AGENDA

JOINT MILLENNIUM FUND COMMITTEE

5:00 P.M.

Room WW17

Thursday, January 29, 2026

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ww17

SUBJECT/TIME	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
5:00 p.m.	Call to Order, Meeting Overview, and Approval of December 17, 2025, Meeting Minutes	Co-Chair **Senator Van Burtenshaw** and Co-Chair **Representative Jordan Redman**
5:10 p.m.	Millennium Income Fund Grant Application Presentations:	
	1. Idaho Children's Trust Fund	**Roger Sherman**, Executive Director
	2. The Children's Bridge, a Division of Charity Reimagined	**Royale Lockhart**, Division President
	3. Idaho Safe Teen Assessment Center Coalition	**Nancy Winmill**, President
	4. Idaho Network of Children's Advocacy Centers	**Sonja Howerton**, Executive Director
	5. UYLC Recovery Center	**Ross Edmunds**, Division Administrator, DHW
	6. Drug Use Awareness Program	**Representative Jordan Redman**
6:40 p.m.	Committee Discussion and Vote on Recommendations to JFAC	Co-Chair **Senator Van Burtenshaw** and Co-Chair **Representative Jordan Redman**
7:00 p.m.	Adjournment	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Senator Burtenshaw, Co-chairman
Senator Bjerke
Senator Woodward
Senator Ward-Engelking
Senator Semmelroth

Representative Redman, Co-chairman
Representative Erickson
Representative Mitchell
Representative Green
Representative Galaviz

STAFF CONTACT(S)

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Email: JBisharat@lso.idaho.gov

MINUTES
(Subject to Approval by the Committee)
Joint Millennium Fund Committee
Wednesday, December 17, 2025
9:00 A.M.
Room WW55
Boise, Idaho

Call to Order, Meeting Overview, and Approval of Minutes

The Joint Millennium Fund Committee was called to order by Senator Burtenshaw, Co-Chair, at 9:00 am. A silent roll call was taken. Senator Ward-Engelking, Representative Erickson, and Representative Green were absent and excused.

Senator Semmelroth moved and Representative Redman, Co-Chair, seconded to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2025, meeting. Committee members approved the minutes.

New Millennium Income Fund Request

Ross Edmunds, Division Administrator for the Department of Health and Welfare (DHW), presented a funding request on behalf of the Upriver Youth Leadersip Council (UYLC) as directed by Section 3 of S1215 (2025). He emphasized it is not a budget request from DHW. Mr. Edmunds referenced a one-page handout provided to the committee which describes the history of the center and a snapshot of activities over the past year. He advised the center is at a point where additional support is needed to continue to provide services.

Mr. Edmunds reported there are nine community-based recovery centers across Idaho that receive Millennium Funding. Each one receives $150,000 which is passed through DHW and distributed in quarterly payments so long as the centers meet the criteria established in S 1215 (2025). DHW does not operate these centers and is not granted authority over the centers. However, DHW is directed to maintain oversight of the centers to ensure compliance with the requirements set forth in S 1215 (2025). All nine centers are in good standing and receiving the quarterly payments.

A question was asked about the status of a recovery center in Caldwell, Idaho, which closed a couple of years ago. Mr. Edmunds responded that at that time, Millennium Funds were appropriated directly to the recovery centers (not through DHW). They are uncertain what happened to the proprietor of that center, but it did not open and funds were not recovered. As a result, DHW now has oversight over the distribution of the funds for the recovery centers, and a new center has opened in Caldwell with a different proprietor. DHW completed a competitive process and worked with the community to ensure they identified an appropriate entity to operate it.

Strategic Plan / Know Vape Update

Jennie Sue Weltner, Executive Producer for Idaho Public Television, provided an update on the strategic plan. She reminded the committee that a few months ago she was asked to look beyond the individual work as a campaign manager for the Know Vape and Welcome to the Unaltered State campaigns. She took a broader view of the work of Millennium Fund recipients to show what has been accomplished, how those pieces fit together, and identify what still needs attention.

Ms. Weltner shared highlights from a report that was provided to the Committee. She reported results of a recent survey of 2,400 parents and teens across Idaho for the Unaltered State campaign to obtain some baseline information. Ms. Weltner reviewed the mission, vision, and strategy of Millennium Fund recipients, as well as provided an overview of the target audiences and the impact of various initiatives.

Ms. Weltner explained the market research that is being conducted to better under the impact of campaign efforts. A question was also asked regarding the purpose of the survey, which was to understand the impact of the campaign, as well as to measure the current attitudes, knowledge, and behavior of parents and teens to establish a baseline. This information provides for a better understanding of how to shift and better target future messaging.

