HEALTHIER IDAHO HEALTHIER FUTURE

IMPACT REPORT | **2025**

Blue Cross of Idaho | Foundation for Health, Inc.

BUILDING A HEALTHIER IDAHO:
Our Ongoing Commitment

The Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health has worked for years to create a healthier Idaho by addressing the root causes that impact health. While the ways we've shown up for our state have evolved, our mission has remained constant and isn't changing.

We experienced a leadership transition in 2025 with the promotion of Courtney Frost into the role of executive director. Courtney has been with us for more than 10 years and is excited about leading us into our 25th year as a 501(c)(3) private foundation. Even during this period of change, our focus areas — community, education, and healthcare — continued to guide our efforts to create transformational impact across Idaho.

Listening and learning remain central to our approach. In 2025, we conducted a satisfaction survey among grantees, partners, and applicants to understand how we're doing and where we can improve. The feedback was invaluable, and we're excited to use these insights to strengthen our service to Idaho.

This past year also marked the near completion of allocating $6 million from an unsolicited gift we received in late 2022 from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott. Over the past three years, we have worked intentionally and thoughtfully to ensure these funds were invested in programs and projects that align with our mission. In this report, you'll see how those investments are making a difference.

Since our founding in 2001, our purpose has been clear: to give back to Idaho and address the root causes that impact health. That commitment is unwavering — and together, we will continue building a healthier Idaho for generations to come.

The Impact of the MacKenzie Scott Donation

Philanthropist MacKenzie Scott announced on November 14, 2022, that she was donating $6 million to the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health. We were one of 343 organizations worldwide — and the only one in Idaho — to receive unsolicited funding that year.

Our team and leadership were beyond thankful and surprised by the generous, no-strings-attached donation. We invested these funds with partner organizations for programs and projects that help build a healthier Idaho.

We allocated approximately **$2 million per year** in 2023, 2024 and 2025, focusing on:

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (16 grants)

EARLY EDUCATION (14 grants)

HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE (36 grants)

HOUSING (10 grants)

LEADERSHIP (43 grants)

MISSION & VALUES

OUR **MISSION:**
We are dedicated to giving back to Idaho and addressing the root causes that impact health.

OUR **VALUES:**

- Build Partnerships
- Continuous Learning
- Transformational Change
- Opportunities for All

OUR **FOCUS AREAS:**

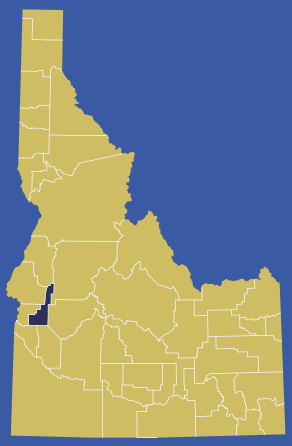
COMMUNITY

EDUCATION

HEALTHCARE

2025 **HIGHLIGHTS**

331
GRANTS & PROJECTS



43/44 COUNTIES
RECEIVED FUNDING

LEARNING FROM OUR PARTNERS

We believe in learning and data-driven decision making.

Heading into our 25th year, we wanted to better understand how our Foundation is viewed. We conducted a survey of more than 350 partners, grantees and grant applicants to:

LEARN what is working well and should be reinforced

HEAR directly where partners and grantees see opportunities for us to evolve

STRENGTHEN relationships and trust through transparency

SUPPORT continuous improvement as we evolve

What we heard from the survey respondents:

- We are a strategic partner
- We deliver what we promise
- We value relationships with partners and grantees

Our next steps based on feedback:

- Continue to show up for Idaho communities and schools
- Streamline our processes
- Bolster communications

> They care about the people behind the work. It never feels transactional.
>
> **– anonymous survey response**

HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE

Butte County High School Program Prepares Students for In-Demand Careers

Idaho is a healthcare desert. The state lacks primary care doctors, nurses, specialists, and just about every other healthcare profession.

