The Idaho Foodbank

Member of FEEDING AMERICA

FOOD for Thought

Helping our Idaho neighbors since 1984.

Innovative Partnerships to Build Healthy Communities

We cannot end hunger alone and our partnerships with organizations all over Idaho are a vital part of the work to interrupt the cycle of food insecurity and improve the lives of all of our neighbors. The Idaho Foodbank collaborates with schools, healthcare providers, and other community partners across the state to connect families with the nutrition and resources they need to thrive. As the needs of communities change, we continue looking for new innovations and partnerships to help people who are food insecure.

Helping Children Thrive

The Idaho Foodbank's Backpack Program ensures that students who are food insecure have access to nutritious food over the weekend by providing nutritious, kid-friendly food at the end of the week during the school year. Last year, we provided over 80,000 backpacks for children in Idaho.

In the last year we worked to change our delivery methods for the backpacks. This meant working closely with every school to figure out what we needed to change so that the program was the most effective and efficient for them. In some places this means that employees of The Foodbank deliver the backpacks to the School District building and in other places it means that the backpacks are delivered directly to the school.

Thanks to the strong support from the community, last year we were able to eliminate the waitlists for backpacks from the schools that are part of this program. This was a tremendous step forward in helping children in need.

Healthcare Integration

Food insecurity is a social determinant of health, which is a non-medical factor that influences health outcomes. When these needs aren't met, people are more likely to experience chronic health conditions such as diabetes. Many healthcare organizations are screening patients for food insecurity at their medical appointments. Then they can connect people with food or other resources. This helps address health needs beyond the exam room.

Food Pantries & Emergency Support

Several healthcare partners are ensuring that nutritious food is available right where patients need it most. St. Luke's Medical Center in Jerome and Saint Alphonsus Health System clinics in Southwest Idaho have food pantries, while Full Circle Health distributes emergency food bags to patients who are food insecure. When the Cottonwood Food Pantry was facing closure, St. Mary's & Clearwater Health stepped in to lead the food pantry so the community continued to have access to food assistance. Vineyard Christian Fellowship in Garden City is doing innovative work by offering a food pantry, senior food boxes, and free walk-in acute medical care for uninsured adults all under one roof.

Nutrition Education

In addition to sharing recipes and other nutrition information with our partner agency network, we also have in-person nutrition education classes. Through partnerships with St. Luke's Magic Valley and North Canyon Medical Center, The Foodbank has taught Cooking Matters ™ classes in South Central Idaho to help families learn practical skills to prepare healthy, affordable meals. This is just one example of our partnerships to improve community health through nutrition education.

Continuing to find improvements, innovations, and new partnerships are an essential part of serving our neighbors in need and ending the cycle of food insecurity.



To learn more go to: idahofoodbank.org

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The Idaho Foodbank

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Pocatello, ID 83201
208-233-8811

Volunteers Make it Happen

Over 29,000 people across the state volunteered at The Idaho Foodbank in our last fiscal year. The time donated by these volunteers is equivalent to the work of 40 full-time employees! Volunteers are essential to our work to get food across the state to our neighbors in need. Volunteers do a variety of jobs, including re-packing large produce donations into family-size bags, filling food boxes for seniors, sorting the non-perishable items that come in from food drives, or directly giving food to the people in need in their community at one of our mobile pantries.



We are also grateful for the volunteers in our partner agency network who are an integral part of the work to help Idahoans who are struggling to make ends meet. If you are interested in volunteering at any of our locations, please visit our website. You can also reach out to your local food pantry to ask if they need volunteer help.

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This year, The Idaho Foodbank was proud to participate in the America 250 in Idaho Service Challenge. The goal was to have Idahoans participate in 250,000 Acts of Service to mark the 250th birthday of the United States of America. The America 250 Service Challenge invited individuals, families, classrooms, businesses, faith groups, and communities to serve in ways big and small. Idahoans exceeded the goal of 250,000 Acts of Service before July 4th and we know that volunteerism inspired by this Service Challenge continues to support the hunger-relief network.

Each year during Volunteer Appreciation Month, we shine a spotlight on some of our volunteers in the different regions around the state. At our Eastern Idaho warehouse, the Pocatello Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (PUUF) is a volunteer group The Foodbank can count on to step in, work hard, and see tasks through completion. Since 2021, PUUF has demonstrated unwavering commitment to The Foodbank and the communities we serve. Their members volunteer consistently each month, bringing reliability, positivity, and a strong sense of purpose to every project.

At our headquarters in Meridian, we celebrated volunteers who have given over 250 hours of their time to The Foodbank. These individuals have done every activity available, gaining remarkable experience that allows them to lead and model for others. Because of their consistency, these volunteers have also built a special community and developed strong relationships with The Foodbank staff. We are incredibly grateful for their dedication to serving Idaho.

The North Central Branch in Lewiston celebrated Judy Hepburn as their Outstanding Volunteer of The Year. Judy started volunteering in 2020 and has volunteered over 430 hours! Judy could be helping to lead volunteer shifts to re-pack food, working at our mobile pantry food distributions, or serving neighbors at the food pantry in The Foodbank building in Lewiston. Judy always brings positivity, goes the extra mile, and shows up for her community. We are grateful to all of the volunteers who support their community.