Ms. Weltner reviewed who is doing the work and what work is being done. The key focus areas are awareness, education, protecting kids while they are in school, pathways out of the judicial system, youth programs, and adult recovery. Finally, she identified where there are some opportunities for collaboration.

Youth Assessment Centers Update

Nancy Winmill, President of the Idaho Safe Teen Assessment Center (ISTAC) Coalition and CEO of the Simply-Hope Center, provided an update on the work of the assessment centers. There are 12 assessment centers across Idaho whose purpose is to give families one main place to go for help, serving as a single point of contact that screens youth, provides assessments when needed, and builds individualized service plans. Ms. Winmill reported on the impact of the state's investment in the centers. She presented the results of a recent return on investment analysis conducted by Dr. J. Mac McCullough, a health economist based in Boise.

The ISTAC Coalition is requesting $1 million in funding for Idaho Youth Assessment Centers. Funds would be made available as $50,000 to $100,000 grants per center. The funds would be used to sustain core services, move centers toward Tier 2 (including hiring counselors/clinicians), and expanding substance use prevention programming. Questions were asked about Tier 2 services, what ideas are in place for future sustainability, and the increase in recovery and how that equates to individuals.

The Committee took a brief recess at 10:00 a.m. and reconvened at 10:17 a.m.

Idaho Network of Children's Advocacy Centers

Sonja Howerton, Executive Director of the Idaho Network of Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC's), presented on behalf of the ten advocacy centers across the state. Ms. Howerton described the process of how law enforcement or child protection services work with them, the format of child forensic interviewing, and the services that are provided by the centers. Ms. Howerton discussed how the CAC model is effective for addressing childhood trauma. When children experience this level of trauma, they are significantly more likely to develop substance use as a coping mechanism. These centers are poised to engage prevention efforts for these children.

Funding is increasingly unstable. Traditional funding sources are in decline as are philanthropic donations. Through SB 1203 (2025), the CAC's received a one-time state investment of $3 million, but they need to secure long-term funding. Idaho CAC's are asking to be a partner to receive Millennium Funds. The CAC's don't have a specific dollar amount to put forward at this time, but would like to open a dialogue about what the solution could look like. Ms. Howerton was asked to describe the funding model and what traditional funding sources are no longer available.

State Department of Education Update

Superintendent of Public Instruction Debbie Critchfield reported on the use of funds for priorities and goals that were previously presented to the committee. Superintendent Critchfield provided a one-page report highlighting the prevention efforts undertaken by the Idaho Department of Education. She discussed school resource officer (SRO) grants, fentanyl awareness programs for parents and students, and providing grants for vape detectors in schools. Department staff

ensured funding was used as it was intended, worked right along with school staff to ensure good stewardship, and that the goals set by the committee were met.

Several questions were asked about SRO's, including how many are in the state, how schools can apply for funding, the competitive process developed to apply for and receive the funding, the waiting list, and how many students have access to SRO's. Superintendent Critchfield will report back with that number.

Statewide Drug Awareness Campaign

Monte Stiles, retired Assistant U.S. Attorney (District of Idaho) and drug education trainer, spoke to the committee about his background and experience in the criminal justice system and his observations of how many criminal defendants were in the system due to underlying substance abuse problems. He spoke in favor of a statewide drug awareness campaign. The question was asked, what would be our first steps to make a statewide campaign happen. Mr. Stiles shared his view that adults need to be educated about the true impact of drugs. He also suggested supplementing the work outlined in the strategic plan with additional programs such as youth leadership programs.

Committee Discussion and Adjournment

Senator Burtenshaw thanked committee members and presenters for their efforts, focus, and service. The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Budget Category	Millennium Fund	ICTF
Community-Based Subgrants	**$796,000**	**$100,000**
Personnel (Regional & Administrative Staff)	$120,000	
ICTF Personnel supporting the projects		$100,000
State Benefits (40%)	**$48,000**	
Training & Convenings	$20,000	$ 10,000
Travel (Rural & Regional Support)	$10,000	
Supplies, Materials & Communications	$4,000	
Evaluation & Reporting	$2,000	
Total	**$1,000,000**	**$210,000**

Budget Detail and Justification

1. Community-Based Subgrants — $796,000

Funds will be competitively awarded to nonprofit and public entities statewide, with emphasis on rural and hard-to-reach communities.

