

HOPE  
COMMUNITY  
FUTURE



HELP  
EDUCATION  
HOME

*The State of*

2022

**HOMELESSNESS**

*in Idaho*

*Idaho Housing and Finance Association, nonprofits, community organizations, philanthropists, and public-private partnerships lead a coordinated effort to address the issue of homelessness in Idaho. With lingering stereotypes and limited dedicated resources, as well as inflated construction and housing costs, this work has become increasingly difficult.*

It is our collective hope that this report brings greater awareness to the experiences of those facing homelessness as well as successful interventions and resources in place.



*We hope this report inspires you to join the fight against homelessness. With your help, we can ensure every Idahoan has access to a safe place to call home and to the services necessary to remain stably housed. See the last page of this booklet for more information on how you can help.*

# Forms of Homelessness

We often assume those experiencing homelessness are people living on the street. While this is the reality for some, it is not for the majority of those experiencing homelessness. The list below outlines the various degrees of homelessness.

## IMMINENT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS:

A person or a family who will lose their primary nighttime residence within 14 days.

## PRECARIOUSLY HOUSED:

A person or a family who lack a fixed, regular nighttime residence but have been offered accommodation from friends or family for an indeterminate time.

## FLEEING/ATTEMPTING TO FLEE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

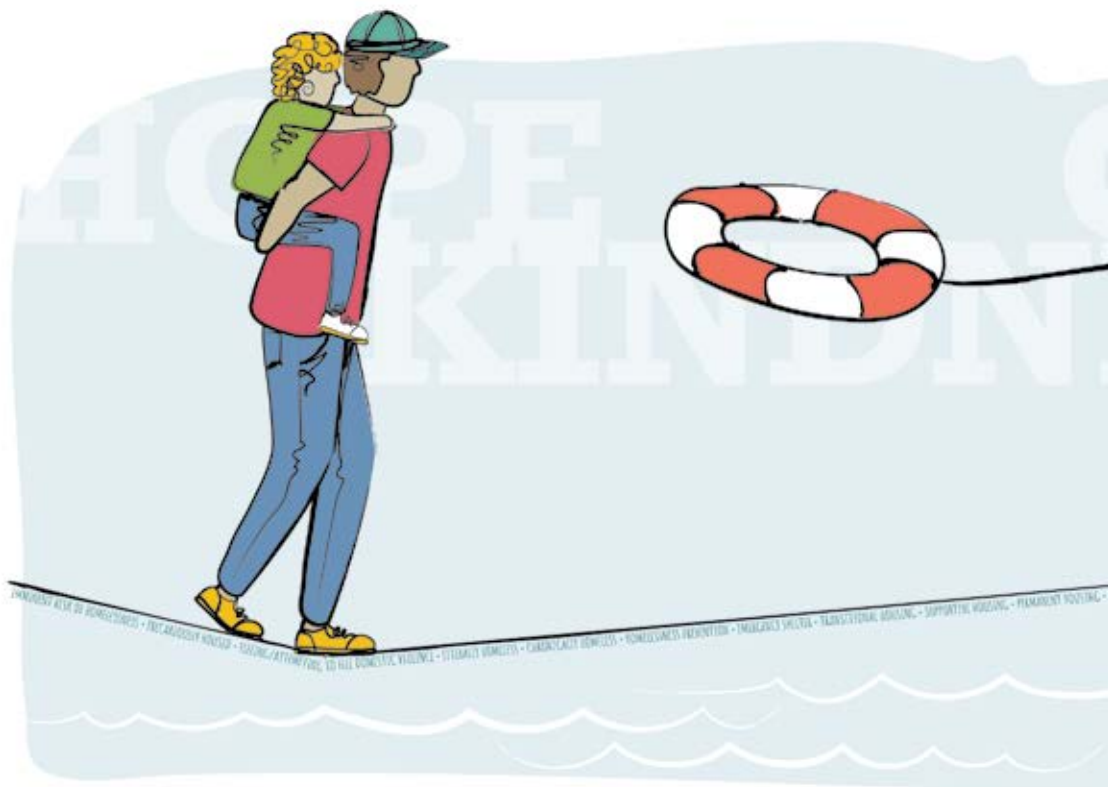
A person or a family who is fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence and has no other residence and lacks needed resources or support networks

## LITERALLY HOMELESS:

A person or a family who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. Typically, this means living in a place not meant for habitation or in an emergency shelter.

