

OUR CASE FOR SUPPORT

The Idaho Foodbank aims to support the children, adults, and seniors of Idaho by providing access to vital nutrition along with resources to move from a place of hunger toward living healthy and productive lives.



**The
Idaho
Foodbank**



The Idaho Foodbank is the largest source of food assistance in Idaho. During the fiscal year ending April 30, 2024, we distributed more than 26.2 million pounds of food across Idaho – enough food for 21.8 million meals. We distributed nearly all this food through a statewide network of over 400 Food Distribution Partners including schools, local food pantries, senior centers, shelters, churches, and Mobile Pantry Partners. By collaborating with this network, we utilize our infrastructure to efficiently source, store, and distribute large amounts of food while our local partners tailor their services to meet local hunger needs in communities across Idaho.





How We Work - Terminology

Neighbors: We strive to talk about the people we serve with dignity. For this reason, we often refer to them as “neighbors” as it conveys respect by emphasizing the fact that people who need food assistance are first and foremost just that—people.

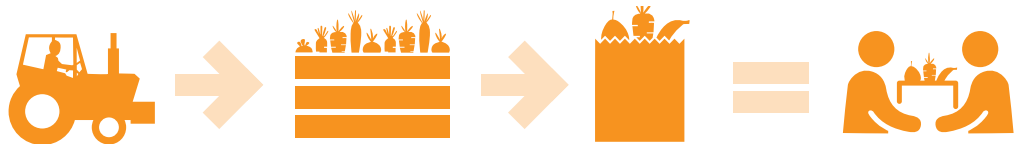
Oftentimes, people use the term “food bank” interchangeably with a food pantry, a soup kitchen, or other nonprofits that distribute food assistance. These are our Food Distribution Partners. The differences between a food bank and its Food Distribution Partners are many:

- **Food Bank:** A central clearinghouse to receive, store, and distribute food to hunger relief Food Distribution Partners.
- **Food Distribution Partners:** Local food pantries, homeless shelters, senior centers, and churches that distribute food to people experiencing food insecurity.

Food insecurity: Food insecurity is an official term from the USDA. Food insecurity is when people can’t access the food they need to live their fullest lives. It’s when people don’t have enough to eat and don’t know where their next meal will come from.

Feeding America: The nation’s largest hunger relief organization, Feeding America, is a Chicago-based network of more than 200 food banks from across the United States that provides a national infrastructure for hunger-relief best practices, advocacy, and fundraising. The Idaho Foodbank is a member of Feeding America.

How We Work – The Flow of Food:



We partner with growers, manufacturers, retailers, and producers to secure nutritious food, including fresh fruits and vegetables.

The Foodbank receives food and produce in large and small quantities, including by the truckload.

Volunteers help us repack food, including fruits and vegetables, into smaller family-sized packages.

Food assistance reaches families and individuals through our programs and partner network.

1. SUPPORTERS DONATE FOOD: The Idaho Foodbank receives food from grocery stores, agricultural producers, and distributors.

2. WE PURCHASE FOOD: To make sure we have enough volume and variety of food, we supplement food donations with large-scale purchases.

3. WE RECEIVE AND STORE THE FOOD: Our three warehouses maintain top safety ratings to ensure the safe receipt and storage of all food.

4. WE PREPARE FOOD FOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION PARTNERS: Acting as a clearinghouse for our Food Distribution Partners, we inspect and sort food donations we receive with the help of volunteers to ensure the safe and equitable distribution of food throughout the state.

5. FOOD DISTRIBUTION PARTNERS DISTRIBUTE FOOD TO NEIGHBORS WHO NEED IT: Food assistance gets to families and individuals through our network of Food Distribution Partners (food pantries, schools, churches, senior centers) and through our own programs (including Mobile Pantry, School Pantry Program, Backpack Program).

Organizational Information

MISSION

The Idaho Foodbank's mission is to help feed, educate, and advocate for Idaho's hungry through collaborative partnerships to develop efficient solutions that strengthen individuals, families, and communities.

VISION

A hunger-free Idaho.

