



Member of  
**FEEDING  
AMERICA**

# Children's Programs

PROGRAMS OF THE IDAHO FOODBANK

IMPACT REPORTS

NOVEMBER 2023

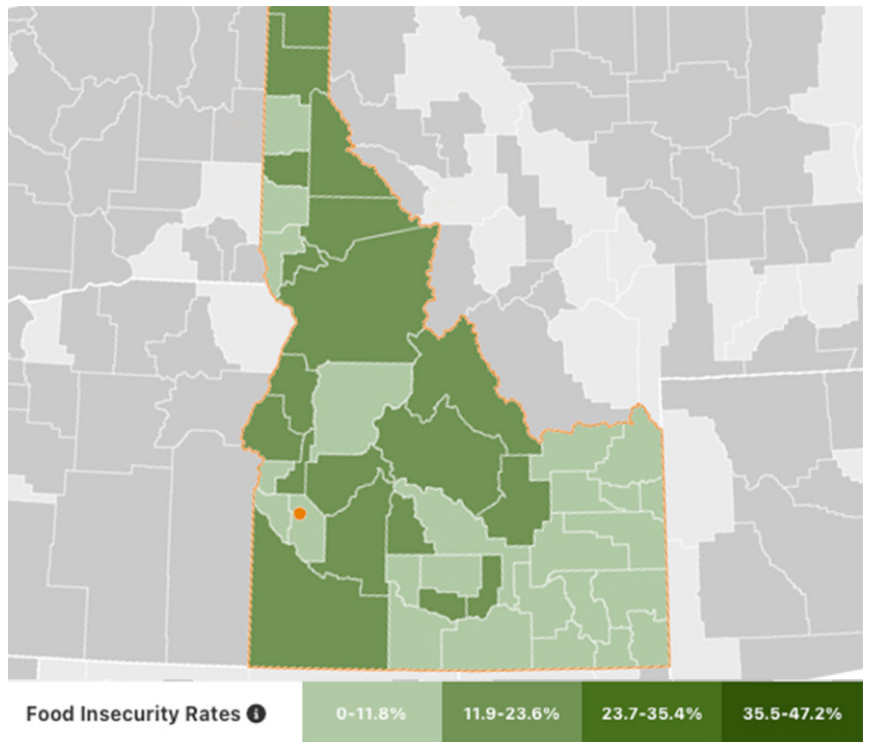


## Childhood Food Insecurity:

Idaho is home to more than 40,000 kids with food insecurity – the lack of access at times to enough food to support a healthy and active lifestyle. Knowing that more than 8% of children in Idaho may not get enough to eat is a problem by itself, but its implications extend well beyond hunger pangs.

## Our Impact:

We can help our children to grow and learn through supporting their nutritional needs and providing families with access to additional resources to live healthy lives and thrive.



CHILD (<18 YEARS)  
FOOD INSECURITY  
RATE IN IDAHO



### ESTIMATED PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AMONG FOOD INSECURE CHILDREN IN IDAHO



**18%** Likely ineligible for federal nutrition programs  
(incomes above 185% of poverty)

**82%** Income eligible for federal nutrition programs  
(incomes at or below 185% of poverty)

FOOD INSECURE  
POPULATION (CHILD)  
IN IDAHO

**40,410**



BACKPACKS  
DISTRIBUTED THROUGH  
BACKPACK PROGRAM

**63,903**



HOUSEHOLDS  
SERVED THROUGH  
SCHOOL PANTRY

**12,414**



## BACKPACK PROGRAM



The Backpack Program is a collaboration with public schools to provide bags full of food that fit in a child's backpack so that kids who are hungry have food during the weekend when school meals are not available. The program delivers discreet, lightweight bags that contain two breakfasts, two lunches, two dinners, and two snacks – enough food to nourish the kids over the weekend.

The Foodbank's registered dietitian prepares the menu to ensure the highest levels of nutrition possible for each meal and balancing the size and weight of the pack. Backpack foods must be shelf-stable, "kid-friendly," and easy for a child to prepare when there is not an adult around. To ensure these requirements are met, we purchase all the food distributed through this program.

Students in need are extremely concerned about getting their backpack food. It carries them through the weekend. They get so excited when they pick them up.

– School Survey

### BACKPACK NUMBERS: Solving Childhood Hunger

63,903 ..... Backpacks distributed statewide  
2,172 ..... children served statewide  
167 ..... schools/58 school districts

#### BACKPACK PROGRAM SUPPORTED BY:

- The Albertsons Co. Foundation
- Bayer Fund
- The Bews Foundation
- Idaho Central Credit Union
- The Julius C. Jeker Foundation Inc
- Lary H. Miller Dealerships
- Optum Idaho
- Red Nose Day
- Sensata Technologies Foundation

## SCHOOL PANTRY



Early in the Backpack Program, The Foodbank staff recognized that more than 80% of participating students were sharing their weekend food with siblings and parents. Rather than adding more food to the Backpacks, program specialists decided that a better solution would be to provide families with food through a pantry set up inside the school where access would be convenient for students and family alike.

In 2010, The Idaho Foodbank

expanded this practice by starting the School Pantry Program. The program operates food pantries located inside public schools that offer students and their families easy access to food for their household. Having a pantry located within a school allows families to access food in a familiar environment without stigma. All told, the program improves health and well-being, particularly among children, by reducing barriers to food.

### SCHOOL PANTRY NUMBERS: Solving Childhood Hunger

12,414 ..... total households served  
425,381 ..... lbs of food for 354,484 meals for those in need  
37 ..... schools/15 school districts

#### SCHOOL PANTRY PROGRAM SUPPORTED BY:

- The Albertsons Co. Foundation
- The Bews Foundation
- Idaho Central Credit Union
- Lary H. Miller Dealerships
- Optum Idaho
- Red Nose Day
- United Way of Treasure Valley



#### About The Idaho Foodbank

The Idaho Foodbank is an independent, donor-supported, nonprofit organization. It is the largest statewide distributor of free food assistance in Idaho. The Idaho Foodbank was established in 1984 and since that time has distributed millions of pounds of nutritious food through its facilities in Lewiston, Meridian and Pocatello. In the last fiscal year, The Foodbank provided food for 23.8 million meals to Idahoans living with food insecurity. The Foodbank distributes food through a network of more than 440 partners including schools, food pantries, senior centers, feeding sites, shelters, mobile pantries and churches. Recognizing the crucial connection between hunger and health, The Idaho Foodbank focuses on providing nutritious food and collaborates with community organizations to promote nutrition education, wellness resources and healthy living. Visit [idahofoodbank.org](http://idahofoodbank.org) for more information. You can also find us on your favorite social media platform.

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The only Idaho nonprofit to receive a four-star rating for 14 consecutive years.