## CHRONICALLY HOMELESS:

A person or a family who has experienced homelessness for at least one year – or repeatedly – while having a disabling condition.



# Homelessness Interventions

## HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION:

Provides limited financial assistance (rent and utilities) to those at risk of becoming homeless. The goal is to stabilize people in their existing homes or in alternative housing that prevents placement in an emergency shelter or living in a place not meant for habitation.

## EMERGENCY SHELTER:

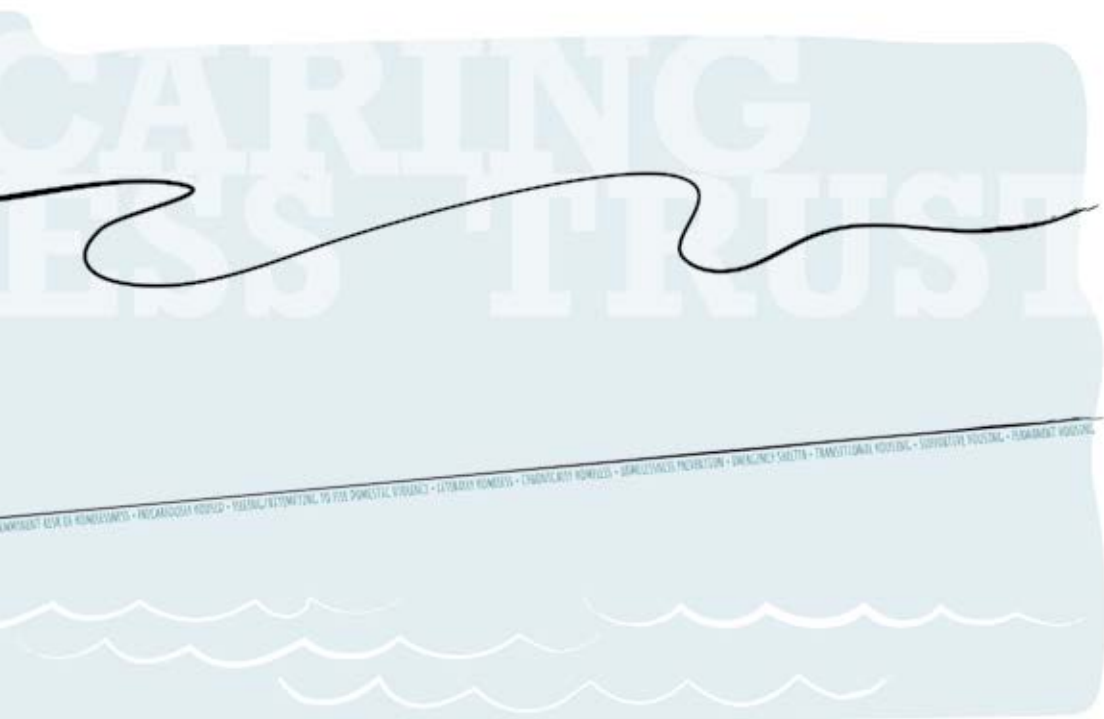
Offers temporary, basic accommodations as an alternative to living on the street or in other places not meant for habitation. Many shelters help with connecting to community resources, mainstream benefits and permanent housing.

## TRANSITIONAL HOUSING:

Provides shelter and support services for up to two years. Transitional housing traditionally benefits those whose barriers to permanent housing are not always tied to income, such as youth, or people recovering from substance use or fleeing domestic violence.

## SUPPORTIVE HOUSING:

Provides households intermediate or long-term housing that is complemented by services and support, which may include healthcare, mental health care, substance-use treatment, life-skills classes, financial counseling, or job training and placement.