CORE VALUES

- **Integrity** – We take responsibility for our words, are accountable for our actions, and demonstrate honesty.
- **Dignity** – We treat our clients, partners, volunteers, donors, and coworkers with respect, empathy, and compassion without bias or judgment. We welcome and value the differences in all people.
- **Agility** – We promote an organizational culture that encourages new ideas, improvements, flexibility, and innovations and turns challenges into opportunities.
- **Collaboration** – We promote partnerships that engage individuals and organizations focused on the common goal of a hunger-free Idaho.

The Idaho Foodbank Creed

We strive to be valued by the citizens of Idaho for our relentless, collaborative efforts to end food insecurity and hunger in our state. We leverage the efficiencies of a statewide partner network, while maintaining a focus on local community solutions. Our fact-based commitment is to serve the state, its communities, families and individuals, and to achieve and preserve nutritional health for all Idahoans. Our service model must always demonstrate the best available practices, as well as the highest level of compassion, dignity, and respect for our stakeholders and for each other.

History

Idaho had no centralized clearinghouse to distribute surplus food to people who needed it until October 1984. That is when Idaho Governor John Evans donated the space and cut the ribbon for The Idaho Foodbank Surplus Warehouse in Boise. It was just the beginning of helping neighbors in need. A warehouse opened in Lewiston in 1989 as volunteers began distributing food to Idahoans in need in the North Central region of the state.

Over the next decade, the need for hunger relief in Eastern Idaho led to the establishment of a branch in Pocatello. That warehouse opened in 1998, completing a strategy to efficiently reach partners and people in three distinct regions of the state.

The Idaho Foodbank continued to serve more people, distribute more food, and engage more community members every year. In 2009, The Great Recession led record numbers of people to seek food assistance. Fortunately, our fundraising also increased, and the generosity of Idahoans allowed us to get food assistance to neighbors who were struggling.



A Fresh Approach

While the economy recovered and unemployment fell in 2010, there were still thousands of Idaho families who struggled to put food on the table – often while individuals worked multiple jobs. Even though unemployment rates were falling, we were still seeing high rates of food insecurity. To build the infrastructure needed to end hunger in Idaho, we launched the A Fresh Approach capital campaign in 2014.

This multi-year campaign to meet the fluctuating need for food assistance was an intentional goal to grow to help Idahoans today and in the future. By 2016, A Fresh Approach financed our new and larger warehouse in Lewiston and upgraded our Pocatello warehouse with a new cooler and volunteer activity space. In 2020, the campaign allowed us to purchase and renovate a larger and more efficient warehouse in Meridian, which acts as the primary receiving and distribution facility for the state.

Our “fresh approach” to capacity expansion reflected the generosity of Idahoans. It was created as part of The Idaho Foodbank’s long-term plan to ensure that we can accept generous, large-scale donations that allow us to serve anyone with a need, regardless of where they live in our great state.



The COVID-19 Pandemic

The Idaho Foodbank’s facilities in Meridian, Lewiston, and Pocatello remained fully operational throughout the COVID-19 crisis. With the majority of our statewide network of the then 465+ Food Distribution Partners – schools, food pantries, senior centers, feeding sites, shelters, mobile pantries, and churches – experiencing sharp increases in the need for food assistance, we based our response on four goals:

1. Increased our distribution of food assistance by 30%.
2. Kept our Food Distribution Partners and School Pantries stocked and open.
3. Adapted our direct service programs to meet social distancing guidelines.
4. Adapted our volunteer program to meet social distancing guidelines.

We successfully achieved each of these goals – providing more food to the citizens of Idaho than ever before in a safe and efficient manner. The pandemic showed us that in challenging times, Idahoans do all they can to support one another and persevere toward a better tomorrow.

A Hunger-Free Future

With upgraded facilities, broad community support, and confidence from the community, the 2023-2025 strategic plan focuses on providing nutrition that is needed today; education to move people toward a healthier tomorrow; and a new emphasis on ending hunger for the future.