- Grant sizes will range from **$25,000 to $100,000**
- Illustrative award mix:
    - 4 grants @ $100,000 = $400,000
    - 4 grants @ $75,000 = $300,000
    - 2 grants @ $48,000 = $96,000

Subgrants will support Family Resource Centers, parenting education and mentoring programs, child abuse prevention training, youth development initiatives, and parent-to-parent and parent leadership projects.

ICTF will retain flexibility in award sizes to ensure equitable geographic distribution, responsiveness to community need, and alignment with program goals. Final award decisions will reflect proposal quality, readiness for implementation, and demonstrated impact, while maintaining grant amounts within the established $25,000–$100,000 range

2. Personnel — $120,000

Personnel costs support essential program administration, technical assistance, monitoring, and coordination.

Staffing Assumptions (All at $27/hour):

- **2 Regional Temporary Staff (Northern & Eastern Idaho)**
  - 26.5 hours/week × 52 weeks × 2 staff
  - ≈ 2,756 total hours
  - Cost: **$74,400**
- **1 Part-Time Administrative Temporary Staff**
  - 26.5 hours/week × 52 weeks
  - ≈ 1,378 total hours
  - Cost: **$37,200**

Existing staff will provide applicant technical assistance, oversee contracts, coordinate trainings, monitor performance, and ensure compliance with state grant requirements.

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3. Fringe Benefits — $48,000 (40%)

Fringe benefits are calculated at the **state-approved rate of 40% of salaries**, covering health insurance, retirement, payroll taxes, workers' compensation, and other required employee benefits.

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4. Training & Convenings — $20,000

Supports regional training sessions and training-of-trainers activities, including facilities or virtual platforms, materials, facilitation, and peer learning activities to ensure accountability and program quality.

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5. Travel — $10,000

Idaho Millennium Fund – FY 2027 Grant Application Form

Instructions: Please complete this form to apply for funding from the Idaho Millennium Income Fund. To be considered, programs must target prevention, cessation, and treatment related to tobacco, vape, alcohol, illegal substances, and other substances that may be abused beyond the intended uses and for the overall safety and well-being of Idaho youth. Funding is prioritized first to programs that benefit Idahoans under 18 years of age and then for adults with higher risk factors for abusing or using various substances.

A. Applicant Information

Full Legal Organization Name: Idaho Children's Trust Fund

Organizational Description: The mission of the Idaho Children's Trust Fund is strengthening families and communities to prevent child abuse and neglect before it occurs. We provide funding, training and technical assistance to non-profit organizations statewide to create a system of upstream prevention focused on preventing ACES and building PCEs or positive childhood experiences. ACES (adverse childhood experiences) are a major contributor to smoking and other substance misuse.

Organization Type (State agency, Local government, School/University, Tribal government, Nonprofit 501(c)(3), Other): State board created by the Legislature in 1985

Primary Contact Name: Roger Sherman Title: Executive Director

Address: The Alexander House 304 W. State St. Phone: 208-386-9317

Email: roger.sherman@ctf.idaho.gov Website: www.idahochildrenstrustfund.org

Authorized Signatory Name/Title:

B. Eligibility and Compliance

Check the following boxes to ensure funding eligibility.

x The proposed project aligns with tobacco/youth nicotine prevention, cessation, or substance misuse prevention outcomes.

X Funds will be used within Idaho and benefit Idaho residents.

x Applicant will comply with legislative requirements and reporting.

x All moneys received will be accounted for using generally accepted accounting principles.

x No supplanting: funds will not replace existing funding for currently financed activities.

C. Program/Project Summary

Title: Community-Based Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Requested Amount ($): 1 million

Brief Summary of Request: Funding will be used to support mid-size grants (ones that are less than the Millennium Fund normally grants) to community-based projects throughout Idaho working to strengthen families and communities to prevent child abuse and neglect. The projects can include education on preventing child sexual abuse and abusive head trauma, parenting programs, family resource centers and school-based programs that work with families. Adverse

Childhood Experiences (ACEs) which include physical and sexual abuse and neglect are major contributors to long term legal and illegal substance misuse in Idaho and throughout the nation.

