



ANNUAL REPORT

IDAHO POLICY INSTITUTE
JANUARY 1, 2020 - DECEMBER 31, 2020



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

IDAHO POLICY INSTITUTE



ABOUT IPI

Idaho Policy Institute's vision, mission, and values drive our work and ensure we meet the School of Public Service's directive to embody the role of public servants.

Vision

Be an independent, nonpartisan resource for decision makers.

Mission

Idaho Policy Institute strives to provide unbiased research for decision makers to assist them in addressing the difficult decisions of the day and help state and local government leaders navigate change and forge strong directions for a better Idaho. We focus on rigorous, defensible research to guide the results of our work.

Values

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

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

2020 was a year like no other. Like many, IPI was presented with plentiful challenges, but also a tremendous amount of opportunity, which leads into my optimistic outlook for 2021.

Although we bid adieu to our founding director, Greg Hill, and our amazing administrative guru, Tasha Smagula, we welcomed new members to the IPI team, including an undergraduate graphic design student, Melanie Hernandez. In addition, McAllister Hall, a graduate student with IPI, joined the staff as a research associate after graduating in May.

Our research in 2020 was more collaborative than past years. IPI was recently awarded its first National Science Foundation grant, a collaborative project with the Peregrine Fund. In addition, research associate Lantz McGinnis-Brown joined the board of Valley Regional Transit and I now serve on the board of the Red Cross of Greater Idaho.

Students had exceptional challenges in 2020. Despite this, IPI's partners continued to be impressed with the quality of the student work. This past summer, a group of students worked with the Idaho State Bar to examine bullying, harassment, and discrimination in the workplace, the results are being utilized to help inform the practice of law across the state. This spring, the MPA Capstone will be working with new clients including Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and National Forest Foundation.

All of IPI's accomplishments have been team efforts. I am fortunate to work with exceptional colleagues who each bring unique talents and expertise to IPI. The support we get from our community partners and across the university enables our success. This coming year, we anticipate returning to work in person. When we do, IPI will be located on campus where we can continue to strengthen our relationships with our Boise State colleagues.

As we move into a new year, I am filled with optimism that 2021 will be a year of positive change.



- VANESSA FRY, PHD

INTERIM DIRECTOR, IDAHO POLICY INSTITUTE

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Under the leadership of Dr. Vanessa Fry, Idaho Policy Institute has made significant contributions to the School's community research initiatives in the areas of education, housing, transportation, infrastructure, public health, and more.

In 2020, the Institute continued to inform and shape the important conversations surrounding our community's most pressing challenges. The crucial work of our colleagues in Idaho Policy Institute continues to assist decision makers with relevant and timely data and analysis, both locally and across our state.

- ANDREW GIACOMAZZI, PHD

INTERIM DEAN, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE

YEAR IN REVIEW

PROJECTS THROUGHOUT 2020

SPONSORED PROJECTS

- Boise Property Tax Analysis (sponsor, City of Boise)
- Charter School Program Evaluation (sponsor, Bluum)
- Diagnostic Site Visit Research Design (sponsor, Bluum)
- Idaho Education Policy Review (sponsor, yes. every kid.)
- Idaho Public Television Attitudinal Awareness Study (sponsor, Idaho Public Television)
- Idaho's Transportation Infrastructure (sponsor, group of 11 private/public partners)
- New Path Community Housing Evaluation (sponsor, City of Boise)
- Office of the State Board of Education 2020 Evaluations (sponsor, Idaho State Board of Education)

- Oregon Nonprofit Benefit and Compensation Study (sponsor, Nonprofit Association of Oregon)
- Peer Cities Selection (sponsor, City of Boise)
- SAMHSA Treatment and Transitions Evaluation (sponsor, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare)
- Transportation Mode Shift (sponsor, City of Boise)

UNSPONSORED PROJECTS

- Census Response Rate Reporting
- City Go
- Fifth Annual Statewide Survey
- Fourth Annual Treasure Valley Survey
- Idaho Statewide Eviction Study
- Masters of Public Administration Employer Needs Assessment



PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

IDAHO'S TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE: MOVING IDAHO FORWARD

GROUP OF 11 PUBLIC/PRIVATE SPONSORS

Authors: Lantz McGinnis-Brown, Gabe Osterhout, Emily Pape & Vanessa Crossgrove Fry

A diverse group of transportation stakeholders selected IPI to conduct an independent analysis of Idaho's infrastructure needs and identify funding and financing alternatives to improve the state and local transportation system.