We at The Idaho Foodbank recognize that consistent access to nutritious foods is vital to well-being and that different communities across our state experience different challenges in achieving this. People facing hunger are making difficult choices on how

to make ends meet – paying for rent, getting the medicine they need, putting gas in the car – and having the food they need. These intertwined factors that impact an individual’s ability to become food secure are known as the Social Determinants of Health. These are the conditions in the environment in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, as well as quality-of-life outcomes and risks. The Social Determinants of Health can be grouped into five domains: economic stability, education access and quality, health care access and quality, neighborhood and built environment, and social and community context.

The Idaho Foodbank has developed an Ending Hunger framework that incorporates the Social Determinants of Health to address root causes of food insecurity and to support an environment where all Idahoans can thrive. The Idaho Foodbank’s current Ending Hunger Framework is composed of the following pillars: Nourishment, Health, and Education. We also know that factors outside of these pillars exist and impact Idahoans’ ability to achieve food security, therefore, we will continue to explore other social determinants that lead to a more food secure state.

To address these factors and the impact they have on our neighbors across the state, we are committed to collaborating with subject matter experts in each realm to improve conditions for those that we serve. We are committed to listening to and working with community members to develop and test impactful solutions.

Who We Serve

Food insecurity is common across the globe, and Idaho is no exception. Feeding America’s 2024 Map the Meal Gap report estimates that 220,990 Idahoans are facing food insecurity. This figure represents 11.4% of the state’s population and includes 67,590 children.

In addition, Feeding America’s 2024 State of Senior Hunger report found that 7.3% of seniors in Idaho are facing food insecurity.

A variety of factors impact the food security of individuals and families. Food insecurity often arises when there are other economic and financial pressures on a household. Housing and food costs are a few of these pressures facing Idahoans.

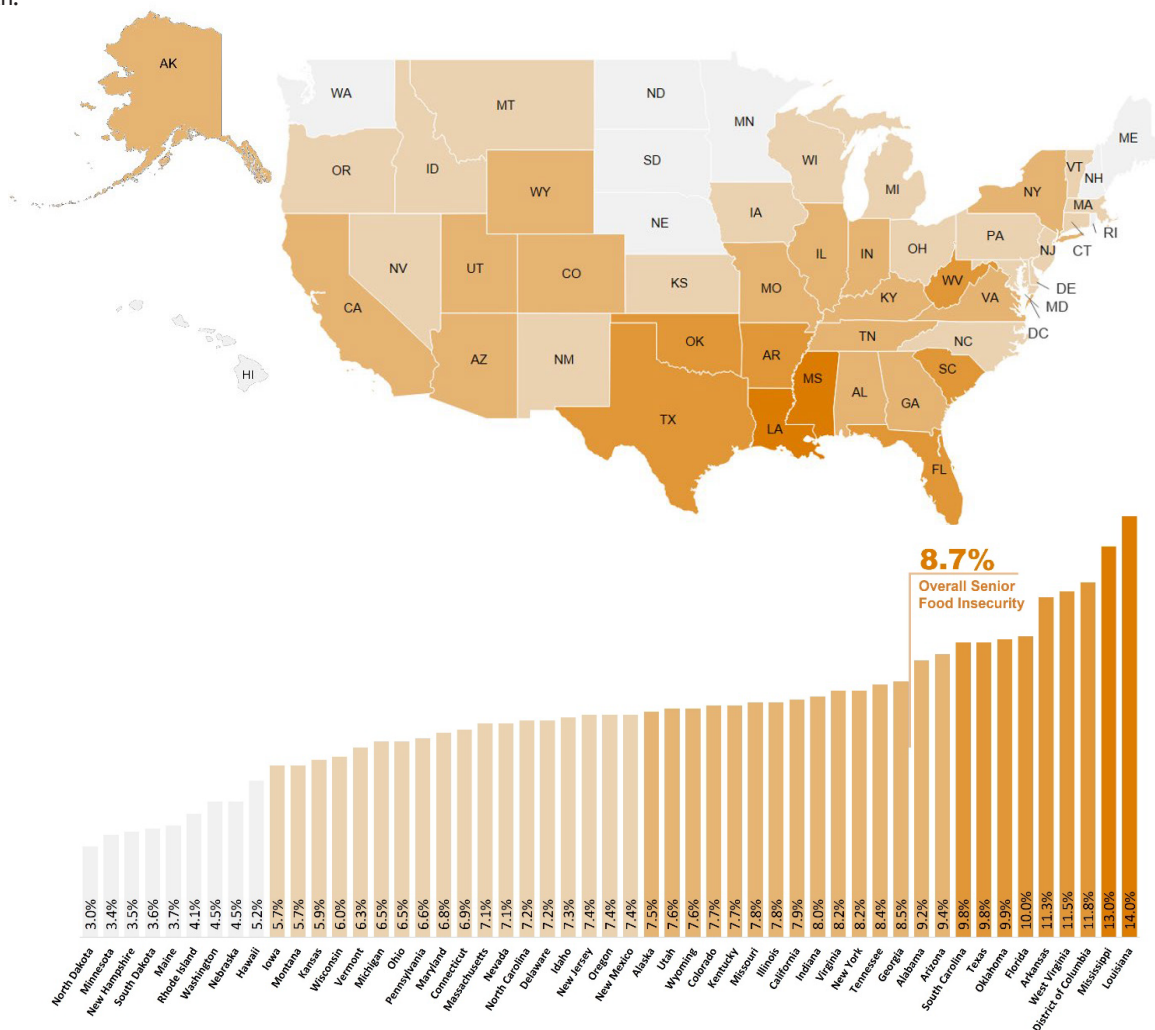
- Between 2020 – 2023, rent in Idaho increased by 41%, ranking Idaho fourth in the nation for the largest increase in that time period.*
- In 2024, Idaho has the 31st highest rent in the country out of 56 states and territories. The average Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom home in Idaho is \$1,021 per month. This is an affordable housing cost for those earning \$19.61 per hour or \$3,400 per month.**

