

# MONTHLY UPDATE

AUGUST 2021



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This August Idaho Policy Institute passed a huge milestone - for five years now we've served as an objective research resource for Idaho's communities. By the numbers IPI's outputs have been significant. We have secured over \$2 million in sponsored research, provided over 70 reports for our project partners, and have published seven peer-reviewed articles. In this time, nearly 100 students have been part of the MPA Capstone class which has collectively worked with 42 external nonprofit and government partners. What is arguably more important, however, is the impact IPI's work has had on the communities in which we serve. For instance, our work on New Path Community Housing has led to the outcomes of saving community resources (over \$2.6 million) while also improving the health and well-being of New Path program participants (60 individuals have participated in the program). Our analysis of Idaho's transportation infrastructure helped lead to increased permanent funding for Idaho's roads and bridges. As part of IPI's strategic plan implementation, we will be taking a huge step toward measuring the outcomes related to our research and technical assistance. The analysis will enable IPI to identify how we can best serve our current and future partners and also enable us to improve our engaged research. It can also help us identify where we need to more actively engage with partners on campus.

As I reflect on IPI's first five years I couldn't be prouder of our achievements and of the students, faculty, and staff who make IPI an impactful resource for Idaho. My gratitude to all IPI team members past and present for your hard work and dedication! In addition, thank you to all our internal and external partners who support IPI!

**BEST,**

**DR. VANESSA CROSSGROVE FRY**

# PROJECT LIST

## PENDING

- COVID-19 Travel Behavior Study (sponsor, Valley Regional Transit)
- Idaho Literacy Intervention Program Evaluation (sponsor, Idaho State Board of Education)
- Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Idahoan (sponsor, United Way of the Treasure Valley)
- Modeling Resilience Through a Community Lens: Discovering Data, Creating Tools, and Connecting People Who Make Resilience Possible (sponsor, National Science Foundation)
- Wastewater and Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey (sponsor, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality)

## PROPOSAL STAGE

- Family Caregiver Navigator Cost Benefit Analysis (sponsor, Idaho Blue Cross Foundation)
- HUD Eviction Protection Program Grant (sponsor, Idaho Legal Aid Services)
- Idaho Tribal Courts Survey (sponsor, Idaho Legal Aid Services)
- Recovery, Renewal and Resilience in a Post-Pandemic World (sponsor, Trans-Atlantic Platform for Social Sciences and Humanities)
- West Central Mountains Creative District Network Analysis and Evaluation (sponsor, Idaho Commission on the Arts)

## ONGOING SPONSORED

- A Foundation for Research into Webcams as Tools in Informal STEM Learning (sponsor, National Science Foundation)
- Communities of Excellence Charter School Program Evaluation (sponsor, Bluum)
- Connected Canyon County (sponsor, Valley Regional Transit)
- Department of Motor Vehicle Service Delivery Analysis (sponsor, Idaho Transportation Department)
- Educational Programming Attitudinal Awareness Survey (sponsor, Idaho Public Television)
- Guardian Ad Litem Program Evaluation (sponsor, Idaho Supreme Court)
- Idaho Outdoor Recreation Survey (sponsor, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation)
- Public Opinion Survey (sponsor, Ada County Highway District)
- SAMHSA Treatment and Transitions Evaluation (sponsor, Idaho Health and Welfare)

## ONGOING UNSPONSORED

- Boise State's COVID-19 Dashboard
- City Go Annual Awareness Survey
- Data Collection for a Full-Length Paper: Municipal COVID-19 Responses by Government Form
- Rural Industry Cluster Needs Assessment
- Policy Brief: Responses of Municipal Governments to the COVID-19 Pandemic

## ENDING

- Statewide Permanent Supportive Housing Assessment (sponsor, Idaho Housing and Finance)
- Streamflow Data and Climate Vulnerability Survey (sponsor, Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center)

## MPA CAPSTONE

- Boise State Employee Housing Needs Assessment (client, Boise State University)
- Critical Crash Data Analysis and Policy Alternatives (client, Idaho Walk Bike Alliance)
- Demographic Shifts in Idaho (client, International Rescue Committee)
- Impact of HB392 (client, Boise Elevated)
- Impact of Idaho's Community Schools (client, United Way of the Treasure Valley)
- Program Evaluation (client, Good Samaritan Home)
- Water Pollutant Discharge Quantification (client, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality)

# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

## PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Team: Ben Larsen, Cheong Kim, McAllister Hall, Vanessa Fry

Permanent supportive housing (PSH) uses a Housing First approach to house people experiencing homelessness and living with a disabling condition. Idaho Housing and Finance Association (IHFA) partnered with Idaho Policy Institute (IPI) to conduct a statewide evaluation comparing scattered-site and single-site PSH programs at Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) properties in Idaho. Of the 151 PSH units in Idaho, 96 are in service consisting of 30 scattered-site and 66 single-site units. Additionally, 55 scattered-site units are anticipated to open in the next two years. No single-site PSH programs using LIHTC are planned. Future single-site PSH programs will require strong public-private partnerships modeled after successful programming in Ada County.

