MORE THAN 380 PARTNERS
265 GRANTS & PROJECTS
42/44 COUNTIES RECEIVED FUNDING
Blue Cross of Idaho established the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health in 2001 to give back to Idaho. The Foundation is a separate 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is dedicated to giving back to Idaho and addressing the root causes that impact health.

One of our goals at the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health is to help create transformational change that leads to a healthier Idaho. We know our partnerships, programs, projects, and funding lead to change that will last for generations.

Transformational change doesn’t happen quickly, and in most cases, it can take years to occur. In an era where instant gratification and getting things we want ASAP are the norm; we don’t lose sight that our strategy is a more like a marathon than a sprint. We remain steadfast in our approach of how we give back to Idaho and address the root causes that impact health.

A testament to our strategy and work came in November when national philanthropist MacKenzie Scott provided the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health a one-time, unsolicited, and unrestricted gift of $6 million. Visit our website to learn more about our strategy for using those funds to maximize our impact across Idaho.

We are committed to being in Idaho, for Idaho. We continually listen to our valued partners, review data, consult with experts to identify trends and learn how we can best give back and serve the needs of our state.

This impact report celebrates both our current work, as well as past and ongoing work where we are seeing transformational change occur in our focus areas of community, education and healthcare.

If you’re holding a printed copy of this report, it includes QR codes that you can scan with your smartphone to watch videos and access links that help bring these stories to life. These links are embedded in the digital version of this report that can be found on our website at bcidahofoundation.org. You can also sign up for our monthly newsletter to stay informed about our work and funding opportunities.

In good health,

Mike Reynoldson
President and Board Chair, Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health

Kendra Witt-Doyle, PhD, MPH
Executive Director, Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health
MISSION & STRATEGY

IN IDAHO, FOR IDAHO.

Our Mission:
We are dedicated to giving back to Idaho and addressing the root causes that impact health.

Our Strategy:
We address the root causes that impact health in these focus areas:
- Community
- Education
- Healthcare
Build healthy communities and address root causes that impact health by **engaging with local elected officials and organizations**.

**COMMUNITY HEALTH ACADEMY**

Local elected officials play a vital role in promoting health

Community Health Academy fosters learning and skill-building among mayors and city staff on how they can create a healthy community.

**How It Works:**
Mayors and city staff members participate in presentations and demonstrations on topics that impact community health.

**Topics Include:**
- Childcare & Early Education
- Civility
- Communications & Branding
- Designing Healthy Communities
- Food Systems
- Housing
- Leadership

24 Idaho cities have attended Community Health Academy since 2017.
Payette Mayor Craig Jensen reads a civility pledge at the start of every City Council meeting or public hearing. It’s one of the takeaways he implemented after attending the Community Health Academy in 2022. Jensen took a civility pledge template given to participants of the academy and modified it to fit his community needs.

Civility has become a critical issue in Idaho and our country, especially during public meetings. Numerous public officials have shared with us that they are seeing a rise in uncivil discourse in their communities.

“I adopted this because I felt it was something we need to put out front,” Jensen said. “That’s what we expect in our meetings — for people to have respect and the decency to listen to others. You can disagree, but you can disagree without arguing.”

“Not only does it address what we need to do for the public, but what we expect out of the public. We remind them to listen, to pay attention, not to argue and wait for their turn to speak. I thought it was a brilliant thing to start in our city.”

Craig Jensen
Payette Mayor

Programs and Projects Funded By Community Health Academy Grants:
- Park improvements
- Outdoor exercise equipment
- Supports for additional dwelling units
- Walkability improvements
- Trail connectivity and improvements
- Pathway projects
- Senior Citizen center kitchen updates
- Comprehensive plan supports
- Local food system supports
- Community garden
- Safe Routes to School programming
- Economic development supports for business incubator

SUCCESS STORY: COMMUNITY HEALTH ACADEMY

Payette

Watch a short video about Community Health Academy
Nine Community Transformation Grants have been awarded to Idaho cities since 2013, and the impact on these communities will last for generations through the partnerships, policies, programs and projects that resulted from the multiyear grants.

The Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health wanted to learn ways it could improve the Community Transformation Grant to make it more impactful. We commissioned a developmental evaluation that retrospectively looked at past recipients and the most recent grants with Orofino and Twin Falls.

CTG funding had a catalytic effect, helping communities attract other private and public resources. CTG spurred innovation by providing funding for pilot programs that were later taken on and supported by city governments.

90% of respondents said relationships with others improved.

100% of grant participants said this grant increased their knowledge of health issues.

Now everything we’re doing – paving streets, looking at parks – is geared toward “what’s the healthy aspect?”

Anonymous Survey Response

Evaluation Findings

Next Steps

The Foundation will examine the evaluation data and make improvements to its Community Transformation Grant program. Subscribe to our newsletter for updates.
The City of Rexburg committed to learning and community health by participating in three Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health programs. These programs gave city leaders data, tools, skills and resources to implement a variety of health-focused programs, projects, policies and plans to improve the health of the community. This planning helped the city attract more than $200,000 in additional grant funding from other sources.

**Rexburg Success Projects**
Transforms the city-owned Teton Lakes Golf Course into a winter sports park each year with a sledding hill, Nordic skiing and equipment rentals

- Farmer’s Market supports
- Updated city comprehensive plan to include a health focus in 2021
- Launched a business incubator to help local entrepreneurs build their home businesses
- Park improvements and development
- Paths and trails to improve connectivity
- Launched Kidsburg, an indoor discovery center targeting young children

All of this has really helped us think that there is a holistic way to think about health in our community.

Jerry Merrill
Mayor

Watch a short video showing the transformational change in Rexburg
Remove barriers to education and address root causes that impact health by collaborating with schools, communities and organizations.

SCHOLARSHIPS

These scholarships are awarded to second-year students who have demonstrated a financial need, outstanding academic performance, and community service.

These scholarships reduce medical education expenses and encourage students to pursue their passion in practicing medicine in rural Idaho.

These scholarships support students from Idaho seeking behavioral health degrees that incentivize student clinical placement in rural areas to improve healthcare access in Idaho.

These renewable scholarships support students from Idaho majoring in the healthcare-related fields.

Supports student doctors who demonstrate outstanding character, academic excellence, financial need and a sincere interest in practicing primary care in rural Idaho.

Worked with 49 SCHOOLS and 34 SCHOOL DISTRICTS in 23 COUNTIES.

Funded by the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health.
SUCCESS STORY: EDUCATION
Scholarship Spotlights

Adolfo Andazola-Carmona
Idaho WWAMI
Idaho WWAMI Student Already Giving Back to Future Doctors

Patrick Mark
College of Idaho
Student Hopes to Become Rural Healthcare Provider

Peyton Badger
College of Idaho
Student Eyes Future as Mental Health Provider

Timmer Verhaegh
College of Idaho
Real-World Experience Important for Student

Elana King Nakaoka
Idaho WWAMI
Medical Student Eager to Help Refugees, Immigrants

Demsie Butler
Idaho WWAMI
Graduate Returns Home for Medical Residency

Rhegan McGregor
Idaho WWAMI
Career in Family Medicine Awaits Idaho WWAMI Medical Student

Learn more about these and other scholarship recipients
There is a youth behavioral health crisis happening in Idaho.

We cannot ignore this crisis. We are failing Idaho’s youth if we don’t address this issue. We need to meet students and families where kids spend most of their time when not at home – schools – and make sure they have access to skills and resources to combat this crisis.

We recognize things can be done in schools to help parents, families, and school staff address the behavioral health crisis. With every county in Idaho facing a shortage in behavioral health providers, schools can be part of the solution to help Idaho youth.

Watch a short video about the impact of behavioral health services in schools

What We’re Doing

- The Healthy Minds Partnership helps schools offer onsite clinic behavioral health services
- We support evidence-based programs that support students in the classroom
- We provide essential district-approved training to teachers and administrators to put them in a better position to help their students succeed
Education and health go hand in hand as education is an important predictor of overall health outcomes. Data shows that children who attend preschool are better prepared for elementary school. We made an investment in the Lincoln County Youth Center, which serves three communities (Dietrich, Richfield and Shoshone) in the county. Our involvement has helped the nonprofit Lincoln County Youth Commission attract additional funding sources to help expand its services.