One way we try to grow Idaho's healthcare workforce is partnering with schools to introduce and prepare students for in-demand careers in healthcare.

Career Technical Education Programs Help Build Workforce

We provided grant funding to help 27 Idaho high schools launch or expand their career technical education (CTE) health professions programs in the past two years. Schools that received the grants can offer approved CTE pathways in medical and dental assisting, pharmacy technician, certified nursing assistant, rehabilitation services, and emergency medical technician.

School Districts Supported

- American Falls School District
- Blackfoot School District
- Blaine County School District
- Boise School District
- Bruneau-Grandview School District
- Butte County School District
- Canyon Owyhee School Service Agency
- Cassia Joint School District
- Elevate Academy North
- Firth School District
- Fruitland School District
- Genesee School District
- Hagerman School District
- Jerome School District
- Kamiah School District
- Lake Pend Oreille School District
- Madison School District
- Melba School District
- Middleton School District
- Moscow School District
- Nampa School District
- Orofino School District
- Payette River Technical Academy
- Rise Charter School
- Snake River School District
- Sugar Salem School District
- Twin Falls School District

College of Eastern Idaho

Read how a grant helps college reach more students

LEADERSHIP

Supporting leadership in communities and schools can strengthen social connection, trust, and communication.

Leaders who prioritize community input and resident-driven solutions are laying the groundwork for healthy communities. When people feel heard and included, their sense of belonging and well-being increase, which positively impacts health.

Learning Collaborative Helps Leaders Understand How They Impact Health

Community Health Academy is a six-month learning collaborative that provides opportunities for mayors and city leadership to explore how they can improve the health of their communities. Academy topics include civility, community leadership, designing healthy communities, early education, food systems, housing, storytelling and branding, and youth behavioral health.

> The Foundation provided the technical expertise and data to help us see that every city policy is an opportunity to improve the well-being of our residents. They have been more than a funder; they have been a partner in shifting our culture to ensure that a 'health lens' is applied to every decision we make for the future of Cambridge.
>
> **– Cambridge Mayor Mark Loveland**

2025 Attendees

Albion
Arimo
Basalt
Boise
Cambridge
Council
Eden
Hayden
Lincoln County
McCall
Pierce
Salmon
Shoshone

IDAHO SBA School Boards Association

Watch a video that talks about the Communicating as Leaders workshops and the partnership between the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health and the Idaho School Boards Association

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The sense of belonging and well-being impact mental, physical, and emotional health.

We've built partnerships with schools, community organizations, and nonprofits that work to improve the behavioral health of Idahoans.

Schools are a great place to address behavioral health and other pressing health issues because children spend a lot of time there and can access resources that can help improve their well-being. We support organizations and nonprofits that focus on accessing care.

Affiliate Programs Create Increased Access to Mental Health Supports

Idaho ranks 48th nationally in mental health resources, and all 44 counties in the Gem State are federally designated as mental health provider shortage areas. This creates difficulty in accessing necessary behavioral health and mental health services.

NAMI Idaho (the state organization for the National Alliance on Mental Illness) helps create more access to care through its affiliate programs. We provided grant funding to NAMI Idaho to launch affiliate programs in three of Idaho's larger cities — Lewiston, Pocatello and Twin Falls.

NAMI community-based affiliates provide education programs and groups specific to local needs. Programs can be in-person or virtual, whatever the affiliates deem appropriate for the area. Groups and classes for supporting individuals and families are led by volunteers with lived experience. Each volunteer is trained and supported by the state organization.

Helping people connect with others in similar circumstances reduces loneliness and provides a sense of belonging and a reason for hope, reducing the stigma that keeps people from reaching out for help. NAMI groups and educational programs for people with mental illness and those who support them are provided confidentially and at no cost.

