



ANNUAL REPORT

IDAHO POLICY INSTITUTE
JANUARY 1, 2019 - DECEMBER 31, 2019



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

A red banner is suspended in the air, featuring the text "WE ARE BRONCOS" in white and blue. Below the text is a blue logo of the letter "B" and the text "BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY" in white. The banner is set against a background of lush green trees and purple flowers in the foreground.

**WE ARE
BRONCOS**



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY



Under the leadership of Dr. Greg Hill, the Idaho Policy Institute continues to be a key component of the School of Public Service's community research initiatives. Its 2019 activities clearly demonstrate the positive impact it is having as it assists decision makers with relevant and timely data and analysis across the entire state and beyond.

Andrew Giacomazzi
Interim Dean, School of Public Service

About the Institute

In the summer of 2016, Boise State University's School of Public Service launched the Idaho Policy Institute (IPI) to embody the school's vision of serving as a recognized and trusted resource for decision makers searching for effective solutions to pressing public concerns. Since its launching, IPI has completed over 50 projects with seven more currently underway. The institute works in collaboration with nonprofits, local and state government, and private industry in Idaho and beyond. IPI's mission statement and five core principles drive our work.

MISSION

Be an independent, non-partisan resource for decision makers.

FIVE CORE PRINCIPLES

- Collaboration
- Community Responsiveness
- Educational Impact
- Public Engagement
- Research Integrity

Letter from the Director

2019 was a big year for IPI. We set a new standard in the number of projects with 20, which pushed our total awarded funding at IPI to just over \$1 million. But above and beyond all of that, we care deeply about the opportunity to interact, work with, and impact the communities we serve. Just a couple of examples: The Ending Family Homelessness project and the New Path Community Housing evaluations are evidence-based ways to address homelessness and housing insecurity. We are also showing impact with the follow-up projects that are coming to us. We engaged in ongoing research with the State Board of Education. We are also doing multiple projects with the City of Boise and BLUUM, an education nonprofit organization.

IPI also partners with the community through supporting research projects with our Masters of Public Administration (MPA) students. In 2019, MPA students spearheaded 12 projects. Students worked with clients on assessing public/private partnership opportunities, with nonprofit organizations doing focus groups and interviews to assess program effectiveness, and with the State Board of Education surveying the intentions of high school seniors to go on to college. Giving students the opportunity to work on research projects with clients serves to both strengthen the skills and marketability of the students and provide an additional way for organizations to access research at Boise State University.

IPI also grew as an organization. We are better equipped to support students. At any given time we have undergraduate, masters, and PhD students with us and they have a huge positive impact! They bring energy, excitement, and different perspectives and skillsets. We really value the opportunity to engage with students and provide mentorship and work experience during their time with IPI.

Mostly, I'm pleased with the continued devotion of the great researchers we have. Under the direction of our Research Director, Dr. Vanessa Fry, they work hard, care deeply about making sure the client has a top-quality product that is defensible, and are an amazing bunch of people to work with.

I look forward to the challenges, opportunities, and projects that 2020 will bring. We intend to continue to grow the Institute and magnify our mission of being an independent, non-partisan resource for decision makers.



**- GREG HILL, PHD
DIRECTOR, IDAHO POLICY INSTITUTE**





8,844
Survey
Responses



10
New
Partners



Year in Review

PROJECTS THROUGHOUT 2019

- Boise's Energy Future (sponsor, City of Boise)
- Charter School Program Evaluation (sponsor, Bluum)
- Comprehensive Plan Technical Assistance (sponsor, City of Mountain Home)
- Comprehensive Plan Technical Assistance (sponsor, City of Nampa)
- Economic Impact Analysis of Small Modular Reactor Power Generation (sponsor, Regional Economic Development Corporation for Eastern Idaho)
- Economic Impact of Military Retirees in Idaho (sponsor, Idaho Defense Alliance, Inc.)
- Ending Family Homelessness (sponsor, City of Boise)
- Fourth Annual Statewide Survey
- Fourth Annual Treasure Valley Survey
- Office of the State Board of Education 2019 Evaluations (sponsor, Idaho State Board of Education)
- Idaho's Transportation Infrastructure Funding (multiple supporters)
- Understanding Human Tiger Conflict through Big Data (sponsor, World Wildlife Fund, Inc.)
- Health Insurance Network Adequacy (sponsor, Idaho Department of Insurance)
- New Path Community Housing Evaluation (sponsor, City of Boise)
- Office of the State Board of Education 2020 Evaluations (sponsor, Idaho State Board of Education)
- Property Tax Analysis (sponsor, City of Boise)
- SAMHSA Treatment and Transitions Evaluation (sponsor, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare)
- Social Determinants of Health (sponsor, Blue Cross Foundation)
- Wisconsin Nonprofit Compensation and Benefit Study (sponsor, InterSector)
- Downtown Mobility Collaborative (multiple supporters)

Project Spotlights



ENDING FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

CITY OF BOISE

Authors: Lantz McGinnis-Brown, McAllister Hall, Ana Costa, Vanessa Crossgrove Fry & Benjamin Larsen

In its effort to become the most livable city in the country, the City of Boise recognizes the need to address issues related to housing and homelessness. As such, the City partnered with IPI to conduct a study on ending family homelessness in Ada County, Idaho. The research was guided by the following questions.