Project Period (start–end dates): One time or Annually as per decisions from the Fund

Geographic Area(s) Served: Statewide

Target Population(s): Educators and others in youth serving organizations, families at risk and the general public

D. Statement of Need

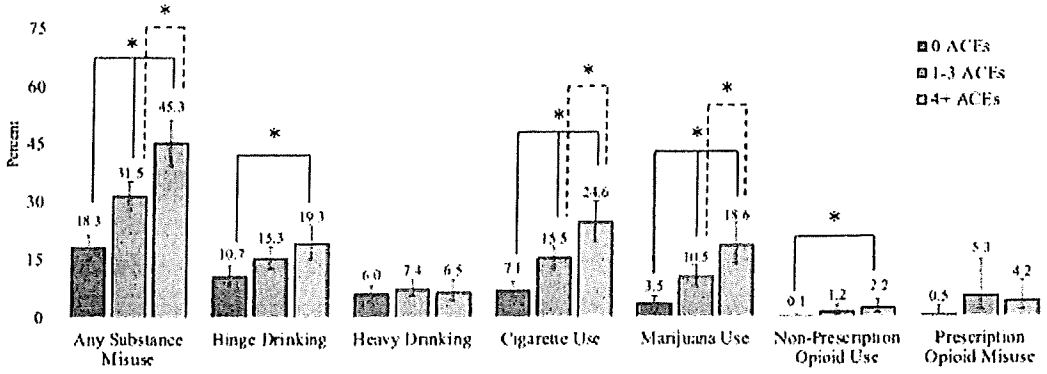
The statement of need should describe the problem the proposed project will attempt to address. It should clearly set forth the rationale, or justification, for what is being proposed. Please indicate if there has been an effort to have this program/project subsumed by a state or local government agency.

Although there have been a significant reduction in sexual and physical abuse in the last decades, child abuse and neglect remain persistent problems in Idaho and throughout the country. Reducing the incidents of child abuse and neglect by providing early support to families will also reduce the long term use of tobacco and other substances.

The link between Adverse Childhood Experiences or ACEs and smoking and other substance misuse is well-documented but perhaps lesser known than other causes. ACEs are experiences of abuse, neglect and various household dysfunctions before the age of 18 that have been shown to be linked to both chronic disease and risky behaviors such as substance misuse throughout the lifespan.

In Idaho, the adult population was surveyed through the Behavioral Risk Factors Survey in 2018 and 2020. That survey found a strong link between ACEs and substance misuse in our own state. In a report from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics following the 2018 survey "...**relative to those who had no ACEs, marijuana use was nearly 4 times more prevalent, cigarette use was nearly twice as prevalent and binge drinking was 1.7 times as prevalent among adults who had 4 or more ACEs." Nearly ¼ of Idahoans experienced 4 or more ACEs according to both the 2018 and 2020 surveys.**

Figure 3. *Substance Use and ACE Score, Idaho 2018*



Note: * denotes statistically significant difference at $p < .05$

The good news is that those people who had strong positive childhood experiences (as measured in other states) were less likely to experience the adverse effects. The Positive Childhood Experiences (PCE) survey

measures domains in relationships, the environment, social and emotional development and community and civic engagement.

All the groups funded by the Idaho Children's Trust Fund throughout the state are working to decrease ACES and increase PCES. Our funding and training focus is on strengthening families to prevent child abuse and neglect *before they occur.* Prevention of child abuse and strengthening families is key to lowering the rates of substance misuse and the likelihood of starting in the first place.

A story from one of our funded programs, Safe Families for Children, illustrates the power of this work in both creating stable homes for children and dealing with substance abuse.

A father of three elementary-aged girls found himself at an impossible crossroads. After being asked to leave a family homeless shelter due to struggles with alcohol use, he and his daughters were suddenly without safe housing. With their mother incarcerated and no immediate alternatives, the family was living outdoors while Child Protective Services searched for them out of concern for the children's safety.

When the father reached out for help, he was given a critical opportunity: in order to be readmitted to shelter and prevent his daughters from entering foster care, he needed to enroll in a 30-day inpatient treatment program—out of state. Committed to becoming the father he wanted to be for his girls, he agreed.

At that moment of crisis, Safe Families for Children stepped in. To make a long story short, Safe Families found trained and vetted host families to care for the girls during the father's absence. Throughout the placement, Safe Families staff worked intensively behind the scenes—coordinating with school counselors, local homeless shelters, out-of-state treatment providers, law enforcement, and CPS—to ensure safety, communication, and alignment across systems. This work kept the girls together and out of foster care and allowed the father to heal.

Today the father is sober, housed, and deeply committed to being a present and healthy parent for his girls. This is why community-based services are so important.

E. Work Plan & Timeline

Describe program goals and major activities.

The overall goal of this program is to increase the availability of community-based services and education accessible to families throughout Idaho, with special emphasis on rural and hard-to-reach communities. By supporting locally based services, the program reduces stigma and other barriers that often prevent families from seeking help, while strengthening community capacity to respond to the needs of children and parents. In addition, the Idaho Children's Trust Fund (ICTF) will support training-of-trainers approaches to develop sustainable local expertise across the state.

To achieve this goal, ICTF will implement the following work plan over a twelve-month period.