Key Findings:

- No difference exists between construction costs of scattered-site and single-site PSH units at LIHTC properties.
- Future evaluations require increased coordination of data collection and designating LIHTC properties as unique programs in Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS).
- All regions in Idaho will benefit from expanded PSH programming.
- The lack of providers is a barrier to providing supportive services in rural communities.
- More vulnerable populations benefit from on-site supportive services provided by single-site PSH programs.

# STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

## MPA CAPSTONE WORKS WITH SEVEN COMMUNITY PARTNERS

This fall, MPA Capstone students will be working with seven new partners, five nonprofit partners and two government partners. This month I'll highlight three of the nonprofits: Boise Elevated, Idaho Walk Bike Alliance, and United Way of the Treasure Valley. The students working with Boise Elevated will set up an evaluation of HB392 - a bill passed in last year's Idaho Legislature intended to grant property tax relief. The evaluation will be carried out in spring 2022 - a year after the bill's implementation. The Idaho Walk Bike Alliance team will examine the last five years of crash data where the collision was between a vehicle and a bicyclist or pedestrian. Results will help the organization target interventions to reduce critical crashes. Finally, students partnering with United Way of the Treasure Valley will conduct an evaluation of Idaho's community school program. Results will help United Way grow the program to more communities across the state.

# PROJECT UPDATES

## CONNECTED CANYON COUNTY

Team: McAllister Hall, Vanessa Fry, Emily Pape

Valley Regional Transit's community engagement platform launched in early August. The platform allows people to discuss the benefits and challenges of living, working, and recreating in Canyon County. If you spend time in Canyon County for any reason, we encourage you to check out and contribute to the [engagement page](#). Information from the engagement page will be used to create innovative solutions to community-identified problems.

## DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES (DMV) SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL

Team: Gabe Osterhout, Matthew May, Cheong Kim, Emily Pape, Vanessa Fry

IPI's research team finalized the survey instrument, to be distributed in early September, asking state DMV administrators about their state's service delivery model, including jurisdiction responsibilities, number of offices and agents, transactions, hours of operation, and customers served. Researchers also finished collecting and analyzing DMV data on all 44 Idaho counties and mapped it on several Tableau dashboard visualizations. The team met with Idaho Transportation Department and DMV officials to provide an update on the project's progress. Researchers continue to sift through relevant literature on DMV service delivery to identify the benefits and challenges of possible solutions, including possible recommendations for current model improvements.

## IDAHO OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEY

Team: McAllister Hall, Vanessa Fry, Emily Pape

At the end of July, IPI submitted a response to a request for proposals from the Idaho State Department of Parks and Recreation to help them complete a statewide outdoor recreation survey. This month, IPI was selected to complete the project. For this project, IPI will be working with Dr. Kathryn Demps from Boise State's Anthropology Department to create and distribute a survey to a demographically and regionally representative sample of Idahoans.

## RURAL INDUSTRY CLUSTER NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Team: McAllister Hall, Ben Larsen, Aisha Kayed, Vanessa Fry

This month the team presented the results of the student survey and industry leader interviews to members of Boise State's President's Office. IPI also completed a summary of the student survey results for use across the university. In the next month, IPI is looking forward to surveying Dairy Industry leaders at the Build Dairy conference taking place at Boise State.

# MONTH IN REVIEW

## RESEARCH ASSOCIATES PRESENT ON NEW PATH EVALUATION

IPI research associates gave four presentations about the results of the 2020 annual evaluation of New Path Community Housing. Lantz McGinnis-Brown presented to the Boise/Ada County Homelessness Coalition. McAllister Hall presented to Terry Reilly Health Services. Ben Larsen presented to the Idaho Asset Building Network and Terry Reilly Health Services' Board of Directors.

## STATEWIDE & TREASURE VALLEY SURVEYS PRESENTED TO COMPASS

IPI senior research associate and SPS survey research director, Matthew May, presented an overview of the Annual Statewide and Treasure Valley Surveys to the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) Board of Directors at their August meeting. The presentation briefed the board, which is comprised of mayors, councilpersons, and commissioners from local governments in Southwest Idaho, of the school's survey efforts and invited their participation in identifying issues for this year's survey to address.

# NEWS

["Idaho's 3rd-highest building \(it's time to weigh in\). Houses. Condos. Coming near you"](#)

Idaho Statesman, August 4, 2021

["'We must keep pace': Infrastructure bill would offer Idaho transportation funding boost"](#) Idaho Statesman, August 12, 2021

["As Idaho's population moves from rural to urban, so, too, will the state Legislature"](#)

Idaho Statesman, August 18, 2021

["Boise State's 2021 research awards reach all-time high, despite pandemic"](#) Boise State News, August 30, 2021

["Massive population growth means redistricting will bring changes to Treasure Valley representation"](#) KPVI , Aug 31, 2021

## GET IN TOUCH



ipi@boisestate.edu



(208) 426-5488



@idaho\_policy



boisestate.edu/sps-ipi/