# Primary Causes of Homelessness

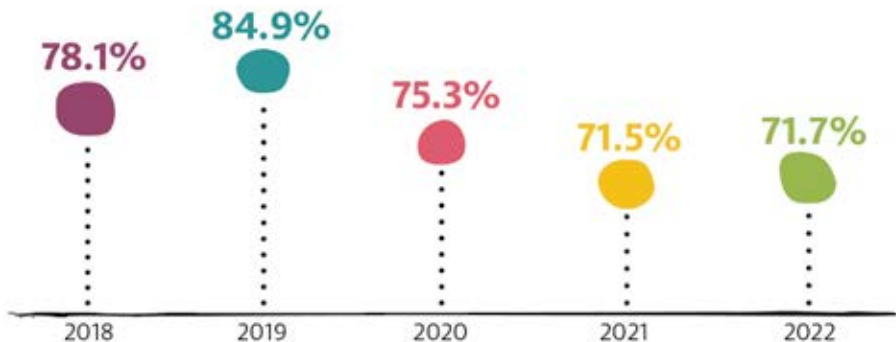
Domestic violence has been the leading cause of homelessness in recent years. However, in 2022 an inability to pay rent and being forced from a place of residence – both circumstances that are largely affected by inflated housing costs – have overtaken domestic violence as the leading causes of homelessness. We have entered a time in which homelessness has more to do with low wages and high cost of living, including housing, and less to do with physical disability, mental health, substance use, and domestic violence.

The top self-reported causes of homelessness throughout 2022 are below. This data assists in identifying and implementing appropriate and effective homelessness programs based on local needs.



## FIRST-TIME HOMELESS

Of those using homelessness services in 2022, almost 72% did so for the first time. This number has fallen in recent years, indicating a greater difficulty in exiting homelessness. This is likely because of rising housing costs.

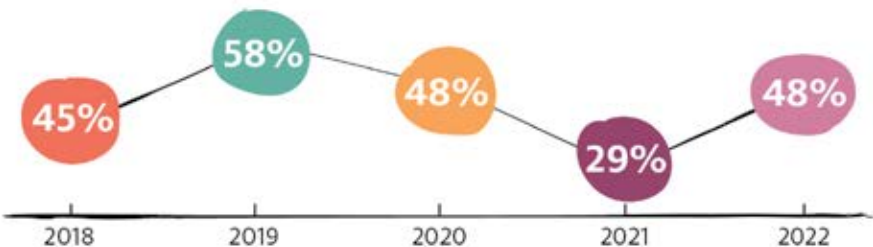


# Housing Permanency Is Paramount

The current economic climate and the housing market have made a permanent and stable transition from homelessness more difficult for service organizations and their clients. However, great success is still found among those who are able to exit homelessness programs.

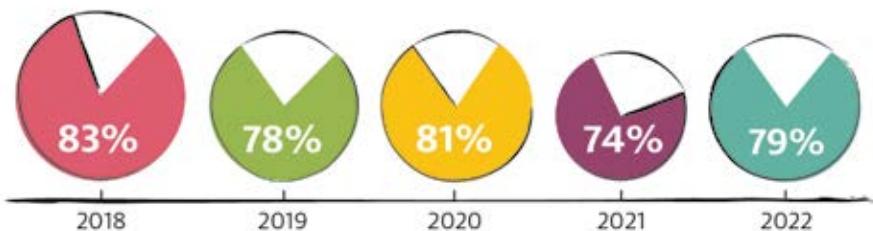
## INCOME AT ENTRY

Of those receiving homelessness housing assistance in 2022, 48% entered their housing program with a source of income. Fortunately, wage earners experienced greater employment opportunity in 2022 compared to the heart of the pandemic in 2021.



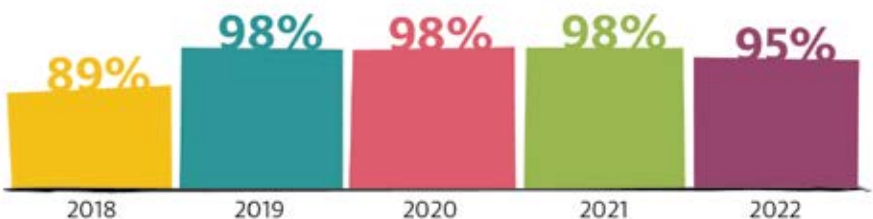
## POSITIVE EXITS FROM PERMANENT HOUSING

Idaho's programs produce positive exits from homelessness housing programs of 80%, on average. Positive exits include circumstances like a rental paid for by the client, homeownership, or stable housing with a subsidy attached.



## REMAINED HOUSED TWO YEARS LATER

Of those exiting a supportive housing program in 2020, 95% remained housed in 2022. Of the 5% returning to homelessness within 24 months, half return within a year, while the other half return during year two.



\* This data is reported from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and Community Management Information System (CMIS), both of which are electronic databases that gather the characteristics, service needs and program participation of those experiencing homelessness.





