



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Family Assistance



NRFC State Profile: Idaho

October 2015

This profile describes state and federally funded programs and policies that aim to strengthen families. These programs and policies support parenting and father involvement, promote strong family relationships, enhance fathers' economic stability, and provide support during incarceration and reentry. The profile lists phone numbers and websites for the programs. This information was correct when the profile was written (in 2015) but may change over time.

Programs to Support Responsible Fatherhood and Strengthen Families

Responsible fatherhood programs focus on issues such as enhancing parenting and relationship skills, keeping fathers involved with their children, improving their economic stability, helping them pay child support, and generally helping to strengthen families.

The following state and federally funded programs are available in the state:

Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
Catholic Charities of Idaho	Fatherhood/Parenting Economic Stability	Catholic Charities is a state-funded organization that offers the <i>Powerful Families</i> program to help parents build leadership, financial literacy, and parenting skills.	Catholic Charities of Idaho serves the entire state and has offices in Boise, Nampa, and Idaho Falls. (208) 345-6031 http://ccidaho.org/what-we-do/education-services/
Community Council of Idaho	Economic Stability	Community Council of Idaho is a state-funded program that helps low-income Latinos and other impoverished Idahoans obtain skills and job training to improve employment outcomes. This organization also offers family services such as a health clinic and Head Start.	Serves the entire state. (208) 454-1652 http://www.communitycouncilofidaho.org/
Family Advocates	Fatherhood/Parenting Healthy Relationships	Family Advocates provides parenting classes and home visiting services to support parents and ensure that all children are safe, healthy, and thriving. In partnership with St. Luke's hospital,	(208) 345-3344 http://www.strongand-safe.org/our-

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Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
		they offer <i>Dads Matter</i> , which is a stress-free place for men to unwind and where dads can talk about what life is like with a baby, how to support their partners, and receive and share parenting advice. The state-funded organization also offers <i>Parents Anonymous</i> ® of Idaho, an evidence-based family strengthening program designed to achieve personal growth, improve family functioning, and achieve parental resilience.	programs-(2)/support-groups
Family Service Alliance of Southeast Idaho (FSA)	Domestic Violence Fatherhood/Parenting	The <i>Family Service Alliance Advocate Program</i> offers various services for victims of domestic violence including 24-hour crisis intervention, 24-hour crisis line, emergency shelter, counseling, case management, and support groups. The <i>Family Support Program</i> at FSA offers a variety of programming to promote safe and healthy families. The program supports families with personalized assistance including parent education, family mentoring, and child abuse prevention. FSA receives state funding.	Family Service Alliance of Southeast Idaho serves Southeast Idaho. Crisis Line at (208) 251-HELP (4357) http://fsalliance.org/
HELP, Inc.	Fatherhood/Parenting	With state funding, HELP, Inc. offers programs to help Spanish-speaking adults learn English and gain parenting skills.	HELP, Inc. serves Jefferson and Bonneville counties. (208) 522-5545 http://www.helpincida.org/programs/parenting-classes.html
Idaho Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program	Preventing Unwanted/ Early Fatherhood	This state-funded program provides literature, classes, and school-based services to boys and girls to prevent unsafe sex and promote abstinence.	Serves the entire state. (208) 334-4970 http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Families/PregnancyPrevention/tabid/87/default.aspx
Idaho Coalition against Sexual and Domestic Violence	Domestic Violence	Idaho Coalition against Sexual and Domestic Violence's state-funded <i>Men Today, Men Tomorrow</i> program encourages men and boys to work as allies with women and girls to prevent	Idaho Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-669-3176

Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
		sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. The Coalition maintains a list of resources and community-based domestic violence programs.	http://www.idvsa.org/about-us/members/ http://www.idvsa.org/initiatives/mt2/
Idaho Department of Correction	Incarceration/Reentry Fatherhood/Parenting	The Idaho Department of Correction offers the <i>Inside-Outside Dad</i> curriculum, which helps incarcerated fathers build healthy relationships and empathy. It includes a peer group component, <i>Partners in Parenting</i> , which gives incarcerated parents tools to become better partners and parents. They also offer <i>Brain Building Basics</i> , which is a group-based program for incarcerated parents to discuss parenting issues and practice parenting skills through role playing.	(208) 658-2000 http://www.idoc.idaho.gov/content/document/program_descriptions
Job Corps	Economic Stability	<i>Job Corps</i> is a federal job training program for low-income young men and women to help with education and career goals.	(208) 442-4500 http://www.jobcorps.gov/centers/id.aspx
Nez Pierce Tribe	Healthy Relationships	The Nez Pierce Tribe was awarded a federal grant from the Office of Family Assistance in September 2015 to provide the <i>I Vision</i> program for tribal youth ages 13-25. Programs, curricula, social forums and incentives will be utilized to build knowledge and skills for healthy marriages and relationships.	Nez Pierce Reservation in north central Idaho with program offices at Lapwai and Kamiah. 208-843-2463/2464 Website
North Idaho Violence Prevention Center	Domestic Violence	North Idaho Violence Prevention Center (NIVPC) receives state funding and maintains a collection of resources on domestic violence and sexual assault, and anti-violence efforts. NIVPC works with area schoolchildren in a <i>Healthy Relationships</i> program to decrease violence for the next generation. NIVPC also trains and educates adult populations on domestic violence/sexual assault.	(208) 664-9303 http://www.nivpc.org/#!/programs/c21kz
ROSE Advocates	Domestic Violence Fatherhood/Parenting	ROSE Advocates receives state funding and offers services to prevent violence, including crisis intervention, emergency shelter, a 24-hour crisis line, and safety	ROSE Advocates serves Adams, Boise, Gem, Payette,

Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
		planning. Additionally, they offer <i>Empowering Youth</i> , a group focused on dating violence prevention, and a <i>Love and Logic</i> parenting class.	Washington, and Valley counties. 24 Hour Crisis Line: (208) 414-0740 http://www.roseadvocates.org/

Policies to Promote Responsible Fatherhood

Paternity Establishment

Establishing paternity gives a child born outside of marriage the same legal rights and privileges as a child born to married parents. Children gain access to family medical history and rights to inheritance, fathers’ medical and life insurance benefits, social security and veterans’ benefits, and child support. In addition, Native American children gain tribal enrollment rights.

To establish paternity in Idaho an unmarried man can voluntarily acknowledge that he is the father of a child by signing an “Acknowledgment of Paternity Affidavit” form, which is available at Vital Services and Child Support Services offices and the hospital where the child is born. Both parents’ signatures must be notarized and delivered to the local Child Support Services office, and the fee for the form is waived if it is submitted within 10 days of a child’s birth (if parents sign at the hospital, the hospital takes care of this function.) If a father has doubts about his paternity after he has signed and returned the voluntary acknowledgment form, he has 60 days to take back his signature, which is accomplished by filling out a “Rescission of Acknowledgment of Paternity Affidavit” form. If more than 60 days have passed since the father has signed the Acknowledgment of Paternity Affidavit, the father must bring a challenge in court in addition to completing the rescission form. In the case that parents do not want to sign the voluntary acknowledgment form, Child Support Services can order a genetic test to determine the identity of the father and ask a court to name him as the legal father of the child. This order may include paying for court fees and the genetic test.ⁱ

Child Custody

If unmarried or divorced parents cannot reach agreement concerning child custody or visitation, a legal order can be made through the court system. Either parent may be granted custody of the child, or both may share equally in physical custody and/or decision-making responsibilities. There is no legal connection between payment or non-payment of child support and rights to visitation.