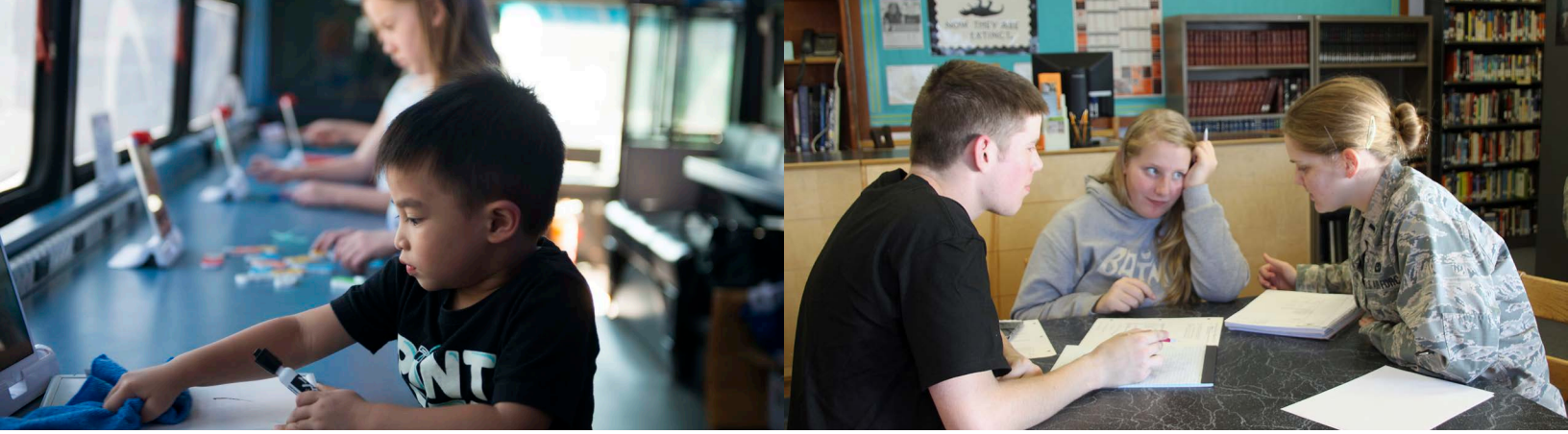
- ▶ **What interventions are most suitable for preventing family homelessness?**
- ▶ **What is the gap between current capacities of housing and homelessness services and the service capacity needed to end family homelessness in Ada County?**
- ▶ **What are the programmatic costs of ending family homelessness in Ada County?**

To answer these questions, IPI conducted a literature review of homelessness prevention services as well as an analysis of Ada County's Coordinated Entry System (CES), Our Path Home. Research included tracking households with children through the CES, assessing their referral into programs, and determining costs associated with placement into housing.

IPI's research found that at any given time, over 200 households are experiencing family homelessness. The study concluded that family homelessness and housing instability in Ada County has been on the rise but that it is addressable. By focusing resources on prevention in order to slow families entering the system, providing support with early intervention programs, and continuing to support permanent housing, the community can work towards ending family homelessness.

Following the conclusion of the study, the City of Boise took action. On December 17, 2019, the Boise City Council unanimously approved \$2 million towards efforts to end family homelessness in Ada County by 2025. This approval is the first commitment for the capital campaign to raise the \$8.4 million to build services to address housing instability and homelessness for families in Ada County.





PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Authors: Lantz McGinnis-Brown, Matthew May, Benjamin Larsen, McAllister Hall & Vanessa Crossgrove Fry



In 2019, in partnership with the Idaho State Board of Education, IPI evaluated two statewide programs: the College and Career Advisors and Student Mentor Program and the Literacy Intervention Program.

Idaho's College and Career Advising and Mentoring program enables Idaho's Local Educational Agencies' (both school districts and charter schools) efforts to support Idaho students' preparation for college and career readiness. Student-level data from the Idaho Department of Education, school-level data from the National Center for Education Statistics, and Local Educational Agency plans from the Idaho State Board of Education were used to examine program participation and outcomes.

IPI evaluated Idaho's Literacy Intervention Program, which is in its first two years. Idaho adopted the Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI) exam to evaluate whether students are reading proficiently at grade level. If students are below proficient, schools must provide additional hours of instruction to bring students up to grade level. Distribution of state funds are based on a district's need for additional instruction for those students reading below proficiency.

IPI evaluated the use of funds, as well as program design and effectiveness, for both education programs. Although the outlook of each program is very positive, neither program has existed long enough to determine their overall success. However, these initial evaluations established robust methodological frameworks for ongoing evaluations of each program that will more clearly measure their long-term success. The Idaho Policy Institute will be completing similar evaluations in 2020.