## REGGIE'S PATH TO HOME

Reggie moved to Twin Falls to attend the College of Southern Idaho, but had to drop out because of medical issues. Despite working, he was unable to cover his medical bills.



For more than two years, he was forced to live in his car in a church parking lot. An Idaho Housing employee saw him and offered to help.



With the Emergency Housing Voucher program Reggie secured a safe place to live.



Now Reggie has an apartment to call home and is getting the medical treatment he needs. He is full of hope for the future.



 **Brighter Future**

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

**HOPE**

Scan to see  
full story  
or visit:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gu5WTy-p4AQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gu5WTy-p4AQ)

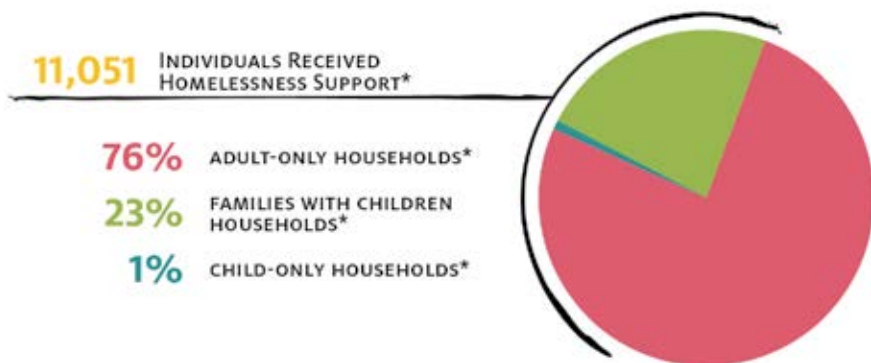


# Extent of Homelessness

The extent of homelessness is quantified in two ways: 1) continuously entering services delivered into a reporting system, and 2) performing an annual single-night count of people who are unsheltered. The first provides a picture of the number of individuals served while the latter demonstrates trends among those not receiving shelter or housing services.

## THOSE SERVED IN 2022

The total count of those who received homelessness services in 2022 jumped significantly (2021: 8,814). This is likely because of an increase in those experiencing homelessness and an increase in the homeless network's capacity to serve more people because of additional funding.



# Annual Unsheltered Count

The Point-in-Time count helps determine the number of those experiencing homelessness in unsheltered environments. The annual count occurs on one night in January and can fluctuate from year to year based on several factors, including count locations, weather and the number of volunteers surveying.



\* This data is reported from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and Community Management Information System (CMIS), both of which are electronic databases that gather the characteristics and service needs of those experiencing homelessness.



# Resource Distribution

Resources for homelessness service providers come from a variety of sources: federal, state and local; grants administered and donations provided by Idaho Housing; and other private funding sources.

The following lists resources identified in each region as well as homeless assistance services offered.

<b>REGION 1</b>	<b>POPULATION*</b> 265,384	<b>HOMELESS**</b> 743
	<b>FEDERAL FUNDING</b> \$2,200,900	
	<b>IHFA FUNDING</b> \$2,198,470	<b>OTHER FUNDING***</b> \$3,002,569