> Peer support is a bridge between clinical care and real life. It keeps people connected to treatment, hope, and community.
>
> **– Beth Markley, Executive Director, NAMI Idaho**

Investing In Idaho Youth Mental Health Report highlights opportunities for state to improve youth well-being

EARLY EDUCATION

Play 2 Learn Program Benefits Children, Parents

Education and health outcomes are linked. Early education programs are important because they provide a base for lifelong learning.

The early years (birth to age 5) are when brains develop rapidly, and quality early education programs can help promote cognitive, emotional, and social growth. There is no other time in a person's life when the brain develops as rapidly as those first five years.

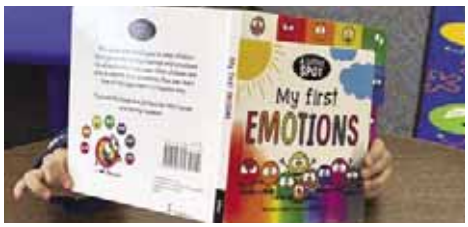
Early education programs help prepare children for kindergarten. Several landmark studies show that children who attend quality early education programs are more likely to graduate high school, attend college or trade school, and achieve higher earnings.

Supporting Early Education
We offered an Early Education & Schools Learning Series and grant funding that helped 23 schools launch or expand their early education programs over the past two years.

ONLY 53% of children in Idaho are ready for kindergarten when they enroll

School Districts Supported

- American Falls School District
- Avery School District
- Basin School District (Idaho City)
- Bliss School District
- Bruneau-Grandview School District
- Caldwell School District
- Castleford School District
- Fruitland School District
- Genesee School District
- Glenns Ferry School District
- Horseshoe Bend School District
- Kootenai Joint School District
- Lewiston School District
- Madison School District (Rexburg)
- Marsing School District
- Meadows Valley School District (New Meadows)
- Mullan School District
- Pocatello/Chubbuck School District
- Snake River School District
- Sugar-Salem School District
- Wendell School District
- West Side School District
- Wilder School District



Grant helps launch early education program in Bliss

HOUSING

Housing is health. Idahoans who don't have safe, secure housing are more likely to experience other health conditions.

When we ask community leaders what the biggest health issues are, housing is always among the top responses. Affordability is a key driver of the housing crisis that impacts health. When people pay more for housing, it forces them to make difficult choices such as preventive doctor's visits, healthy foods or pay their mortgage or rent.

When Idaho families can't afford to live near jobs, schools, and support systems, their health is at risk. Gem State Housing Alliance is focused on removing barriers so more Idahoans can stay rooted in communities that help them thrive.

– Ali Rabe,
Executive Director,
Gem State Housing Alliance

Housing Alliance Starts with a Conversation

Idaho has a housing crisis. Many community partners were working separately to try and solve it, which resulted in duplicating efforts that weren't always effective. Stakeholders expressed a desire for a statewide advocacy organization to align and professionalize scattered efforts.

We contributed the lead gift to fund a study that researched other states' housing alliances and help develop a roadmap to launch one in Idaho. This was an important step in the creation of Idaho's first housing advocacy alliance — Gem State Housing Alliance.

Read More About Gem State Housing Alliance

Housing Assessment Helps Inform Nez Perce Tribe

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED

Idaho Cities

Albion
American Falls
Ammon
Arco
Arimo
Bancroft
Basalt
Bellevue
Boise
Bonners Ferry
Bovill
Buhl
Caldwell
Cambridge
Carey
Cascade
Council
Crouch
Dayton
Deary
Dover
Downey
Driggs
Drummond
Dubois
East Hope
Eden
Fairfield
Ferdinand
Fernan Lake Village
Firth
Franklin
Fruitland
Garden City
Genesee
Georgetown
Glenns Ferry
Grace
Hagerman
Hayden
Hayden Lake
Hazelton
Hollister
Homedale
Hope
Idaho City
Iona
Jerome
Juliaetta
Kellogg
Kendrick
Ketchum
Kooskia
Lapwai
Lava Hot Springs
Leadore
Lewiston
Mackay
Malad City
McCall
McCammon
Menan
Montpelier
Moscow
Mountain Home
Moyie Springs
Mud Lake
Murtaugh
Nampa
New Meadows
New Plymouth
Newdale
Nezperce
Oldtown
Onaway
Orofino
Osburn
Parma
Paul
Pierce
Pinehurst
Plummer
Pocatello
Ponderay
Post Falls
Preston
Rexburg
Richfield
Rigby
Ririe
Roberts
Rockland
Rupert
Salmon
Sandpoint
Shelley
Shoshone
Smelterville
St. Anthony
Stanley
Star
Stites
Swan Valley
Teton
Tetonia
Ucon
Victor
Wallace
Weiser
Wendell
Weston
Winchester