What we are doing at the center is helping kids and having a huge impact on families. We have a long way to go and a lot of work to do, but we are providing a place where kids feel like they belong.

Karma Metzler Fitzgerald
President, Lincoln County Youth Commission

Programming Examples

**Life skills:**
Children learn skills such as food preparation and budgeting, sewing, painting

**Business basics and entrepreneurship:**
The business incubator program helps teach skills, pairs the participant with a business mentor and provides $500 in startup support

**Next Steps Room:**
A place where children can learn about different options for them after high school, including college, trade schools or military service

SUCCESS STORY: EDUCATION
Lincoln County Youth Center

120 KIDS SERVED
21 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES CREATED
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES OFFERED
DOUBLED PRESCHOOL CAPACITY
Connect existing healthcare and community services to address workforce needs and skills in rural Idaho.

45th in the nation
FOR THE NUMBER OF PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
1,327 total

50th in the nation
NUMBER OF ACTIVE PHYSICIANS AND RESIDENT PHYSICIANS PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
Only 3,504 active physicians in Idaho

Idaho and its rural communities face a chronic shortage of primary care physicians. The Primary Care Initiative is dedicated to helping improve access to healthcare for Idahoans.

The Primary Care Initiative encourages new doctors to practice in rural Idaho by:

• Paying down tuition debt for medical graduates who commit to practicing primary care in rural Idaho
• Funds scholarships for medical students planning to go into primary care

Learn more about The Primary Care Initiative

Family medicine physician Logan Jones, DO, is the first physician to receive assistance from the Primary Care Initiative’s medical education debt repayment award. Jones practices at the North Canyon Medical Center in Jerome, one of 27 critical access hospitals in Idaho.
ECHO Idaho is a free, virtual, jointly-accredited continuing education opportunity for Idaho’s healthcare workforce

ECHO Idaho trains primary care clinicians to provide specialty care services. Since its launch in 2018, ECHO Idaho has offered 15 unique series to Idaho healthcare workforce and administrators.

The Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health supported ECHO Idaho to conduct outreach in rural areas that increased its reach. A Foundation grant helped establish the ECHO Idaho Behavioral Health Endowment.

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<th>Number of ECHO sessions</th>
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ECHO Benefits Idaho Healthcare Providers

When Nurse Practitioner Katelin Arnold moved from Texas back to her native Idaho to work for Panhandle Health District, she found the healthcare system was tougher to navigate. “There were lots of challenges for me, like finding somebody to ask questions to, especially specialists,” she said.

ECHO Idaho has been her go-to resource.

One series Arnold followed was on Hepatitis C and Liver Care. It allowed her to learn from specialists and gave her confidence and knowledge to treat a patient with Hepatitis C for the first time. She previously would have referred the patient to a specialist.

“I was able to treat my first patient until they had zero viral load for Hepatitis C, and I definitely would not have done that without this program,” she said.

The topics and the categories they have are so important and really focused on what we’re seeing now. They really apply to my patient population.

Katelin Arnold
Nurse Practitioner

Current ECHO Idaho Programming

Behavioral Health in Primary Care
Counseling Techniques for Substance Use Disorder
COVID-19 and Other Current Infections
Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)
Opioids, Pain and Substance Use Disorder
Pediatric Autism
Viral Hepatitis and Liver Care
X-Waiver Training
## ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED IN 2022