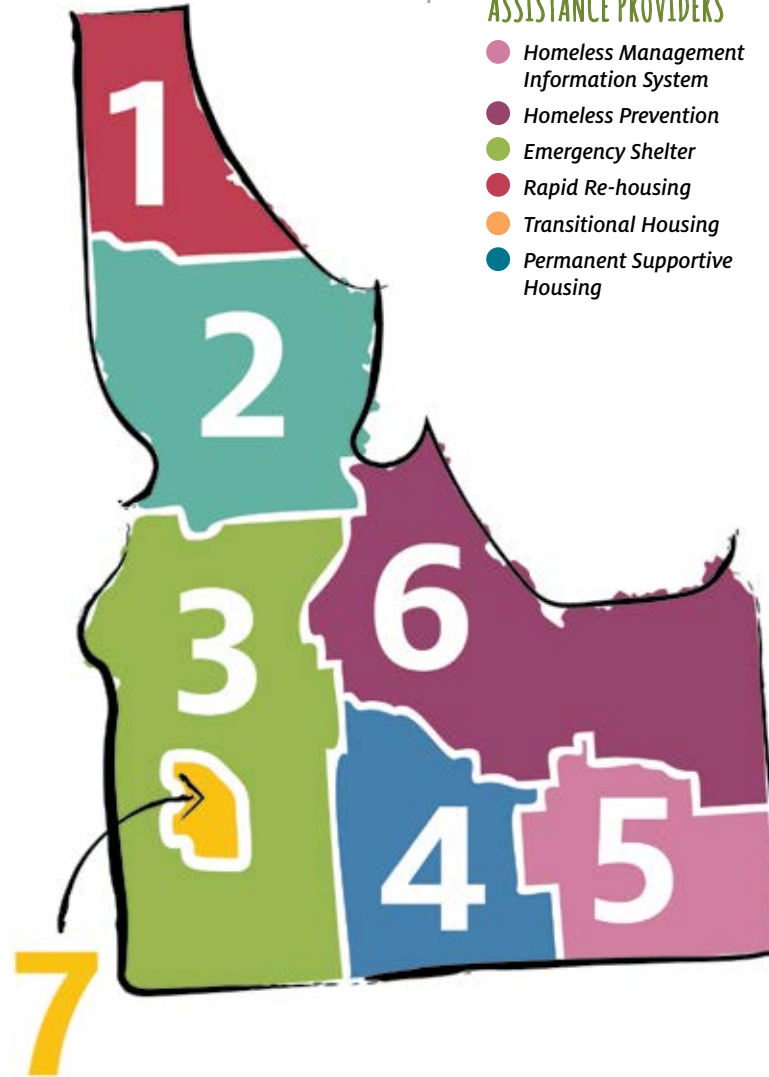
**Access Point:**  
St. Vincent De Paul of North Idaho

<b>REGION 2</b>	<b>POPULATION*</b> 112,381	<b>HOMELESS**</b> 972
	<b>FEDERAL FUNDING</b> \$15,000	
	<b>IHFA FUNDING</b> \$1,469,778	<b>OTHER FUNDING***</b> \$2,693,431

**Access Point:**  
Sojourners' Alliance

<b>REGION 3</b>	<b>POPULATION*</b> 366,278	<b>HOMELESS**</b> 1,863
	<b>FEDERAL FUNDING</b> \$1,240,689	
	<b>IHFA FUNDING</b> \$2,461,033	<b>OTHER FUNDING***</b> \$8,635,125

**Access Point:**  
CATCH of Canyon County



## TYPES OF HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS

- Homeless Management Information System
- Homeless Prevention
- Emergency Shelter
- Rapid Re-housing
- Transitional Housing
- Permanent Supportive Housing

<b>REGION 4</b>	<b>POPULATION*</b> 210,983	<b>HOMELESS**</b> 1,071
	<b>FEDERAL FUNDING</b> \$1,071,718	
	<b>IHFA FUNDING</b> \$1,847,091	<b>OTHER FUNDING***</b> \$2,911,365

**Access Point:**  
South Central Community Action Partnership

<b>REGION 5</b>	<b>POPULATION*</b> 178,022	<b>HOMELESS**</b> 1,191
	<b>FEDERAL FUNDING</b> \$327,651	
	<b>IHFA FUNDING</b> \$1,841,553	<b>OTHER FUNDING***</b> \$2,933,988

**Access Point:**  
Aid for Friends

<b>REGION 6</b>	<b>POPULATION*</b> 255,767	<b>HOMELESS**</b> 639
	<b>FEDERAL FUNDING</b> \$658,691	
	<b>IHFA FUNDING</b> \$612,568	<b>OTHER FUNDING***</b> \$706,914

**Access Point:**  
Club, Inc.

<b>REGION 7</b>	<b>POPULATION*</b> 511,931	<b>HOMELESS**</b> 4,572
	<b>FEDERAL FUNDING</b> \$5,891,520	
	<b>IHFA FUNDING</b> \$5,560,662	<b>OTHER FUNDING***</b> \$11,967,506

**Access Point:**  
Our Path Home

\* All county population data is from United States Census Bureau.

\*\* The number of people experiencing homelessness is reported from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and Community Management Information System (CMIS), both of which are electronic databases that gather the characteristics and service needs of those experiencing homelessness. The total also includes data from providers who do not participate in the HMIS or CMIS systems. The total is not representative of data from all providers and should be considered a minimum baseline.

\*\*\* Sources reflect matching funds required by federal grants and state, local and private funding. Organizations may have generated or received other funding to support homelessness assistance activities not included here.