In Idaho, the courts make decisions about child custody when parents cannot reach an agreement. Courts base these decisions on what they conclude to be in the “child’s best interest,” which state law defines as the parenting arrangement that best keeps the child healthy and stable. The state holds that it is often best when the parent and child maintain their existing bond as much as possible. However, a child may need to be separated from a parent if the child is at risk of harm.ⁱⁱ

Child Support

The Federal Child Support Enforcement Program was established in 1975 as Title IV-D of the Social Security Act to locate noncustodial parents, establish paternity and establish and enforce child support orders. General services available in all states and territories include voluntary in-hospital paternity acknowledgement, genetic testing, explanation of state guidelines for determining child support orders, and review of child support orders at least every three years at the request of either parent. State child support offices are responsible for collection and distribution of child support payments and can modify orders when appropriate. If a parent is behind in their payments, the office may use

enforcement tools such as license revocation (including drivers, professional, recreational or occupational licenses), seizure of assets, property liens, passport denial, and federal and state tax refund offsets.ⁱⁱⁱ

In Idaho, Idaho Child Support (ICS), within its Department of Health and Welfare, is responsible for child support issues. ICS can help parents locate the other parent, establish paternity, set up child support obligations, enforce payment, make sure that the child gets medical support from the noncustodial parent, and help change child support orders. Child support orders may be modified if the noncustodial parent's circumstances change such that she/he needs to increase or decrease the amount by 15 percent (or at least \$50). Either parent can request a re-evaluation of a child support order. It can be done by oneself, with a private attorney, or with ICS assistance. The change must be signed by a judge. To request help from ICS, parents must mail a request in writing to the main ICS office. Generally, ICS will not review changes to child support orders unless it has been at least three years since the order's creation or last change.^{iv} The website for Child Support services provides information on requesting, changing, and reviewing child support orders. The website is

<http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Children/ChildSupport/ChildSupportOrders/ChanginganOrder/tabid/374/Default.aspx> and the phone number is 1(800) 356-9868.

The Family and Medical Leave Act

The federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) protects employees who have worked with the same organization for at least twelve months and worked at least 1,250 hours within the past year. It contains provisions for both fathers and mothers to take time off after the birth or adoption of a child, or during a serious illness, without fear of losing their jobs. Employees in companies with 50 or more employees are entitled to up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave, over a one-year period, to care for a new child, recuperate from a serious illness, care for a seriously ill family member, or handle issues arising from a family member's call to active military duty. The FMLA also gives employees the right to take up to 26 weeks of leave to care for a family member who is seriously injured or becomes ill while on active military duty.^v

Idaho has no additional state provisions for paid or unpaid leave.

Head Start

Head Start is a federally funded school readiness program for young children from low-income families. The program, currently delivered by about 1,700 local organizations – public and private, non-profit and for-profit – provides preschoolers with comprehensive services, such as education and health screenings, with the goal of building their skills across five school readiness domains: language and literacy, cognition and general knowledge, approaches to learning, physical development and health, and social and emotional development. Head Start encourages the role of parents (both mothers and fathers) as their child's first and most important teachers. Programs build relationships with families that support positive parent-child relationships, family well-being, and connections to peers and community. Early Head Start, also managed by the federal Office of Head Start, is directed toward children up to the age of three and their parents. While the program is federally funded and managed, local agencies make decisions regarding service delivery based on the specific needs of their communities; for example, some may opt to include home-based services for families in their programs.

Many states have multiple Head Start programs providing services for fathers. **To find information on Head Start Programs in Idaho, go to:** <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/hs/directories>.

