The Idaho Foodbank

Member of FEEDING AMERICA

Children's Programs

PROGRAMS OF THE IDAHO FOODBANK

IMPACT REPORT | FISCAL YEAR 2026





Childhood Food Insecurity:

Idaho is home to more than 84,750 kids with food insecurity – the lack of access at times to enough food to support a healthy and active lifestyle. Knowing that more than 18% of children in Idaho may not get enough to eat is a problem by itself, but its implications extend well beyond hunger pangs.

> "There have been many times that I have ran out of snacks and lunch foods. Having the food in the backpack has helped. - Parent, SW Idaho"

> "We struggled to have food in our home before this...thank you for doing it. - Parent, E Idaho"

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. We have heard from the teachers and school employees that they have seen improvements in focus, mood, and overall behavior when their students who are food insecure are part of our Backpack or School Pantry programs.

IN A SURVEY ABOUT OUR BACKPACK PROGRAM, WE FOUND THAT:

- **A vast majority of schools reported that attendance of children in the program improved**
- **80% of parents reported the Backpack Program helped them worry less about feeding their child over the weekend**
- **78% of parents reported an improvement in their child's well-being**

FOOD INSECURE POPULATION (CHILD)

84,750

BACKPACKS DISTRIBUTED

80,611

HOUSEHOLDS SERVED THROUGH SCHOOL PANTRY

23,527

CHILD (<18 YEARS) FOOD INSECURITY



EST. GOVERNMENT PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AMONG FOOD INSECURE CHILDREN IN IDAHO



44% Likely ineligible for federal nutrition programs (incomes above 185% of poverty level)

56% Income eligible for federal nutrition programs (incomes at or below 185% of poverty level)

BACKPACK PROGRAM





For many Idaho children facing food insecurity, school meals are the most consistent nutrition they receive during the week.

The Backpack Program helps fill the gap during the weekends by providing a bag of kid friendly, shelf stable food for students to take home at the end of the school week. These have food for breakfasts, lunches, dinners, and snacks.

This year, The Idaho Foodbank eliminated the Backpack Program waitlist for our current school partners, ensuring that every child identified by a school partner can receive support. This was the result of strong financial support from the community. To strengthen that access even further, the program also implemented a new strategy that gives schools increased inventory and greater flexibility in distributing Backpack bags based on real time needs. With 80,611 total Backpacks prepared statewide, schools were better equipped to respond to students who needed weekend nutrition.

> "The snacks and lunches helped a lot in saving monthly cost on food. Thank you for the help. - Parent, SW Idaho"

BACKPACK NUMBERS:

Solving Childhood Hunger

80,611 ..... Backpacks distributed statewide
2,398 ..... children served statewide (monthly average)
187 ..... schools/61 school districts

BACKPACK PROGRAM SUPPORTED BY:

- Alturas Construction LLC Production
- Andre Agassi Foundation for Education
- Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund
- Bayer Fund
- Betty Family Fund
- Constance and Linwood Lacy Foundation
- Elizabeth Webb Kanta Charitable Trust
- Energy Mexican Services Inc.
- Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
- Hansberger Foundation
- Idaho Central Credit Union-Headquarters
- Leuthold Family Foundation
- Merchant-Heeb Charitable Foundation
- National Christian Foundation - California
- Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc.
- Sensata Technologies Foundation Inc.
- Steven C. Leuthold Family Foundation
- Tamarack Idaho
- The Albertsons Companies Foundation
- The Bews' Foundation
- United HealthCare Svs Inc
- United Way of Southeastern Idaho

SCHOOL PANTRY





School Pantries continue to play a crucial role in helping families access nutritious food where it is easy to access — right on school grounds. These pantries offer a welcoming, low barrier space where students and parents receive nutritious food items during the school day or at pick up time. Many operate as choice pantries, which means that families can select the food off the shelves that best fit their needs. It is similar to shopping at a grocery store.

At Taft Elementary, Community School Coordinator Jenni Hirst shared how their School Pantry makes an impact by getting food to children and their families: "Students know they can come shopping for their families and select items to take home that day. It means a lot to our school community to know there is this feeling of abundance, that our community takes care of each other."

Across Idaho, School Pantries help provide families with consistent access to nutritious food. This improves the health and well-being of children and their entire family.

> "This program made everything that much lighter. So from the bottom of my heart, thank you! -Parent, E Idaho"

SCHOOL PANTRY NUMBERS:

Solving Childhood Hunger

23,527 ..... total households served
514,654 ..... lbs of food for 428,878 meals for those in need
42 ..... schools/27 school districts

SCHOOL PANTRY PROGRAM SUPPORTED BY:

- Alturas Construction LLC Production
- Andre Agassi Foundation for Education
- Betty Family Fund
- Constance and Linwood Lacy Foundation
- Elizabeth Webb Kanta CharitableTrust
- Energy Mexican Services Inc.
- Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
- Hansberger Foundation
- Idaho Central Credit Union-Headquarters
- Merchant-Heeb Charitable Foundation
- National Christian Foundation - California
- Sangam Foundation of Idaho
- Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc.
- Tamarack Idaho
- The Albertsons Companies Foundation
- The Bews' Foundation
- United HealthCare Services Inc
- United Way of Treasure Valley

About The Idaho Foodbank

The Idaho Foodbank is an independent, donor-supported, nonprofit organization. It is a statewide and community-anchored organization that is the largest distributor of free food assistance in Idaho. The Idaho Foodbank's mission is to nourish, educate, and advocate to support thriving, food-secure communities across Idaho. It is uniquely situated as a statewide connector of people, partners, and solutions.

The Idaho Foodbank was established in 1984 and 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 22 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, shelters, mobile pantries, and churches. Visit idahofoodbank.org for more information.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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