### Idaho Cities
- Albion
- American Falls
- Ammon
- Arimo
- Bancroft
- Blackfoot
- Boise
- Bovill
- Buhl
- Caldwell
- Carey
- Cascade
- Chubbuck
- Clark Fork
- Cottonwood
- Crouch
- Dalton Gardens
- Dayton
- Deary
- Dietrich
- Dover
- Downey
- Driggs
- East Hope
- Emmett
- Fairfield
- Ferdinand
- Firth
- Franklin
- Garden City
- Glens Ferry
- Grace
- Hayden
- Hayden Lake
- Hazelton
- Heyburn
- Hollister
- Homedale
- Idaho City
- Idaho Falls
- Iona
- Jerome
- Juliaetta
- Kamiah
- Kendrick
- Ketchum
- Lapwai
- Lewiston
- Malad
- McCall
- Meridian
- Montpelier
- Moscow
- Mountain Home
- Moyie Springs
- Mud Lake
- Murtaugh
- Nampa
- New Meadows
- Nezperce
- Onaway
- Orofino
- Parma
- Payette
- Peck
- Placerville
- Pocatello
- Ponderay
- Post Falls
- Potlatch
- Preston
- Rexburg
- Richfield
- Rigby
- Roberts
- Sandpoint
- Shelley
- Smelterville
- Spirit Lake
- St. Anthony
- St. Charles
- Stanley
- Star
- Tensed
- Tetonia
- Twin Falls
- Victor
- Weiser
- Wendell
- Weston
- Winchester
- Worley

### Idaho Nonprofit Organizations
- Elk City Area Alliance
- Home Partnership Foundation
- Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children
- Idaho Association of School Administrators
- Idaho Community Foundation
- Idaho Community Health Workers Association
- Idaho Counseling Association
- Idaho School Boards Association
- League of Idaho Cities, Inc.
- LEAP Charities, Inc.
- Pocatello Free Clinic
- Primary Care Initiative
- Rotary District 5080 Charitable Fund
Schools and School Districts

American Falls School District
Amity Elementary
Black Canyon Elementary
Blackfoot Heritage Sixth Grade
Bliss Joint School District
Caldwell School District
Camas County School District
Cascade School District
Castleford Joint School District
Centennial High
Challis Elementary
Clark County Schools
Classical Christian Academy
Clover Christian
Coeur d’Alene Charter Academy
Coeur d’Alene School District
County of Shoshone Joint School District
Eagle Rock Middle
Emmett School District
Ernest Hemingway Steam
Farmin Stidwell Elementary
Fernan Elementary
Filer Elementary
Filer School District
Fremont County Joint School District
Frontier Elementary
Hansen Elementary
Heritage Christian Academy
Hillcrest Elementary
Hillside Junior High
Homedale School District
Horizon Elementary
Horseshoe Bend School District
Idaho Falls High
Idaho Falls School District
Idaho Home Learning Academy
Jefferson Elementary
Jefferson County School District
Jerome School District
Juliaetta Elementary
Kellogg School District
Kendrick Joint School District
Kootenai Technical Education Campus
Kuna School District
Lake Pend Oreille School District
Lakeland School District
Lava Hot Springs Elementary
Lewiston School District
Liberty Elementary
Madison Middle
Madison School District
Marsing Joint School District
Mary McPherson Elementary
Maxine Johnson Elementary
Minidoka School District
Mountain Home School District
Mullan School District
Nampa School District
Nezperce Joint School District
North Gem School District
North Idaho STEM Charter Academy
North Star Charter
Notus School District
Ola Elementary
Parma School District
Pocatello/Chubbuck School District
Preston School District
Prospect Elementary
Richfield School District
Riggins Elementary
Roosevelt Elementary
Shelley School District
Shoshone Elementary
South Fork Elementary
South Hills Middle
Taylorview Middle
Thomas Jefferson Charter
Twin Falls School District
Valley View Elementary
Venture High
Wallace School District
White Pine Elementary
Wilder School District
West Ada School District

Government Organizations

Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs
Idaho Head Start Collaboration Office
Central District Health
State of Idaho Department of Education

Colleges and Universities

The College of Idaho
Idaho State University Foundation
Lewis Clark State College Foundation
University of Idaho Foundation
ABOUT THE BLUE CROSS OF IDAHO FOUNDATION FOR HEALTH

The Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health, Inc., is a nonprofit private foundation established by Blue Cross of Idaho in 2001.

The Foundation is dedicated to giving back to Idaho and addressing the root causes that impact health.

The Foundation is a catalytic organization dedicated to transformational approaches that will impact Idaho today and for future generations.

Audited financial statements of the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health, Inc., are available, once issued, by emailing info@bcidahofoundation.org.