BOISE'S ENERGY FUTURE

CITY OF BOISE

Authors: Benjamin Larsen, Gabe Osterhout, Vanessa Crossgrove Fry & Kathleen Araujo

Many cities across the United States are establishing community-wide goals for a transition to renewable energy sources. To evaluate the potential of establishing a similar goal, the City of Boise wanted to develop a plan to identify realistic community-wide goals for improved energy efficiency and renewable energy in Boise's homes, businesses, and municipal operations. In order to understand the broader community views that the plan will address, the City of Boise collaborated with IPI to develop and implement a resident survey to inform key stakeholders, elected officials, and the plan development team about community perceptions, priorities, and concerns related to Boise's energy future.

The survey results indicated strong and consistent agreement with the City of Boise's goals to reduce energy use and to transition to clean/renewable energy (57.5 percent), as well as concern about the impact of climate change (57.1 percent). The survey's methodology and results were published in the City of Boise's Energy Future plan, which establishes a community-wide goal of 100 percent renewable electricity by 2035 and was approved unanimously by the Boise City Council.

In 2035, Boise's community energy will be generated from clean sources that deliver reliable and affordable energy that benefits our local economy, while enhancing our community's resilience to climate change. (City of Boise, 2019)



Capstone Projects

BY MASTERS OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION STUDENTS

SPRING 2019

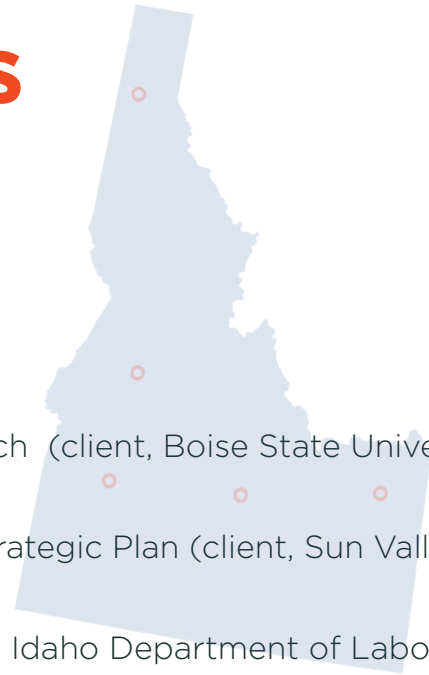
- Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Research (client, Boise State University Center On Aging)
- Blaine County Economic Development Vision for Strategic Plan (client, Sun Valley Economic Development)
- Department of Labor Fringe Benefits Survey (client, Idaho Department of Labor)
- Financial Feasibility Study for St. Luke's Wood River Hospital Microgrid (client, Sun Valley Institute)
- West Central Mountains School District Opportunity Assessment (client, West Central Mountains Economic Development Council)

SUMMER 2019

- Create Common Good Program Evaluation (client, Create Common Good)
- Public/Private Partnership for Idaho's Infrastructure (client, Roy Eiguren and Jerry Sturgill)
- Panhandle Health District Fleet Vehicle Cost-Benefit and Policy Analysis (client, Idaho Panhandle Health District)

FALL 2019

- Go-On Survey (client, Idaho State Board of Education)
- Custody and Family Law Survey (client, David Oliphant)
- Higher Ground Program Evaluation (client, Higher Ground)
- Impacts of Transportation on Compensation and Housing Study (client, Interfaith Sanctuary)



Team

Faculty and Staff

IPI is a research unit in the School of Public Service at Boise State University. IPI is a non-partisan, interdisciplinary research center that brings together faculty experts, students, and community partners to conduct objective research and analysis to aid in informed decision making and engage the public. Since 2016, the Idaho Policy Institute has grown from a team of two to twelve.



GREG HILL, PHD
Director



VANESSA FRY, PHD
Research Director



CHEONG KIM, PHD
Assistant Research
Professor



MATTHEW MAY, PHD
Senior Research
Associate



BEN LARSEN, PHD
Research Associate



LANTZ MCGINNIS-BROWN
Research Associate



GABE OSTERHOUT
Research Associate



TASHA SMAGULA
Administrative Assistant II

Team

Students

IPI is committed to Boise State University's mission to offer an array of experiences that foster student success, community engagement, innovation, and creativity. IPI strives to include Boise State students in many aspects of our work. During 2019, we had more students on the team than ever before, including two new graduate assistants, one undergraduate student, and one intern joining IPI.



ANA COSTA
Graduate Assistant



MCALLISTER HALL
Graduate Assistant



D'ANDRE MATHEWS
Graduate Assistant



MACKENZIE MOSS
Graduate Assistant



EMILY PAPE
Undergraduate
Research Assistant



SARAE SIMPSON
Intern

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BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE



Idaho Policy Institute

(208) 426-5488

• ipi@boisestate.edu

• boisestate.edu/sps-ipi