Policies to Promote Economic Stability

Child Care Assistance

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) works with states to provide support for children and their low-income families. Subsidized child care services are available to eligible families through certificates (vouchers), grants, or contracts with providers. Fathers and mothers may select a child care provider that satisfies applicable state and local requirements, including basic health and safety requirements.^{vi}

The Idaho Child Care Program (ICCP) provides child care assistance to low-income, working families by paying for a portion of child care costs. In order to receive assistance paying for child care, one must be a citizen or legal immigrant, be a resident of the state of Idaho, have an income that does not exceed the program income limits for household size, be working, going to school, or participating in other approved training activities. The amount of child care benefit will depend upon income, cost of child care, size of household, and the number of hours working, going to school, or participating in other approved activities.^{vii}

Rental Assistance

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides rental assistance to low-income families and individuals through a number of methods. HUD subsidizes privately owned apartments, allowing low-income tenants to rent them at reduced rates. In the Public Housing program, local housing agencies manage rental housing for low-income tenants, while HUD provides professional and technical assistance in their planning, development, and management. The Housing Choice Voucher Program, better known as Section 8, provides eligible families and individuals with vouchers that they can use to pay for all or part of the rent at housing units of their choice. Generally, eligibility for the HUD rental assistance programs is based on annual gross income, assets, family size, and other considerations such as elderly or disabled status. Local housing agencies generally set the fixed eligibility rules for their regions, determine assistance amounts, and manage waiting lists for assistance.^{viii}

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly the Food Stamp program, provides low-income individuals (both men and women) and families with funds delivered in an electronic benefit transfer card, or EBT card) that can be used to purchase food. SNAP is administered within the Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Services and is federally funded, but applications, delivery, and outreach are handled at the state or local level. In general, individuals and households are eligible to receive SNAP if they have less than \$2,250 in countable resources and earn less than 130 percent of the poverty line in gross monthly income. However, characteristics of recipients (for example, age or disabled status) can affect eligibility requirements, and states have flexibility in determining eligibility, particularly with regard to what is considered a countable resource. In 2014, the average monthly SNAP benefit per individual was \$125.35.^{ix}

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program grants federal funds to states for developing and implementing their own welfare programs that provide assistance and work opportunities to needy families.

In Idaho, the TANF program is referred to as Temporary Assistance for Families in Idaho (TAFI). To qualify for TAFI, a family with children must make below 32 percent of the current federal poverty line. All participating families receive a benefit of \$309 per month, but can receive extra money to help participants find or retain work—participants must be working, looking for work, performing community service, pursuing vocational training or working towards a high school diploma or equivalency to receive benefits. There is a 24-month limit on the length that a family can collect benefits.^x

Other Helpful Resources

Idaho 2-1-1



Idaho operates the 2-1-1 Idaho CareLine, which can refer callers to free and low-cost human services. Callers can either dial 2-1-1 or 1(800) 926-2588.

Idaho Early Childhood Information Clearinghouse

(<http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Children/EarlyChildhoodInfo/tabid/80/Default.aspx>). This website, operated by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, includes resources for parents on active parenting.

Idaho Pregnancy Prevention

(<http://www.idahoteenpregnancy.com>). This website, operated by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, includes resources for students, parents, and community leaders.



References

- ⁱ For more information on Paternity Establishment in Idaho, see <http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Children/ChildSupport/Paternity/AcknowledgingLegalPaternity/tabid/364/Default.aspx>
- ⁱⁱ For more information of Child Custody, see <http://www.courtselfhelp.idaho.gov/brochures/DCCS-6.pdf>
- ⁱⁱⁱ For more information on the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement, see www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse
- ^{iv} For more information on Child Support, see <http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Children/ChildSupport/ChildSupportOrders/ChanginganOrder/tabid/374/Default.aspx>
- ^v For more information on the Family and Medical leave Act, see <http://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/whdfs28.pdf>
- ^{vi} For more information on the Child Care and Development Fund , see <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/about/what-we-do>
- ^{vii} For more information on the Idaho Child Care Program, see <http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Children/ChildCareAssistance/tabid/292/Default.aspx>
- ^{viii} For more information on Rental Assistance, see http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/topics/rental_assistance
- ^{ix} For more information on SNAP and to find services in your state, see <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/apply>
- ^x For more information on TAFI, see <http://www.211.idaho.gov/elibrary/TAFI.html>