o In 2024, 19% of renter households in Idaho made less than \$19.61, making their housing cost unaffordable and causing financial hardships where over 30% of their income went towards rent.***

o Working at the minimum wage of \$7.25/hr, a person in Idaho would need to work 103 hours each week to afford a modest 1 bedroom rental home at Fair Market Rent.***

- The USDA Economic Research Service found that there has been nearly a 12% increase in the cost of at-home food from December 2021 to December 2022 nationwide.

Federal programs play a key role in providing food assistance. That said, each program has strict income guidelines that leave many people and families struggling to make ends meet. Households whose income is less than or equal to 130% of the federal poverty level often qualify for assistance programs. However, 54% of people in Idaho who are food insecurity may not qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) due to their income level. This troubling statistic underscores the importance of food banks to fill the gap for people who don’t qualify for government support programs.



*<https://www.ktvm.com/article/news/local/growing-idaho/idaho-renters-struggle-to-keep-up-with-costs-as-rent-prices-continue-to-increase/277-bf45f873-43c0-4e10-8cb4-fee478e3ef7d#:~:text=According%20to%20Zillow%2C%20in%20Idaho,percent%20increase%20in%20three%20years.>

**RentData.org: <https://www.rentdata.org/states/idaho/2024>

***National Low Income Housing Coalition: <https://nlihc.org/oor/state/id>

One State, Three Regions

NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO

We serve Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce. Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone, and Benewah counties are served in partnership with Second Harvest Inland Northwest. The demographic information below includes all 10 counties.

- 45,230 people may experience food insecurity (13.8%), a year over year increase of nearly 6,000 people. This includes 12,700 children (18.9%).*
- 10 counties: 4 Rural and 3 Frontier**
- American Indian and Alaska Native: 3.4%***, Black/African American: 0.95%*, Hispanic/Latino: 4.51%*