The report estimates an additional \$236.5 million per year in revenue is needed to meet preservation and restoration goals across the state, as well as \$5.3 million per year to maintain existing transit equipment and infrastructure. IPI's researchers note that unmet needs and deferred maintenance create a compounding effect, making the funding requirement significantly larger in the future.

Moving Idaho Forward offers decision makers a range of alternatives to reduce the funding gap, including modifying current user fees, establishing new user fees, adjusting statewide and local funding, exploring financing opportunities, and expanding transportation modes. Overall, the report concludes not only that Idaho's transportation system (beyond just roads and bridges to include transit, bicycle, and pedestrian infrastructure) is essential to a vibrant economy, but also that revenue instability hinders the ability of the state to keep systems in good repair and prevents any expansion efforts or significant operational changes. Beyond the written report, IPI created a dynamic financial model and an interactive map of policy alternatives used in all 50 states.

Find all available resources on our website:

boisestate.edu/sps-ipi/idahos-transportation-infrastructure-moving-idaho-forward-report





NEW PATH COMMUNITY HOUSING EVALUATION: YEAR 1

CITY OF BOISE

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

New Path Community Housing is a 40-unit, single site, Housing First project in Ada County, Idaho. Interim Director Vanessa Fry's initial feasibility study determined the potential to create the project. New Path's evidence-based program is designed to address specific issues related to chronic homelessness including high utilization of emergency medical and detox services, frequent contact with the criminal justice system, and compromised overall personal well-being.

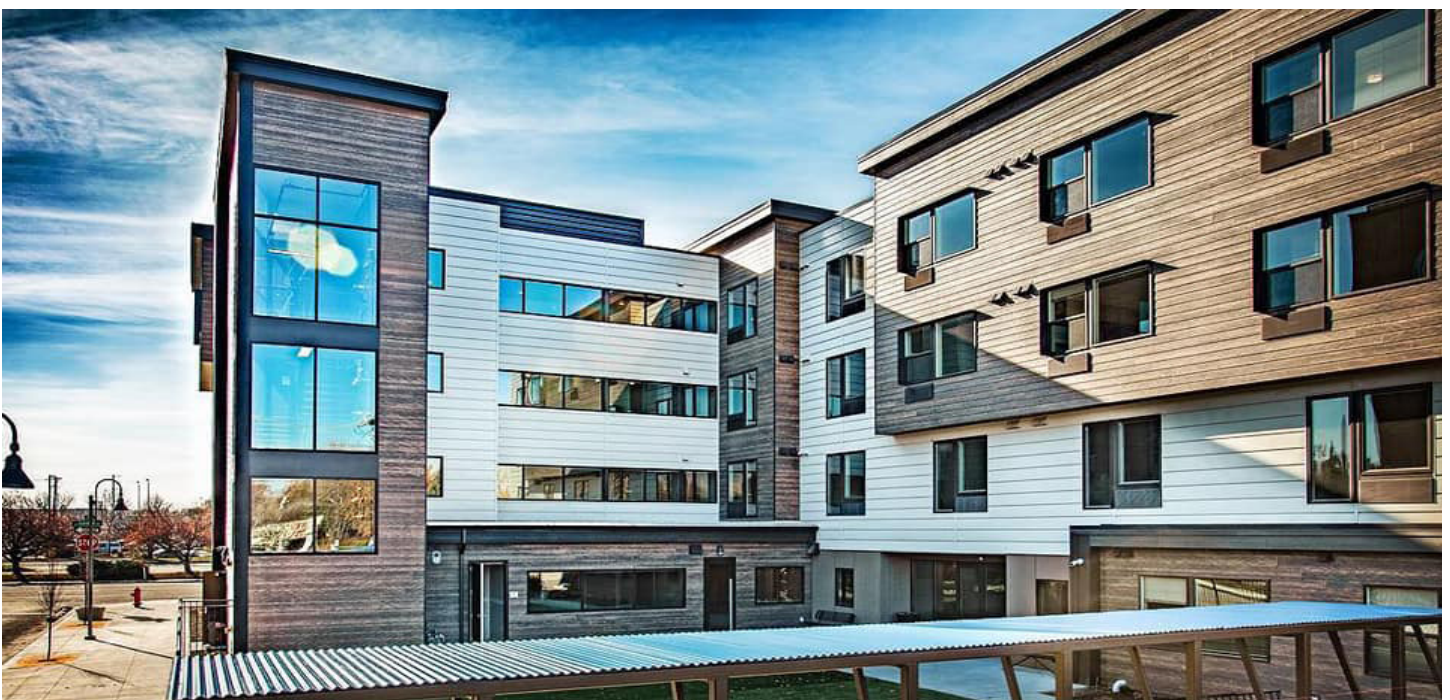
As program evaluator, Idaho Policy Institute oversees all evaluation activities and works closely with New Path partners to design data collection strategies, monitoring, and reporting for this program. "Being involved with this project is something that the institute values and we are honored to have served as the evaluator for its first year," says Fry, "It's not often academics have the opportunity to see their research put into action so, personally, being part of this project since its inception and now being able to engage in its evaluation has been a highlight of my career."