Pre-Implementation Phase (May 1 – June 30)

During the pre-implementation phase, ICTF will develop and finalize a Request for Proposals (RFP) using existing organizational resources. The RFP will be distributed statewide to nonprofit organizations and public entities to ensure broad geographic reach and equitable access to funding opportunities. Local advisory groups will be established to review proposals, bringing community perspective into funding decisions. ICTF staff will provide technical assistance to prospective applicants, with particular attention to rural and under-resourced communities, to support strong project design and readiness for implementation.

Quarter 1: Project Selection and Start-Up (July 1 – September 30)

During the first quarter, ICTF will hire and train temporary staff in northern and eastern Idaho to support the

development of community-based projects and strengthen regional presence. An additional part-time temporary staff position will be hired to manage the increased administrative workload associated with processing grants through state systems. Proposal submissions will close during this period, followed by a structured review process with advisory groups. Funding decisions will be finalized, and contracts will be developed and executed with selected projects.

Quarter 2: Project Launch and Capacity Building (October 1 – December 30)
Funded projects will begin service delivery throughout the state during the second quarter. ICTF will convene regional training sessions to build connections among funded partners and foster peer learning. These sessions will also establish shared expectations for accountability, reporting, and data collection. ICTF staff will provide early implementation support and technical assistance to ensure projects are positioned for success.

Based on prior experience, funded projects are expected to fall into several key categories, including Family Resource Centers that provide concrete supports and education; training programs to prevent child sexual abuse and abusive head trauma; parenting education and mentoring programs using evidence-based curricula; youth-focused programs supporting positive adolescent development and teen parents; longer term respite support to keep families from entering the system and parent-to-parent and parent leadership initiatives that strengthen social connection and community leadership.

Quarter 3: Implementation Support and Training of Trainers (January 1 – March 30)
During the third quarter, ICTF will focus on sustaining and strengthening implementation. Funded projects will continue service delivery while receiving targeted technical assistance informed by early progress and challenges. ICTF will monitor project performance through interim reports and regular check-ins. Training-of-trainers sessions will be delivered to build local expertise, support workforce development, and promote long-term sustainability within communities, particularly in rural and hard-to-reach areas.

Quarter 4: Evaluation, Learning, and Planning (April 1 – June 30)
In the final quarter, funded projects will continue service delivery while completing final reports and outcome data submissions. ICTF will analyze program data to assess impact, reach, and equity of access across communities. Lessons learned, success stories, and promising practices will be documented to inform future funding cycles and continuous improvement. ICTF will prepare summary reports for stakeholders and policymakers and develop recommendations to strengthen community-based prevention services statewide.

F. Budget & Narrative

Attach a detailed, itemized budget and narrative justification. This includes a breakdown of personnel costs and operating expenditures, as well as any matching funds or in-kind contributions.

G. Evaluation & Performance Measurement

Briefly explain what you want to learn about your program goals, outcomes, and process over the grant period and how you plan to measure performance.

We require grantees to use the Protective Factors Survey as an evaluation tool. This is a tool for measuring family wellbeing with an emphasis on 5 protective factors: parental resilience, healthy social connections, concrete supports,

knowledge of parenting and child development and the development of children's social and emotional competence. These protective factors provide a proxy measure for prevention of child abuse and family wellbeing, i.e. when families have these factors the likelihood of abuse and neglect are greatly reduced.

The following is an example of the impact that one organization's services had on the people it served:
Ignite Idaho Family Resource Center (FRC) in McCall provides family support, parenting classes and referrals to families in the West Central Mountains. Evaluations of the program show:

- 95% improved outcomes for 'the future looks good for our family,'
- 95% improved outcomes for 'we take time to listen to each other,' and
- 95% improved outcomes for 'I have people who believe in me.'
- 100% of completed program participants reported that "the staff here understand me."
- 90% of families reported both before and after struggling to pay for one or more of the seven basic needs. As part of the resource center model, we have connected with all the families who reported struggles to connect them with resources that may help them better afford basic living expenses for their families.

We also collect qualitative information in the form of stories:
One participant's feedback, "My whole family uses Ignite Idaho programs. The things I have learned in parenting class have changed our home. We've learned it's okay for anyone to ask for help."

H. Sustainability

Clearly and effectively communicate your organization's plan and rationale for sustaining, expanding, replicating, or terminating the project once the grant period ends. Information should also include a discussion of how you will secure future funding to sustain the project over the long-term.