EASTERN IDAHO

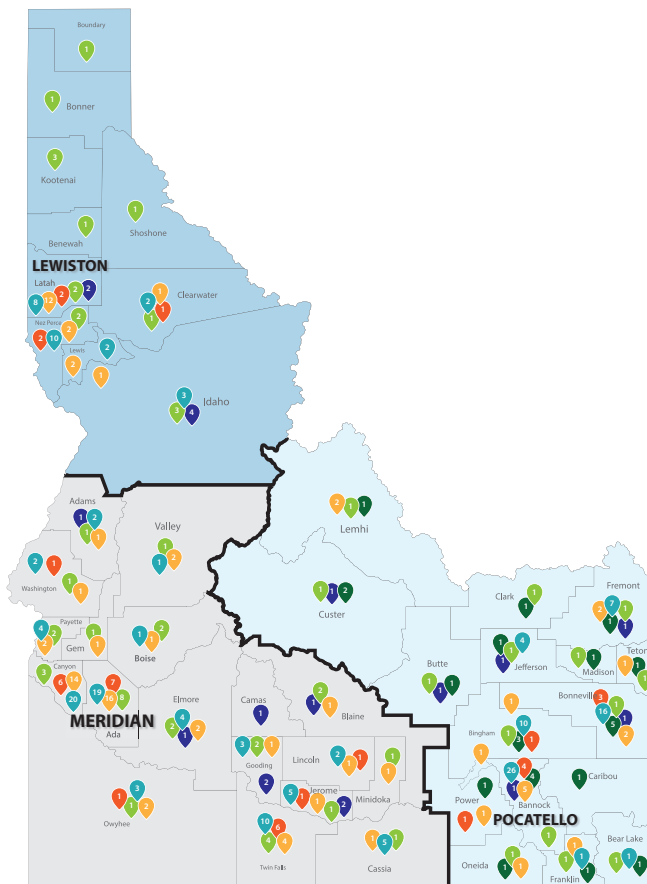
We serve Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Caribou, Clark, Custer, Franklin, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, Oneida, Power, Teton

- 48,730 people may experience food insecurity (11.7%), an increase of 13,000 people year over year. This includes 16,380 children (15.0%).*
- 16 counties: 13 Rural**
- American Indian and Alaska Native 2.0%***, Black/African American 0.6%*, Hispanic/Latino 12.6%*

SOUTHWEST IDAHO

We serve Ada, Adams, Blaine, Boise, Camas, Canyon, Cassia, Elmore, Gem, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Owyhee, Payette, Twin Falls, Valley, Washington

- 114,780 people may experience food insecurity (12.10%), a year over year increase of more than 24,000 people. This includes 35,640 children (16.2%)*
- 18 counties: 9 Rural and 6 Frontier**
- American Indian and Alaska Native 1.8%***, Black/African American 0.9%*, Hispanic/Latino 19.6%*



*Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap report 2024

**https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Population-density-in-Idaho_fig1_341296178

***U.S. Census Bureau – Census Quick Facts



Impacting Hunger

CHILDREN

Idaho is home to more than 64,700 kids facing food insecurity – the lack of access, at times, to enough food to support a healthy and active lifestyle (Feeding America’s Map the Meal Gap study). Knowing that more than 14% of children in Idaho may not get enough to eat is a problem by itself, but its implications extend well beyond hunger pangs.

Children need nutritious food so they can grow, develop, and focus on learning. Children facing food insecurity have a higher risk of falling behind in school, having lower test scores, and are more likely to exhibit behavioral problems. The Food Resource Action Center (FRAC)* released a literature review of the health implications of hunger. It shows children experiencing food insecurity are at higher risk of numerous conditions, including developmental delays, iron-deficiency anemia, and mental health problems.

When selecting partners for both the Backpack and School Pantry Programs, we consider the school’s free and reduced breakfast and lunch rate, targeting those with the highest need first. We also look at the other emergency food resources in the area (or lack thereof) and their proximity to the school.

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.

Backpack

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 Dietician 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.

2023 – 2024 SCHOOL YEAR

- 64,350 Backpacks distributed (38,610 meals)
- 1,351 children served
- 165 participating schools in 56 participating school districts
- Cost: \$601,322



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 within a school allows families access to food in a familiar environment without stigma. The program improves health and well-being, particularly among children, by reducing barriers to food.

Once a school has been selected, we coordinate with school staff and administrators to prepare for, launch, and maintain the ongoing operations of the pantry. While The Foodbank provides food, each school determines its own distribution schedule, with some school pantries opening on set days and times, and others operating “on-call” (i.e. opening when a family needs help).

