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AMERICA**

# Children's Programs

PROGRAMS OF THE IDAHO FOODBANK

IMPACT REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2024

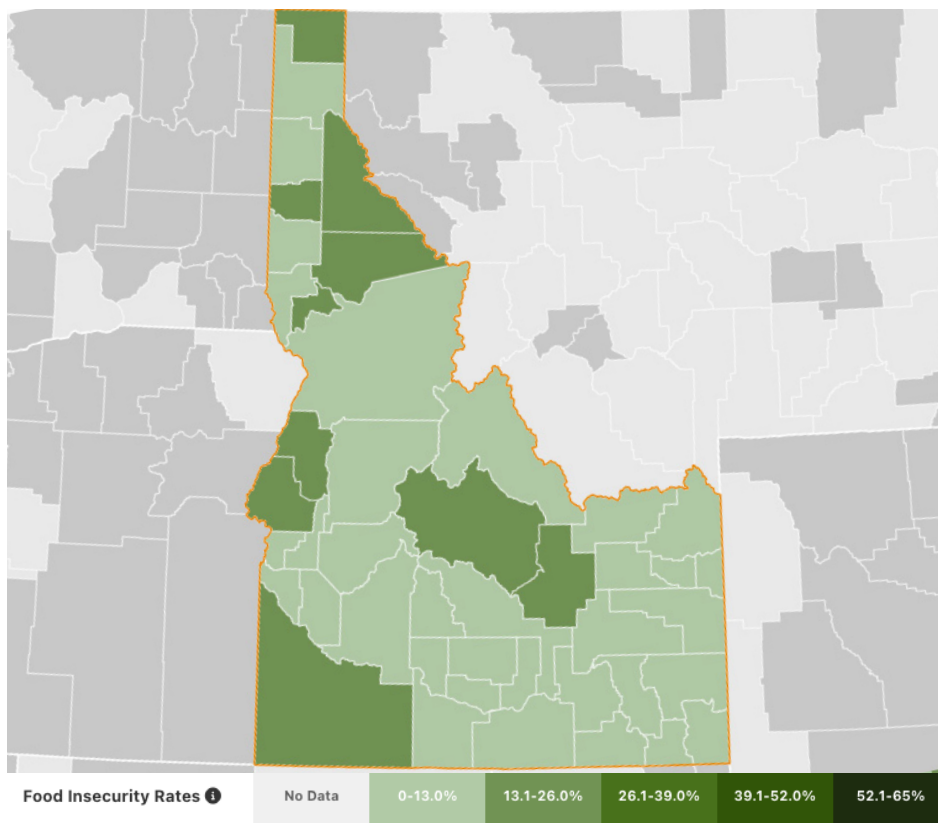


## Childhood Food Insecurity:

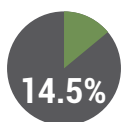
Idaho is home to more than 67,000 kids with food insecurity – the lack of access at times to enough food to support a healthy and active lifestyle. Knowing that more than 14% of children in Idaho may not get enough to eat is a problem by itself, but its implications extend well beyond hunger pangs.

## 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



**33%** Likely ineligible for federal nutrition programs (incomes above 185% of poverty)

**67%** Income eligible for federal nutrition programs (incomes at or below 185% of poverty)

FOOD INSECURE  
POPULATION (CHILD)  
IN IDAHO

**67,590**



BACKPACKS  
DISTRIBUTED THROUGH  
BACKPACK PROGRAM

**64,350**



HOUSEHOLDS  
SERVED THROUGH  
SCHOOL PANTRY

**12,414**



# BACKPACK PROGRAM



The Backpack Program provides enough food in one bag for two breakfasts, two lunches, two dinners, and two snacks. This bag fits into a child's backpack on the last day of the school week so they have enough food to eat over the weekend. These foods are nutritious, shelf-stable, and easy for a child to prepare and eat if there is not an adult around. For many Idaho children, the meals they eat

while in school are the most reliable and filling meals of their day. The Backpack Program helps fill that gap for children during the weekends. One school employee who coordinates the Backpack Program in Fremont County told us, "Many of our parents have said that without the Backpack Program, they would not be able to feed their children."

“ I've had students thank me and let me know they now have food in their cupboards. I also had a few students start the school year needing the backpacks and now ending the year no longer needing them, but they still thank me! – Jerome County ”

## BACKPACK NUMBERS:

Solving Childhood Hunger

64,350 ..... Backpacks distributed statewide  
 1,351 ..... children served statewide  
 165 ..... schools/56 school districts

### BACKPACK PROGRAM SUPPORTED BY:

- The Albertsons Co. Foundation
- Bayer Fund
- Betty Family Fund
- The Bews Foundation
- Dittrich Family Charitable Fund
- Idaho Central Credit Union
- The Julius C. Jeker Foundation Inc
- Leuthold Family Foundation
- Linwood & Constance Lacy Foundation
- Merchant-Heeb Charitable Foundation
- Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc.

# SCHOOL PANTRY



One School Pantry Coordinator in Owyhee County shared that several families, "thanked me and told me they would not make it month to month without this assistance." The School Pantry Program began because many students in the Backpack Program were sharing that food with their siblings and parents. By working with schools to set up and stock a food pantry on school grounds, families can access food in a familiar environment that does

not require them to make an additional stop. Pasta, cereal, proteins, and canned fruit are some of the most popular items for School Pantries. We have heard from some schools that making food available to families who are struggling also helps improve the school and teacher relationships with the parents by building a sense of community. These families know someone at their child's school cares and is there to help them.

“ I had several families that relied on the pantry to supplement their food at home. Several students would come to me and ask if they could get some food from the pantry for dinner. Without this as an option they may not have gotten dinner some nights. – Nez Perce County ”

## SCHOOL PANTRY NUMBERS:

SOLVING Childhood Hunger

19,863 ..... total households served  
 380,517 ..... lbs of food for 317,098 meals for those in need  
 38 ..... schools/16 school districts

### SCHOOL PANTRY PROGRAM SUPPORTED BY:

- The Albertsons Co. Foundation
- The Bews Foundation
- Betty Family Fund
- CapEd Credit Union
- The Julius C. Jeker Foundation Inc
- Linwood & Constance Lacy Foundation
- Merchant-Heeb Charitable Foundation



### 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 more than 21.8 million meals to Idahoans living with food insecurity. The Foodbank distributes food through a network of more than 400 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 15 consecutive years.*