As a state government connected board, we are charged with promoting efforts that prevent child abuse and neglect throughout the state. We do our work through funding, public education, training, technical assistance and connecting organizations with like interests to support each other. We are requesting this funding to support community-based projects throughout Idaho. Although we have the ability to solicit funding from private sources, funding for regranting needs to come from a public source. Beyond Millennium Fund, ICTF will be seeking legislation to support funding through surcharges on birth and marriage certificates and divorce filings. These sources are commonly used by Children's Trust Funds throughout the country because they have a strong nexus with parenting.

I. Submission Instructions

Please submit completed form via email to jbisharat@lso.idaho.gov. Applications will be considered by the Joint Millennium Fund Committee. Recommendations for funding will be made to the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee. For questions, contact Janica Bisharat at the Legislative Services Office (LSO) at (208) 332-1286.

Idaho Millennium Fund – FY 2027 Grant Application Form

Instructions: Please complete this form to apply for funding from the Idaho Millennium Income Fund. To be considered, programs must target prevention, cessation, and treatment related to tobacco, vape, alcohol, illegal substances, and other substances that may be abused beyond the intended uses and for the overall safety and well-being of Idaho youth. Funding is prioritized first to programs that benefit Idahoans under 18 years of age and then for adults with higher risk factors for abusing or using various substances.

A. Applicant Information

Full Legal Organization Name:

The Children's Bridge, a Division of Charity Reimagined

Organizational Description:

Charity Reimagined is an Idaho-based nonprofit organization that incubates and supports community-driven initiatives that prevent crises, strengthen families, and create lasting systems change. Charity Reimagined provides fiscal sponsorship, financial oversight, and organizational infrastructure to emerging initiatives that address root causes of social and economic challenges affecting children and families.

The Children's Bridge will operate as a division of Charity Reimagined, with dedicated leadership and a distinct mission. Charity Reimagined serves in an incubator role, providing accounting, compliance, and administrative support, while The Children's Bridge develops, implements, and scales its programmatic work. The long-term goal is for The Children's Bridge to build the governance, operational, and financial readiness necessary to transition to an independent 501(c)(3) organization within approximately three years, with legal separation finalized near the end of the four-year project period.

Organization Type (State agency, Local government, School/University, Tribal government, Nonprofit 501(c)(3), Other): Non-Profit

Primary Contact Name: Royale Lockhart Title: The Children's Bridge Division President

Address: 3731 N. Ramsey Rd. Ste 110 A, CDA 83815 **Phone:** 206-719-7617

Email: royalelockhart@gmail.com

Authorized Signatory Name/Title: Maggie Lyons, President, Charity Reimagined

Address: 3731 N. Ramsey Rd. Ste 110 A, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

Phone: 208-659-3477

Website: https://www.charityreimagined.org/

B. Eligibility and Compliance

- ✓ Check the following boxes to ensure funding eligibility.
- ✓ The proposed project aligns with tobacco/youth nicotine prevention, cessation, or substance misuse prevention outcomes.
- ✓ Funds will be used within Idaho and benefit Idaho residents.
- ✓ Applicants will comply with legislative requirements and reporting.
- ✓ All money received will be accounted for using generally accepted accounting principles.
- ✓ No supplanting: funds will not replace existing funding for currently financed activities.

C. Program/Project Summary

Title: The Children's Bridge: Shared Services to Strengthen and Expand Child Care Capacity

Requested Amount ($): $3.5M

Brief Summary of Request:

Charity Reimagined requests funding to support *The Children's Bridge (TCB)*, a shared-services initiative operating as a division of Charity Reimagined and led by its Division President. The Children's Bridge is designed to strengthen existing child care programs, stabilize and grow the early childhood workforce, and expand the number of child care providers.

The requested $3.5 million represents total funding across the full four-year project period (2026–2029), supporting phased implementation, system build-out, and transition to a fully operational and sustainable shared services model.

To do this, operating barriers for child care providers must be significantly reduced and/or eliminated. There are many barriers, and The Children's Bridge has the experience and knowledge to remove these barriers through a shared services network it has developed.

Shared services include critically needed services, management systems, and products that individual child care programs cannot economically access and/or provide on their own. With training and the shared purchasing power provided by The Children's Bridge, participating child care providers will be able to afford child care management and bookkeeping software, health insurance, and retirement options for staff. Access to these

services and products will significantly reduce administrative burden, improve financial sustainability, support workforce recruitment and retention, and create conditions that allow child care providers to not only stay in business but to grow their business by increasing their capacity to care for more children.

Prevention research consistently links early caregiving instability, chronic stress, and family disruption with increased risk of later tobacco and substance use. The Children's Bridge intervenes at this risk point by stabilizing and growing the number of affordable, quality early child care providers.