2023 – 2024 SCHOOL YEAR

- 38 participating schools in 16 different counties
- 19,863 households served
- 308,517 pounds of food provided; enough for 317,098 meals
- Cost: \$161,878

SENIORS

According to Feeding America, 7.3% of Idaho seniors experience food insecurity – the lack of access, at times, to enough food to support a healthy lifestyle. This means that nearly 33,700 Idaho seniors are at risk of not getting enough to eat. Many more are making tough choices between the nutrition they need and other basic needs including medication, paying for housing, and utility bills. Food insecurity increases the risk of numerous health problems, such as diabetes, depression, and congestive heart failure.

As of 2022, 10.5% of people aged 65 and older were living in poverty in Idaho*. This group is the only age segment to experience a rise in poverty rates in recent years.**

Senior Nutrition

Developed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) improves the health of low-income seniors at least 60 years of age by adding nutritious food to their diets. Eligible seniors receive a free monthly box of food that includes nutrition information and helpful recipes.

2024 FISCAL YEAR

- 44,966 seniors served monthly through all programs and partnerships
- 2,264 seniors served each month through the CSFP senior food box program
- 27,299 food boxes distributed statewide
- 68 distribution locations in all 44 counties
- 33 pounds of food in each box



FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS

More than 11% of people in Idaho are facing food insecurity– the lack of access, at times, to enough food to support a healthy and active lifestyle (Feeding America’s Map the Meal Gap report). This includes more than 67,000 kids.

When individuals are unable to access nutritious food, it can negatively affect their health and increase their risk of developing chronic diseases, including heart disease, high blood pressure, and diabetes. These health risks impact people and communities across the state. Nutrition at every age is critical for our health and well-being.

Mobile Pantry

Food insecurity exists in every county in Idaho. However, not all communities, particularly in rural areas, have brick-and-mortar pantries to address the needs in that community. The Mobile Pantry program helps address these needs with a monthly or quarterly food distribution.

In each Mobile Pantry community, The Idaho Foodbank staff work with local leaders to assess needs, coordinate logistics, and identify a suitable site for the Mobile Pantry food distribution to take place. The site is usually a senior center, church, or other building that is well-known in the community. We provide the food in a refrigerated truck and local volunteers help spread the word and staff the distributions.

The strategy that guides the program is summed up by “keep it local.” At all sites, the program depends on relationships within the community and among neighbors. Many people are more willing to access food assistance when they are approached by people they know. Mobile Pantry’s collaborative model allows the program to effectively reach people in need while preserving their dignity. Our Mobile Pantry Program is a uniquely effective way to provide hunger relief for underserved communities that do not have a permanent food pantry or where permanent pantries don’t have the capacity to meet the local need.

FISCAL YEAR 2024

- 582 Mobile distributions, including healthcare mobiles, school mobiles, and special distributions
- 18,931 people served per month
- 52 communities served
- 3,786,735 pounds of food distributed (3,155,612 meals)
- 19,495 volunteer hours
- Cost: \$525,177

PARTNER NETWORK

Providing food access across the entire state of Idaho is possible thanks to a strong network of partner food distribution organizations working to end hunger one community at a time. Through our network of Food Distribution Partners and direct service programs The Idaho Foodbank provides food and resources to all of Idaho’s 44 counties.

*<https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/PPAAID16000A156NCEN>

**<https://www.ncoa.org/article/latest-census-bureau-data-shows-americans-65-only-group-to-experience-increase-in-poverty>



RURAL AND FOCUS COMMUNITIES

Hunger doesn't affect everyone equally – some groups such as children, seniors, rural communities, as well as Hispanic/Latino, Native American, and other people of color face hunger at much higher rates. Disparities in access to nutritious food for individuals and communities lead to increased health challenges that have both short- and long-term implications.