Find the full report on our website:

boisestate.edu/sps-ipi/projectsand-clients/local-government/city-of-boise-new-path/

IPI's first annual evaluation found the impact of New Path to include:

- A 63% decrease in utilization of emergency services
- Total annual savings/cost avoidance of \$1,381,386
- An increase in overall resident well-being



ADVANCED OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM EVALUATION



IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Authors: Benjamin Larsen, McAllister Hall & Vanessa Crossgrove Fry

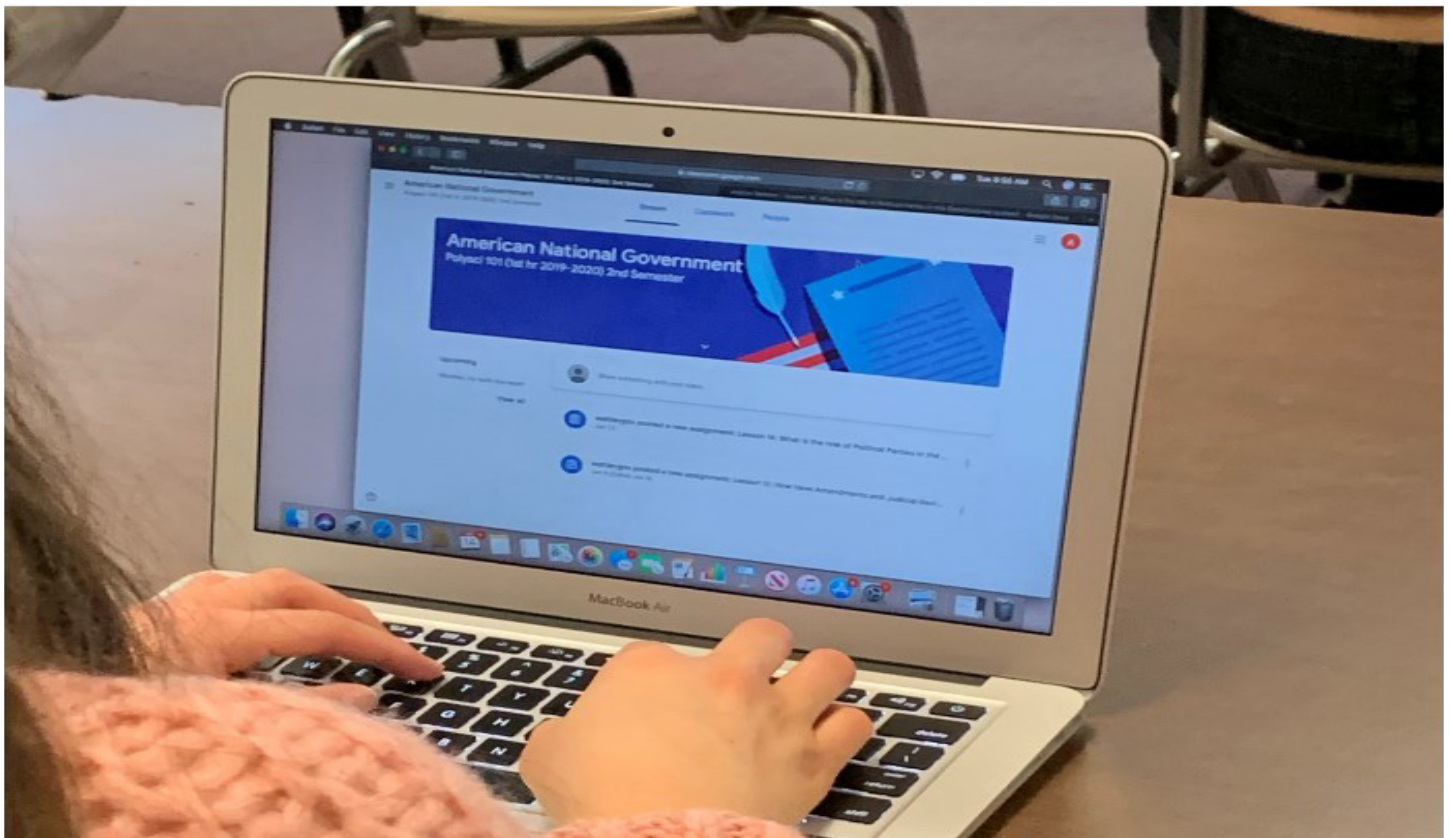
The Idaho State Legislature created the Advanced Opportunities (AO) Program in 2011. The AO program authorizes up to \$4,125 for each student in grades 7-12 to pay for AO courses. These include dual credit and overload courses as well as AP, ID, CLEP, and CTE exams.