# Characteristics of Homelessness

The path to safe, stable housing must meet the unique needs of each person or family. To accomplish this, we must have a clear picture of the characteristics and circumstances of those who are unhoused. By doing so, we help ensure homelessness is a rare, brief, and nonrecurring experience.

Each data point below has remained fairly consistent over the past five years with the exception of the chronically homeless and veterans. Both have dropped by at least 7 percentage points in the past three years as resources have been targeted toward these populations.

This data assists in identifying and implementing appropriate and effective homelessness programs based on local needs.

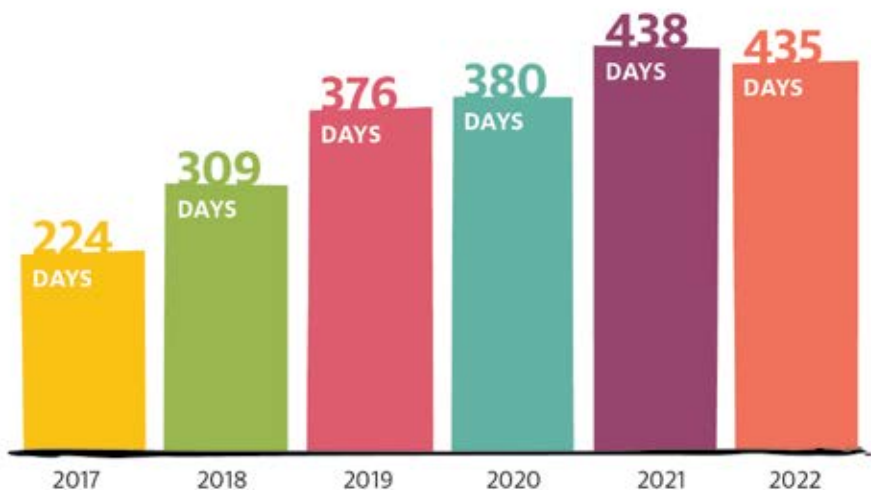


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# Need for Additional Housing

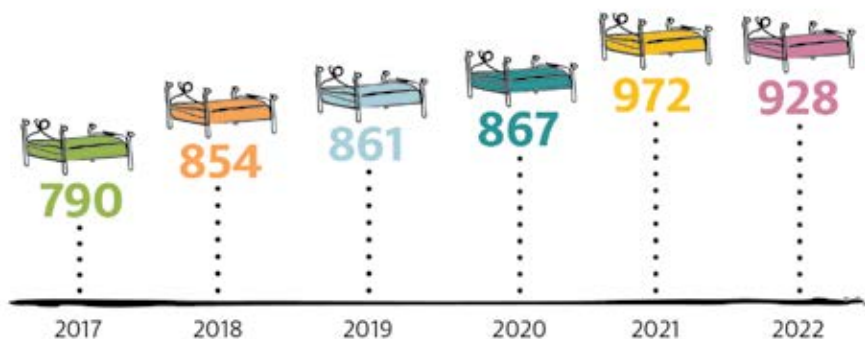
## LENGTH OF TIME HOMELESS

The length of time homeless refers to all time spent between becoming homeless and being permanently placed in a housing project, including time in a homeless shelter. As Idaho's unsheltered homelessness count grows (see page 8), so does length of time homeless. Despite an increase in units and resources (e.g., COVID funding) in recent years, the economic environment is forcing households into homelessness at a rate not seen before in Idaho. The average homeless household now spends more than a year experiencing homelessness.



## PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING UNITS

Permanent supportive housing (PSH) provides long-term housing stability, along with service supports. PSH is traditionally reserved for households with fixed-incomes, disabilities, or other long-term service needs. Idaho has steadily increased the PSH bed count across the state, leading to a decrease in chronic and veteran homelessness.



### REMAINING IN HOMELESSNESS PROGRAMS

The number of households remaining in the program that ended their homelessness at the end of each year has been on the rise. With a large number of households experiencing income growth while participating in programs, this appears to be attributed to a lack of affordable housing options to move in to.



### RETURNS TO HOMELESSNESS WITHIN ONE YEAR

Once a household has exited homelessness, less than 3% return to homelessness within one year. Current housing and service providers are finding success in their programming.

Length of time homeless is increasing while permanent supportive housing units have increased. The housing market is causing program participants to stay in programs longer. Programs are successfully preparing those who have exited homelessness for permanent stable housing arrangements. Additional investments in unit creation and services are needed to reverse the trend of increasing homelessness.