The Foodbank is proactively working to understand community needs and strengths to tailor services and resources. In 2020, with the help of grants from Feeding America and Micron, The Idaho Foodbank employed Community Liaisons to better understand the needs of historically marginalized populations in Idaho, particularly for Native American, refugee, and Hispanic/Latino communities. It is important to note that communities experience hunger for a variety of reasons that require us to look at systems, history, and geography. Although every community in Idaho experiences hunger, rural communities are hit particularly hard. Studies show that counties with the highest rates of food insecurity are disproportionately rural. Of Idaho's 44 counties, 19 are rural, and 16 counties are considered frontier (fewer than six residents per square mile).*



HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Health starts in our homes, schools, and communities – at least 70% of our health is determined by behavior and environment. The Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. These include access to nutritious food, healthcare; education, stable and affordable housing; transportation, and air/water quality in our environment.

The Idaho Foodbank aims to positively impact the health of individuals who are food insecure. Our Ending Hunger framework works to build statewide partnerships with organizations such as health care providers, economic development councils, the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare, and regional public health councils to interrupt the cycle of food insecurity and improve the lives of all our neighbors.

The Ending Hunger framework is focused on the well-being of individuals, along with the health of communities. The framework is composed of three initiatives:

- **Nutrition:** We emphasize providing healthy food to individuals, families, and communities. Driven by the USDA's MyPlate recommendations, our goal is to make the healthy choice the easy choice. In the fiscal year ending in April 2024, 86% of all the food The Idaho Foodbank distributed was considered nutritious.
- **Education:** We focus on the delivery and promotion of cooking classes, and the distribution of nutrition and health education materials. Making healthy eating easy and more accessible encourages people to make healthier choices. In the end, Nutrition Education addresses the need to develop skills and knowledge about healthy eating and the health benefits it brings.
- **Healthy Communities:** Abundant research has shown that food insecurity is a primary SDOH. This means that hunger relief is an opportunity to not only help people meet their basic human needs, but also to promote community health and well-being. We collaborate with organizations and individuals across our state to develop community-led solutions to improve community health.



* The Idaho Foodbank serves urban, rural, and frontier communities.

*https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Population-density-in-Idaho-fig1_341296178

INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

The Idaho Foodbank recognizes that consistent access to nutritious food is vital to a person's well-being and that communities across the state experience different challenges in achieving this. Our programs and partnerships represent the continual goal of exploring innovative and sustainable strategies and tools that will create long-term solutions.

New and innovative programming includes:

- Collaborating with other nonprofits and social service providers on the promotion of findhelpidaho.org – a statewide effort to allow neighbors to find a wide range of available services.
- Working with Community Liaisons to learn more from under-represented and other focus communities to provide services to meet their unique needs.
- Working with communities to identify and source culturally relevant foods to increase the usability of food provided.
- Working with partners to deliver culturally relevant foods to neighbors in need, across the state.
- Partnerships with healthcare organizations to provide co-location of services so neighbors have a one-stop location for food assistance, healthcare screenings and information, and education on other available services.
- Collaborating with Community Health Workers who typically live, work, and are engrained within the community they serve to help reduce health disparities by being the connection point between neighbors and services and resources.
- Actively contributing to 20 community health coalitions across the state to elevate grassroot efforts that address the unique health needs of the neighbors who live there.
- Engaging alongside universities to conduct food security research, supervise student capstone and internship projects, facilitate service-learning experiences, and coordinate alternative break experiences.

OUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING APRIL 30, 2024

- Served an average of 211,324 people per month
- 26,250,498 pounds distributed statewide
 - 16,853,763 pounds in Southwest Idaho
 - 2,376,803 pounds in Eastern Idaho
 - 7,067,160 pounds in North Central Idaho
- 86% food distributed considered nutritious
- 85% food donated to the Foodbank
- Partnered with over 400 Food Distribution Partners including:
 - 196 Schools
 - 52 Mobile Pantry communities
- Hosted 24,699 volunteers, who contributed 70,038 hours – the equivalent of 33 full-time employees