Food Security Day at the Idaho State Capitol

The Idaho Foodbank hosted our first Food Security Day at the Capitol in February. Sixteen of our food distribution partners came to the Idaho State Capitol to share information about the work they do in their communities. People from these partner agencies traveled from different parts of the state to participate, including Orofino, Idaho Falls, Moscow, Blackfoot, and Pocatello.

Food Security Day was an opportunity to educate policymakers and shine a light on food insecurity across the state. This was a time to share more about the great work that the charitable food network is doing, as well as educate others about how some of that work is impacted by public policy decisions. We were able to speak with some legislators, members of the media, lobbyists, and the general public who came through the Capitol in Boise that day.

In addition to educating others, Food Security Day brought together different individuals and organizations who are providing food to their neighbors who are struggling to make ends meet. It was a great opportunity for our partners to share challenges, as well as successes, with each other. Food Security Day was a powerful way to bring people together and work as part of a larger group that is serving and advocating for Idahoans who are food insecure.



We appreciated all of our partners who traveled to the event, as well as the legislators and others who came by to learn more about food insecurity in our state. The Idaho Foodbank is already planning this event again for next year.



Food Insecurity in Idaho

Feeding America, the nation's largest hunger-relief organization, released its annual Map the Meal Gap report in August 2026. The report is a county-by-county analysis of food insecurity in the United States in 2024.



Idaho Stats

283,630
Food Insecure People in Idaho

14.2%
Food Insecurity Rate

84,750
Food Insecure Children in Idaho

18%
Child Food Insecurity Rate

The Idaho Foodbank
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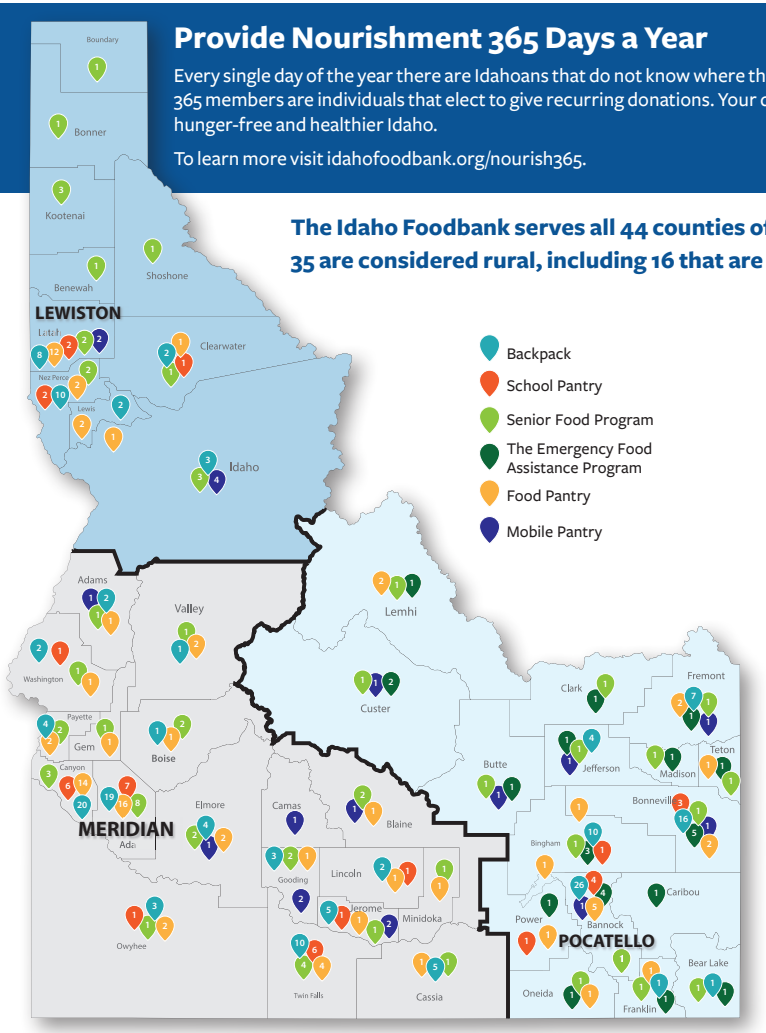
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Provide Nourishment 365 Days a Year

Every single day of the year there are Idahoans that do not know where their next meal will come from. Nourish 365 members are individuals that elect to give recurring donations. Your donation is put to work daily to create a hunger-free and healthier Idaho.

To learn more visit idahofoodbank.org/nourish365.

The Idaho Foodbank serves all 44 counties of the state. Of Idaho's 44 counties, 35 are considered rural, including 16 that are defined as frontier.



Our Mission

Nourish, Educate, and Advocate to Support Thriving, Food-Secure Communities Across Idaho

Our Vision

A Hunger-Free Idaho

Our Values

Belonging
Commitment
Collaboration

Charity Navigator
FOUR-STAR

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