# Success Story

## RENEWED HOPE FOR A BOISE FAMILY

A Boise family that had been living in a local shelter now has a fully furnished home to call their own, thanks in part to the Avenues for Hope campaign and Treger Strasberg, the founder of a national nonprofit organization called Humble Design.

Althea, a grandmother who is taking care of her 6-year-old grandson, worked with CATCH to find a place to live after being sheltered for months by Interfaith Sanctuary. Their new home was empty except for a pair of mattresses on the floor and bags of clothes.

That's where Humble Design came in. The nonprofit furnishes the homes of people exiting homelessness in an effort to keep them housed. Humble Design worked with volunteers from Idaho Housing and Finance and Micron as part of the 2022 Avenues for Hope campaign to furnish the home.

"We're not here to help a family move in," Strasberg said. "We're here to help them move forward with the hope, the pride and the dignity that they deserve."

Since 2009, Humble Design has transformed the lives of more than 8,000 people throughout the country. According to a study published by the National Institute of Health, 50 percent of families return to homelessness within a year of securing housing. However, less than 1 percent of families helped by Humble Design have returned to the shelter system.



Watch the heartwarming video documenting the transformation of this house into a home.  
Scan or visit: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCHBSL3962Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCHBSL3962Q)

# Emergency Rental Assistance

The 2022 calendar year marked the third year of COVID-19 response programs. Although unemployment rates improved, inflation on everyday goods, gas, and housing caused financial strain for tens of thousands of Idahoans. Fortunately, federal Emergency Rental Assistance funds remained available to support Idaho renters unable to pay rent or utilities. An unprecedented amount of assistance was distributed to keep our rental housing crisis at bay. Still, we saw record numbers of homelessness in 2022. Because of limited funding, all Emergency Rental Assistance in Idaho is expected to be exhausted in the first half of 2023.

**FUNDS DISBURSED\***  
\$79,000,000

**HOUSEHOLDS ASSISTED\***  
18,800



\* Figures represent program impact from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

# Home Partnership Foundation

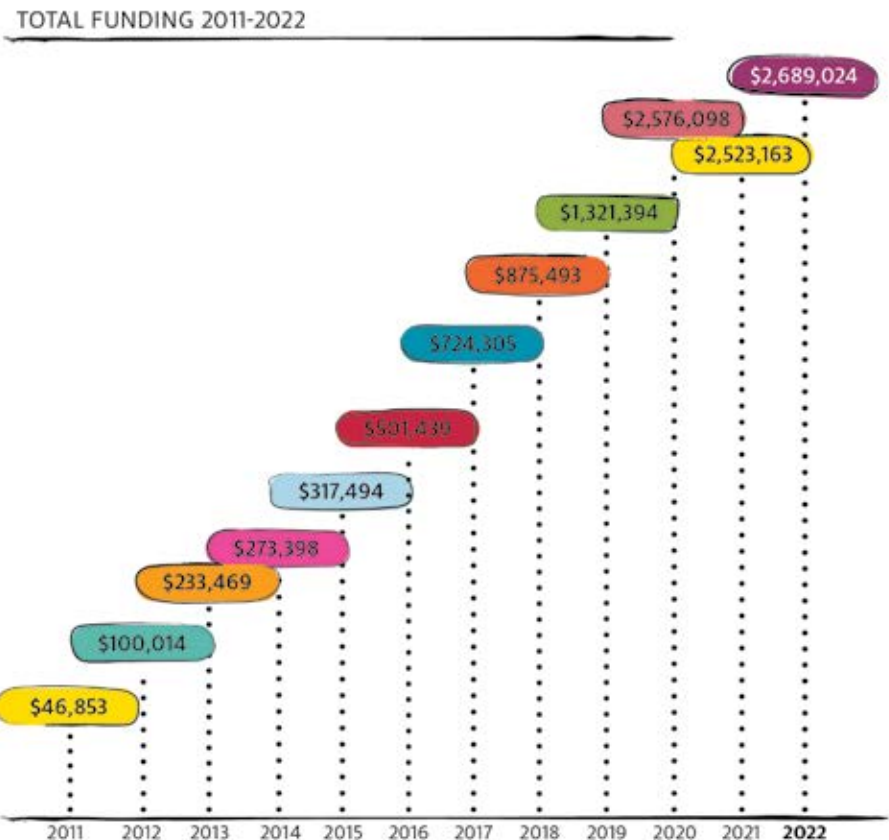
The Home Partnership Foundation is a nonprofit organization created by Idaho Housing and Finance to help communities meet their most pressing housing needs. For more than 17 years, the foundation has received charitable donations from employers, the private sector, developers, local governments, financial institutions and others to help sustain and grow affordable housing opportunities directly and through supporting Idaho nonprofits. Since its inception in 2005, the foundation has invested more than \$15 million to help address housing needs in Idaho.