Project Period (start–end dates): January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2029

Geographic Area(s) Served
North Idaho (initial implementation), with infrastructure designed for statewide expansion.

Target Population(s)

- Licensed child care programs (centers and family child care homes)
- Early childhood educators and child care staff
- Families with children who rely on stable child care to participate in the workforce.

D. Statement of Need

The statement of need should describe the problem the proposed project will attempt to address. It should clearly set forth the rationale, or justification, for what is being proposed. Please indicate if there has been an effort to have this program/project subsumed by a state or local government agency.

Idaho faces a persistent and growing shortage of licensed child care that is limiting workforce participation, increasing family stress, and constraining economic growth. While demand for child care continues to rise, many existing programs struggle to remain open, fully staffed, and financially sustainable. As a result, child care capacity is not only insufficient—it is fragile. Preserving existing programs while creating pathways for expansion is a critical need across Idaho communities.

Child care providers operate small businesses within a highly regulated environment, yet they often lack access to the administrative systems, benefits, and purchasing power that other sectors rely on for stability and growth. Administrative burden, limited access to health insurance and retirement benefits, staffing challenges, and rising operating costs contribute to burnout, workforce turnover, and program closures. These pressures

make it difficult for providers to maintain current enrollment, let alone expand capacity to meet community needs.

Shared services in child care refer to a coordinated approach that helps independent child care programs strengthen their business operations by sharing access to essential administrative systems, purchasing power, and facilitated benefits and professional support. Rather than each program independently managing enrollment tracking, billing, recordkeeping, compliance, and workforce support—often with limited funds, time, and/or expertise—shared services will provide a centralized structure that delivers these resources across multiple child care providers while preserving each provider's autonomy. For example, child care providers will be able to use common enrollment and attendance systems, receive support with bookkeeping and compliance, participate in shared purchasing arrangements, and access facilitated workforce benefits and professional services through a single coordinated platform. Reducing, if not eliminating, these administrative burdens will lead to increased profitability and operational stability, leading to ongoing sustainability and long-term operating success.

Prevention research increasingly demonstrates that substance misuse and mental health challenges do not begin in adolescence—they are shaped by early experiences, environments, and chronic stressors in childhood. Stable, nurturing relationships and predictable caregiving environments are among the strongest protective factors against later substance use. Early childhood education and quality care function as part of Idaho's broader prevention infrastructure, supporting family stability and strengthening protective factors during critical developmental years.

Despite this role, early childhood programs are rarely resourced as prevention infrastructure. When child care programs face instability and disruptions in staffing, ongoing care, and education for children of working parents become volatile, leading to increased stress for families, employers, and providers alike. Without coordinated support and training (which the Children's Bridge will provide), providers are left to absorb systemic pressures that undermine their capacity and consistency of care, which often lead to business failure.

The Children's Bridge addresses this need by reducing operational barriers that prevent child care programs from sustaining and expanding their services. By strengthening business systems, supporting workforce stability, and improving access to shared support, The Children's Bridge helps providers preserve existing child care slots and build capacity for growth over time. Operating as a division of Charity Reimagined, The Children's Bridge combines dedicated program leadership with strong fiscal and administrative infrastructure, including accounting and audit readiness support. This

approach complements existing public efforts while addressing a gap not currently met through state or local programs.

E. Work Plan & Timeline

Describe program goals and major activities.

Project Period: January 2026 – December 2029

The Children's Bridge will be implemented over a four-year period using a phased approach that focuses on building shared services infrastructure, stabilizing existing child care programs, and supporting responsible expansion of child care capacity. Activities are designed to strengthen early childhood education as a core component of Idaho's prevention infrastructure by reducing systemic barriers that limit program sustainability and growth.

Program Goals & Key Activities

Goal 1: Strengthen early childhood education's role within Idaho's prevention infrastructure.

- Establish a shared services infrastructure that supports child care business operations, administrative systems, and compliance requirements.
- Reduce operational instability by decreasing administrative burden and improving access to centralized systems that individual child care providers cannot efficiently maintain or afford.
- Preserve existing child care providers and stabilize caregiving environments for children.

Goal 2: Stabilize and support the early childhood workforce to promote consistent caregiving environments.

- Support providers in implementing staffing systems and workforce support that improve retention and reduce burnout.
- Expand access to shared tools and resources, including benefits and related supports such as health insurance and retirement options.
- Strengthen consistency in caregiver–child relationships that is foundational to child well-being.

Goal 3: Strengthen protective factors for children and families through consistent caregiving, family engagement, and supportive environments.