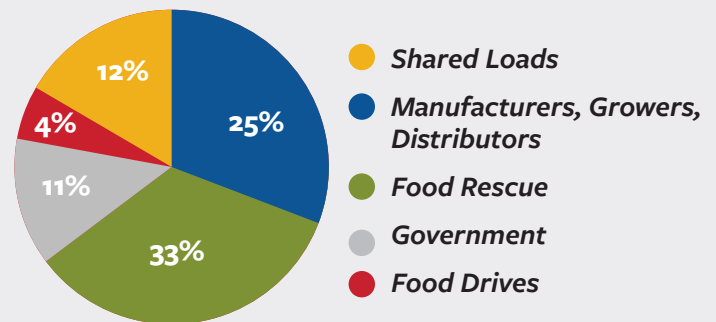
FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING APRIL 30, 2024

- 33%: Food Rescue
- 25%: Manufacturers, distributors, growers
- 11%: TEFAP, CFAP, and CSFP (Government Programs)
- 4%: food drives
- 12%: Other food banks
- 15% Purchased

FOOD CATEGORIES BY THE NUMBER, FY24:

- Beverage: 2%
- Dairy: 14%
- Fruit/Vegetable: 39%
- Grain: 12%
- Protein: 15%
- Mixed and Assorted (grocery store food rescue, products arriving with a variety of flavors/types): 13%
- Ready-Made Meals: 2%
- Non-Intentionally Sourced (dessert/candy, non-food, condiments): 3%

DONATED FOOD SOURCES



PURCHASED FOOD



FOOD RESCUE:

Food Rescue is a partnership with grocers and convenience stores statewide that provides an opportunity for The Idaho Foodbank and our Food Distribution Partners to quickly distribute nutritious and often perishable food to our neighbors in need. This helps prevent unnecessary waste and is a collaboration that makes sense for businesses, the environment, and hunger relief efforts.

Over the fiscal year ending April 30, 2024, the program involved 219 food retailers, and sourced 9,126,241 pounds (food for 7,605,178 meals) across the state.

GOVERNMENT FUNDED PROGRAMS

The Idaho Foodbank administers two US Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs:

1. The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) helps supplement the diets of Idahoans who are low-income by providing them with emergency food and nutrition assistance at no cost. USDA provides 100% American-grown USDA Foods and administrative funds to states to operate TEFAP. The Idaho Foodbank contracts with the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare to distribute food through a network of Community Partners and Mobile Pantries.
2. The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) works to improve the health of low-income persons at least 60 years of age by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA Foods. USDA distributes both food and administrative funds to participating states and Indian Tribal Organizations to operate CSFP. In partnership with the Idaho Commission on Aging, The Idaho Foodbank distributes these senior food boxes under CSFP through our network of Community Partners in all 44 counties of Idaho.

WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE

- Expertise in addressing food insecurity based on more than four decades as Idaho's largest hunger-relief organization.
- Statewide organization with grassroots distribution model that reaches every county - a statewide reach with a local touch.
- Partnerships with nonprofits, state agencies, resource groups, health organizations, and leaders across the state.
- Part of the Feeding America national network of over 200 food banks that share best practices, standards, and supply chain.
- Accountability to industry standards and governance through audits by Feeding America, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (DHW), Department of Transportation, and AIB International (food safety and warehousing standards).
- Transparency and accuracy of operations through electronic warehouse management system (CERES) used and audited by the Feeding America network and independent auditors.
- Training and support of Food Distribution Partners through in-person conferences, online workshops, grant assistance, and hunger-relief best practices.
- Strong relationships with farmers, manufacturers, and agricultural producers for consistent food donations.
- Deep and broad community connections for food, funds, and volunteers.
- A four-star rating from Charity Navigator for the past fourteen years. This distinction is given to organizations that demonstrate exceptional financial health, accountability, and transparency over an extended period. Only 1% of the charities evaluated have received 14 consecutive 4-star evaluations.

WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT

Our mission revolves around three basic concepts: feed, educate, and advocate.

Feed: By donating food, funds, and your time as a volunteer, you contribute to our work to end hunger.

Educate: Learn about hunger in your local community – it can hide in plain sight.

Advocate: Share what you learn – ending hunger is a community-wide endeavor!

Together we can end hunger.



idahofoodbank.org

