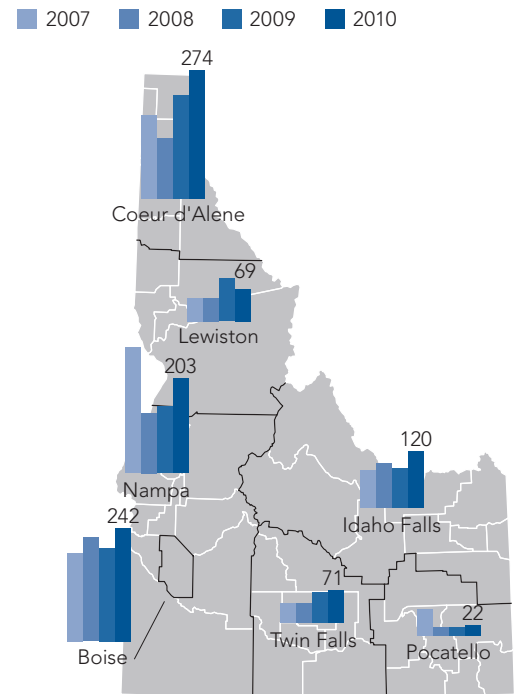
### Checking In: Housing for Boise's Homeless Families

When shelters operate at capacity, the City of Boise administers and finances emergency hotel vouchers for homeless families. Interfaith Sanctuary, a local non-profit service provider, coordinates with facilities to assess the availability of shelter beds throughout Boise. Families receive a voucher at the nearest shelter for use at one of three local hotels for up to five nights, or longer if shelters remain full. During their stay, families work with case managers to secure more permanent housing options. Established in 2006, the program originally allocated \$10,000 for hotel vouchers to provide short-term housing for 53 families. After a new family shelter opened in 2008 to increase the city's capacity, the need for hotel vouchers has declined in recent years. In 2010, Boise allocated \$5,000 for hotel vouchers that have been utilized by 27 families to date.<sup>9</sup>

### A Creative Outlet for Homeless Children and Youth

Society of St. Vincent de Paul North Idaho, a multi-service facility that assists homeless, poor, and elderly persons in North Idaho, launched Art on the Edge (AOE) in 1994 to provide a creative, safe environment for homeless and at-risk children and youth. The program engages children and youth, ages 6 to 18, in free after-school classes, summer programs, workshops, and festivals. Currently, AOE offers classes for children living in transitional housing and St. Vincent de Paul's women's shelter. AOE also hosts a family art class for children and parents residing in transitional housing that aims at strengthening family dynamics through creative projects. Since its inception, the program has grown to include all community youth and served over 4,000 children.<sup>10</sup>

### Number of Persons in Homeless Families (by region and year)



Source: Idaho Housing and Finance Association, *State of Idaho January Point-in-Time Count Reports 2007–10*.

### Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *HUD's 2009 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *AHAR Exchange Public Reports: 2009 Comprehensive Report of Sheltered Homeless Persons*.
- <sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *2009 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*.
- <sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *HUD's 2009 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Housing Inventory Chart Report*.
- <sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *2009 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*; U.S. Census Bureau, *2006–2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates*.
- <sup>5</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, *2006–2008 American Community Survey*.
- <sup>6</sup> Home Partnership Foundation, *Building Stronger Communities*; Idaho Housing and Finance Association, *2010 Community Report*.
- <sup>7</sup> Idaho Housing and Finance Association, *State of Idaho January Point-in-Time Count Reports 2007–10*.
- <sup>8</sup> Greg Morris (CATCH Program Manager & ADA/Fair Housing Coordinator, City of Boise), interview with ICPH, November 2010; City of Boise, "Community Assistance To Community's Homeless," <http://www.cityofboise.org/CATCH/index.aspx>
- <sup>9</sup> Greg Morris (CATCH Program Manager & ADA/Fair Housing Coordinator, City of Boise), interview with ICPH, November 2010.
- <sup>10</sup> Jeni Wing (Director, Art on the Edge), interview with ICPH, November 2010; Art on the Edge, <http://www.artontheedge.org>