Idaho Nonprofit Organizations

Ada County Medical Society Foundation
Children's Home Society
Bannock Youth Foundation
Desert Sage Health Centers
Habitat for Humanity of North Idaho
Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children
Idaho Community Foundation
Idaho HOSA
Idaho Housing Foundation
Idaho Medical Association Foundation
Jannus Inc.
Kaniksu Land Trust
LEAP Housing
Lincoln County Youth Center
NAMI Idaho
Nimiipuu Community Development Fund
Primary Care Initiative
Teton Valley Mental Health Coalition
The Crisis Hotline
The Jesse Tree of Idaho
United Way of North Idaho
Upriver Youth Leadership Council
Willow Center Inc.
YMCA of Boise

Schools and School Districts

American Falls School District
Avery School District
Barbara Morgan Spalding STEM Academy
Bear Lake School District
Blackfoot School District
Blaine County School District
Bliss School District
Bruneau-Grandview Joint School District
Cambridge School District
Cascade School District
Clark County High
Cynthia Mann Elementary
Desert Sage Elementary
Dietrich School District
Eagle Rock Junior High
Elevate Academy (Caldwell)
Elevate Academy (Idaho Falls)
Fruitland School District
Garfield Elementary (Boise)
Gem Prep Meridian North
Genesee Joint School District
Glenns Ferry School District
Hagerman Joint School District
Horseshoe Bend School District
Lewiston School District
Kootenai Classical Academy
Kootenai Joint School District
Lake Hazel Elementary
Lake Pend Oreille School District
Lakeland Joint School District
Madison Middle
Madison School District
Marsh Valley School District
Marsing Joint School District
Melba Joint School District
Meridian Elementary
Meridian High
Middleton School District
Monroe Elementary (Boise)
Mosaics Charter
Mountain View High
Mullan School District
Nampa High
Nampa School District
Nezperce Elementary
North Gem School District
Notus School District
Parma School District
Pleasant View Elementary
Pocatello/Chubbuck School District
Prairie Elementary
Richfield School District
Rimrock Elementary
RISE Charter
Sage International
Salmon River High
Shelley School District
Skyline High
Snake River School District
Tendoy Elementary
Twin Falls School District
Valley View Elementary (Hazelton)
Valley View Elementary (Bonners Ferry)
Washington Elementary (Boise)
Wendell School District
Wilder School District
Xavier Charter Schools

Colleges and Universities

College of Idaho
College of Southern Idaho Foundation
College of Western Idaho
College of Western Idaho Foundation
Idaho State University Foundation
Lewis-Clark State College
Northwest Nazarene University
University of Idaho Foundation

Government Organizations

Idaho Association of School Administrators
Idaho Department of Education
Idaho School Boards Association
Idaho School Counselor Association
Idaho Workforce Development Council
School Nurse Organization of Idaho

Cover photo courtesy of Lisa Ailport

ABOUT THE BLUE CROSS OF IDAHO FOUNDATION FOR HEALTH

We are a nonprofit private foundation established by Blue Cross of Idaho in 2001.

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

We strive to be a catalytic organization that takes pride in listening and understanding the needs of our state, then work with partners to provide transformational approaches that will impact Idaho today and for future generations.

Learn more at **bcidahofoundation.org**

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