The Idaho State Board of Education chose IPI to evaluate the AO Program's use of funds, program design, and program effectiveness. IPI analyzed enrollment and spending data collected by the Idaho Department of Education. IPI also conducted an online survey and in-depth interviews with AO personnel.

Students across the state used AO Program funds regardless of rurality or region. AO personnel indicated the financial support provides equitable access to AO courses statewide, increases student confidence, and individualizes learning.

Key Findings:

- Idaho spent \$19.2 million to fund AO courses in SY 2018-19
- 37,268 students used AO funding
- 72% of AO funding went toward dual credit courses
- Almost all districts and charter schools across the state offer dual credit courses
- AP exams are less likely to be offered in rural areas



STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

CAPSTONE PROJECTS

by Master's of Public Administration Students

The culminating experience for MPA students is the MPA Capstone class. This class provides students with the opportunity to partner with clients, enabling real life experience working in public policy and administration research. Each semester, the IPI director works with these students, supporting their research with clients at local, state, and national organizations. In 2020 students conducted interviews and surveys, analyzed datasets, and utilized case studies to address issues including suicide, the COVID-19 pandemic, and bullying, harassment, and discrimination.

SPRING 2020

- Community Survey (client, Environmental Resource Center, Ketchum)
- Idaho Mental Health Crisis Continuum of Care: Analysis and Recommendations (client, Idaho State Representative Brooke Green)

SUMMER 2020

- Bullying, Harassment, and Discrimination in the Practice of Law in Idaho (client, Idaho State Bar)
- Accessory Dwelling Units as Affordable Housing (client, ADU Simplified, Boise)

FALL 2020

- Innovative Housing Finance (client, Population Health Learning Collaborative, national)
- YMCAs' COVID-19 Response (client, DBD Group)
- Local Option Tax (client, Boise Elevated)

HOUSING VERTICAL INTEGRATION PROJECT

by Housing VIP Students

FALL 2020

The VIP course allows students across disciplines, from undergraduates to post docs, an opportunity to use research to address one of the largest issues in the Boise metro region: access to affordable housing. In the course's inaugural semester students:

- Established a process for collective research while remote learning
- Became experts on a number of topics including causes of housing instability, zoning impacts on housing, and policies to enable successful outcomes
- Presented 'Affordable Housing in Your Neighborhood: Options and Inspiration' at the Boise Neighborhood Interactive

TEAM



VANESSA FRY, PHD
Interim Director



CHEONG KIM, PHD
Senior Research
Associate



MATTHEW MAY, PHD
Senior Research
Associate



BEN LARSEN, PHD
Research Associate



LANTZ MCGINNIS-BROWN
Research Associate



GABE OSTERHOUT
Research Associate



MCALLISTER HALL
Research Associate



EMILY PAPE
Research Assistant



D'ANDRE MATHEWS
Graduate Assistant



MACKENZIE MOSS
Graduate Assistant

2020 PUBLICATIONS

- Fry, V., McGinnis-Brown, L., & Larsen, B. (2020). *Idaho Health and Welfare Treatment and Transitions program evaluation: 2019 annual report*. Idaho Policy Institute, Boise State University.
- Fry, V., McGinnis-Brown, L., & Larsen, B. (2020). *Idaho Health and Welfare Treatment and Transitions program evaluation: Year 2 quarter 1 report*. Idaho Policy Institute, Boise State University.
- Fry, V., McGinnis-Brown, L., & Larsen, B. (2020). *Idaho Health and Welfare Treatment and Transitions program evaluation: Year 2 quarter 2 report*. Idaho Policy Institute, Boise State University.
- Fry, V., McGinnis-Brown, L., & Larsen, B. (2020). *Idaho Health and Welfare Treatment and Transitions program evaluation: Year 2 quarter 3 report*. Idaho Policy Institute, Boise State University.
- Hall, M., Larsen, B., & Fry, V. (2020). *Idaho diagnostic site visit protocol*. Idaho Policy Institute, Boise State University.
- Hall, M., Osterhout, G., & Fry, V. (2020). *Idaho's Communities of Excellence Charter School Program cohort 1 baseline evaluation*. Idaho Policy Institute, Boise State University.
- Hall, M., Osterhout, G., & Fry, V. (2020). *Idaho educational policy review*. Idaho Policy Institute, Boise State University.
- Kim, C., May, M., & Fry, V. (2020). *City of Boise property tax analysis*. Idaho Policy Institute, Boise State University.
- Larsen, B., Hall, M., & Fry, V. (2020). *Advanced opportunities program evaluation*. Idaho Policy Institute, Boise State University.
- Larsen, B., Hall, M., McGinnis-Brown, L., Moss, M., & Fry, V. (2020). *City of Boise peer cities selection*. Idaho Policy Institute, Boise State University.
- Larsen, B., Hall, M., McGinnis-Brown, L., & Fry, V. (2020). *Idaho statewide eviction study*. Idaho Policy Institute, Boise State University.
- Lyons, J., Hill, G., & Fry, V. (2020). *Fifth annual Idaho public policy survey*. Idaho Policy Institute, Boise State University.
- Lyons, J., Hill, G., & Fry, V. (2020). *Fourth annual Treasure Valley survey*. School of Public Service, Boise State University.
- May, M., Osterhout, G., & Pape, E. (2020). *Commute mode shift in Boise 2020*. Idaho Policy Institute, Boise State University.
- May, M., Hall, M., & Fry, V. (2020). *Literacy intervention program evaluation*. Idaho Policy Institute, Boise State University.
- McGinnis-Brown, L., Hall, M., Larsen, B., & Fry, V. (2020). *New Path Community Housing annual evaluation 2019*. Idaho Policy Institute, Boise State University.
- McGinnis-Brown, L., Hall, M., & Fry, V. (2020). *College and career advising and mentoring program evaluation*. Idaho Policy Institute, Boise State University.
- McGinnis-Brown, L., Osterhout, G., Pape, E., & Fry, V. (2020). *Idaho's transportation infrastructure: Moving Idaho forward*. Idaho Policy Institute, Boise State University.
- McGinnis-Brown, L., Osterhout, G., Pape, E., & Fry, V. (2020). *Idaho's transportation infrastructure: Moving Idaho forward infographic*. Idaho Policy Institute, Boise State University.



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