Mid-Year Impact Report 2024
As an organization, our mission is to put private and public resources into action statewide to eliminate hunger and provide food security for all Idahoans. We believe that in a state as abundant as Idaho, hunger will not exist.

The first six months of 2024 have been remarkably busy for us. The Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force worked towards new ways to alleviate and end hunger in Idaho. We focused on the Summer EBT program (S-EBT), expanding the Summer Food Service Program to include more rural communities in Idaho, met with our Idaho Tribal neighbors, and created engagement groups to bring more folks to the table to work on alleviating and ending hunger in Idaho.

Our board of directors believes in the mission of the Task Force and has been amazing to work with as we continue to grow. The first half of the year saw our very involved working board volunteer more than 260+ hours of their time to promote and advance our mission.

Thank you to our many partners, donors, and sponsors who have our continued work possible. We will continue our fight to end hunger in Idaho.

Denise Dixon
Executive Director
Since Idaho regulatory restrictions do not permit the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to perform enrollment outreach regarding SNAP or WIC, the Task Force took this on to continue our commitment to increase the enrollment in SNAP/WIC participation in Idaho. To do this, the IHRTF convened a team of partners and organizations and successfully reinstated the SNAP Into Action Team, now referred to as the SNAP/WIC Engagement Team. The Task Force created a set of training modules and compiled materials (pamphlets, factsheets, etc.) to assist organizations in expanding knowledge around programs available to Idaho community members. The work of the SNAP/WIC engagement team includes decreasing barriers to participation in SNAP and WIC, generating a network of leaders advocating, dispelling myths, and facilitating participation, creating a space to gain accurate, up to date, timely, and consistent information on SNAP and WIC.

We held our very first Idaho Produce Prescription Collaborative (IdPPC) meeting on January 16th, 2024, and it was well received and highly successful. The IdPPC gathered healthcare professionals and partners concerned with leveraging produce prescription programs to help lessen the occurrences of diet-related diseases in Idahoans. While the IdPPC takes inspiration and guidance from the National Produce Prescription Collaborative (NPCC), we have been able to tailor the IdPPC to Idaho and our unique needs. At our quarterly meetings, members learn about best practices and share stories about the successes of Produce Prescription Programs throughout Idaho. In addition, information on both national and state policies about these programs are shared. We continued to build relationships and affiliations with organizations to increase the reach of our Produce Prescription Program.

The Task Force began assisting the Idaho State Department of Education to identify more rural areas suitable in order to expand the Summer Food Service Program.
The Task Force met with Duck Valley Indian Reservation to create and maintain a partnership. We asked Duck Valley to bring more tribal leaders to the table so we can discuss a partnership for the produce prescription program.

We met with Albertsons to discuss and potentially partner with them on our produce prescription program. They have a SNAP match program used in other states and they would like to discuss what bringing this to Albertsons in Idaho would look like.

The 2023 Year-End Report for the Rx for our Fresh Fruits & Vegetables program was released. The transition into the Magic Valley was successful as we enrolled 76 individuals in cooperation with Family Health Services. Through this partnership, we transitioned participant management to healthcare staff, increasing participant response and redemption rates.
Through our partnership with the Idaho State Department of Education (ISDE), we provided support in identifying Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) for Summer 2024 sponsors and sites in rural Idaho for the newly implemented non-congregate summer meal sites.

Glocal, a non-profit whose mission is to mobilize, train and connect volunteers with new American neighbors, invited our SNAP/WIC Engagement Team to present at and engage with their participants. We were very well received and have been invited back in the fall to present SNAP/WIC information to a new group of refugees.

As an organization we fought hard for the Summer EBT (S-EBT) program to gain approval by the Idaho Legislature. S-EBT provides additional money to low income families with income eligible school aged children to purchase food when school is out for the summer. We met with legislators to garner support for S-EBT. We had rallied the support of local statewide organizations like the Idaho Dairymen’s Association, Northwest Grocers Association, St. Luke’s Hospital System, Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry, American Heart Association, and several others. While passing S-EBT was not in the cards for the 2023 legislative session, we will double our advocacy and continue to identify supporters in this fight for approximately 107,000 hungry children because children do not choose to be hungry, and we need to step up and help.
We attended the Idaho Rural Success Summit at Fort Hall in Pocatello which was put together by USDA rural development and Idaho Commerce. While there, we were invited to meet with the Fort Hall Tribal Council to discuss food insecurity on the Fort Hall reservation. In these meetings we also discussed a summer recreation program Fort Hall hosts for approximately 150 children living on the reservation. This program provides reservation children with physical activity, heritage and cultural programs, as well as breakfast, lunch, and a snack. The Summer recreation program manager reported the program had nothing to feed the children. Our Executive Director and Board President were able to engage our partnership with Chobani, the Idaho Foodbank and the Pocatello School district, where we secured yogurt, Cliff Bars, fresh fruit, and lunch for 150 children a day for the duration of the Summer Rec program.

We signed an agreement with Albertsons pharmacy to provide A1C testing for our corporate wellness Rx program. The Corporate Wellness RX Program is an expansion of the Rx for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables program. The goal is for corporations across Idaho to add the program to their wellness benefits for employees. So far, we have presented the program to the City of Boise, City of Buhl, and Meridian Rotary and are continuing discussions on incorporating this program into their employee wellness packages.
The Task Force met with Richard Rush who is the new Idaho State Director, USDA Rural Development and his team to discuss what the IHRTF does for Idaho. We then shared our notes from the Fort Hall Tribal Council meeting we attended in April and discussed next steps to address the many needs of Fort Hall and how to implement changes on the tribal level.

We researched and prepared a proposal for a Maternal Produce Prescription Program. This is circulating through our partner organizations, and we have received strong feedback.

We continued to work with the Idaho State Department of Education (ISDE) to expand the summer nutrition program.
Our Executive Director and Board President attended The Hispanic/American Indian Health Care Conference: From Awareness to Action and Results in Pocatello. We learned so much, made new connections, visited with Task Force partners in attendance, and feel we came away with a new knowledge about our Hispanic and Native American neighbors.

We spent two days visiting various agencies, groups, and programs on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. We were able to meet with the Rec Program director, receive a facility tour and see children participating in events and enjoying Chobani yogurt provided by Chobani, fruit and Clif Bars provided by the Idaho Foodbank, and lunch provided by the Pocatello School District SFSP.

While in Pocatello, the Task Force met with Indian Health Services Diabetes Clinic staff and the diabetes clinic is working to partner with the Task Force to implement the PRx program for approximately 600 diabetic tribal members.

Our second meeting with the Tribal Council was as rich and productive as the first. We were able to discuss additional needs of the tribe and shared our next steps in assisting the tribe combat food insecurity among their residents.
The Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force has had a full and robust first half of 2024. Our plan for the remainder of 2024 is to continue our vital work, increase partnerships, work with our Native American friends and neighbors, extend the reach of our Produce Prescription Program, and continue our collaborative work to support our mission to end hunger in Idaho.

Thank you, again, to our partners, our amazing Board of Directors, sponsors, and generous donors. We could not do this without you.

On a personal note, we would like to thank our AmeriCorps Vista, Kasey Giles. While her term of service is completed, Kasey will be staying with the Task Force on a part-time basis as our Rx for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program Coordinator. We wish all the best to Kasey as she ventures east to continue her education.

To join us in our mission or to donate, please visit our website idahohunger.org