To learn more, visit [idahohousing.com/foundation](http://idahohousing.com/foundation).

## AVENUES FOR HOPE

The Avenues for Hope Housing Challenge is a unique fundraising campaign created by the Home Partnership Foundation. The goal of the annual campaign is to strengthen housing-related nonprofits throughout Idaho by encouraging individual donations to help prevent homelessness and improve affordable housing options. Over the past 12 years, the campaign has raised \$12 million for housing nonprofits.

To learn more, visit [avenuesforhope.org](http://avenuesforhope.org).



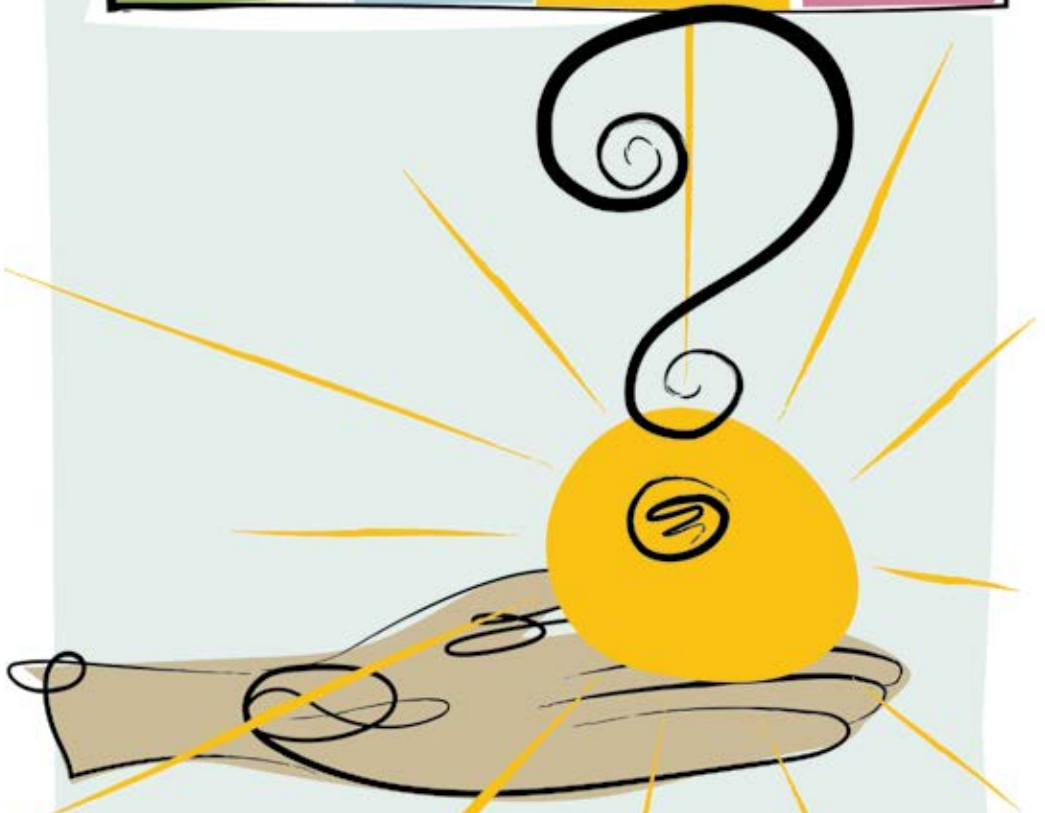
# HOW CAN YOU HELP

EDUCATE

LOBBY

VOLUNTEER

DONATE



...OR USE WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED TO CORRECT  
MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT HOMELESSNESS.

Donate now:







**THANK YOU**



*to our valued partners who contributed  
information and data presented in  
this year's report.*



**Idaho Housing  
and Finance**  
Association