- Support implementation of family-engagement and communication practices that build trust and partnership with families.
- Improve coordination and referral pathways to community-based family support and resources.
- Promote trauma-informed, strengths-based practices that support emotional safety and resilience.

Implementation Timeline

Phase 1: Infrastructure Development & Initial Implementation (2026)

Working with a small cohort of child care providers in North Idaho from 2023 - 2025 and learning from their financial difficulties and staffing/operating challenges, we will:

- Establish The Children's Bridge as a distinct division within Charity Reimagined, with dedicated leadership and operating procedures.
- Develop and refine shared services tools and operational protocols.
- Expand shared services and training among child care providers in North Idaho and throughout the state.
- Collect baseline data related to program stability, workforce conditions, and family engagement.

Aligned Goals: 1, 2, and 3.

Phase 2: Stabilization & Continuous Improvement (2027)

- Deliver expanded shared services and technical assistance to participating programs.
- Support workforce stabilization and early benefits access.
- Strengthen family engagement and referral practices.
- Conduct annual evaluation and refine the model based on findings.
- Begin organizational planning for The Children's Bridge's future independence, including governance and legal readiness.

Aligned Goals: 1, 2, and 3.

Phase 3: Expansion & Replication Readiness (2028)

- Expand participation to additional programs and communities
- Strengthen cross-sector partnerships supporting prevention and family well-being.
- Standardize tools and processes to support replication.
- Continue evaluation and outcome tracking.
- Advance legal, financial, and governance steps toward establishing The Children's Bridge as an independent nonprofit organization.

Aligned Goals: 1, 2, and 3.

Phase 4: Fully Operational and Mature Shared Services System

Phase 4 represents a fully operational and mature shared services system. By 2029, The Children's Bridge will be fully developed, deployed, and operating at scale, with core infrastructure, staffing, technology platforms, and service delivery systems fully implemented and stabilized.

- Finalize transition to independent 501(c)(3) status.
- Operate under independent governance with established administrative and fiscal systems.
- Sustain ongoing operations through a diversified funding model, with 60–70% of annual operating revenue generated through earned revenue, participation fees, partnerships, and philanthropy.
- Maintain public funding at approximately 30–40% of total operating costs to support continued access and system stability.
- Position The Children's Bridge as permanent infrastructure within Idaho's early childhood and prevention ecosystem.

Aligned Goals: 1, 2, and 3.

F. Budget & Narrative

Attach a detailed, itemized budget and narrative justification. This includes a breakdown of personnel costs and operating expenditures, as well as any matching funds or in-kind contributions.

G. Evaluation & Performance Measurement

Briefly explain what you want to learn about your program goals, outcomes, and process over the grant period and how you plan to measure performance.

Evaluation efforts will focus on understanding how strengthening early childhood education as part of Idaho's prevention infrastructure contributes to program stability, workforce continuity, and protective factors for children and families over time. The evaluation will emphasize system performance and implementation quality rather than individual behavior change outcomes.

Performance measurements will align with the project's three goals:

- **Program stability and infrastructure (Goal 1):** Measures will track participation in shared services, continuity of program operations, and indicators of reduced administrative burden and operational disruption.
- **Workforce stability (Goal 2):** Measures will include workforce retention trends, access to benefits-related support, and provider-reported capacity and burnout indicators.
- **Protective factors for children and families (Goal 3):** Measures will assess implementation of family engagement practices, use of referral pathways to community support, and adoption of trauma-informed, strengths-based practices within participating programs.

Data will be collected and reported annually throughout the project period to support continuous improvement, inform decision-making, and guide responsible expansion. Findings will be used to refine shared services, assess cost-efficiency, and support sustainability and replication planning. This approach ensures Millennium Fund resources are used to strengthen prevention infrastructure with measurable, long-term impact.

H. Sustainability

Clearly and effectively communicate your organization's plan and rationale for sustaining, expanding, replicating, or terminating the project once the grant period ends. Information should also include a discussion of how you will secure future funding to sustain the project over the long-term.

The Children's Bridge is intentionally designed for long-term sustainability beyond the grant period. Operating as a division of Charity Reimagined during the early implementation years allows the initiative to launch with strong fiscal oversight,

accounting and administrative infrastructure while building its own operational and governance capacity. This incubator structure supports responsible growth while minimizing risk during the start-up phase.

Over the project period, The Children's Bridge will transition toward a diversified funding model that reduces reliance on state funding. Sustainability strategies will include shared-services participation fees scaled to program size, partnerships with employers and community stakeholders who benefit from expanded child care capacity, and philanthropic and public-private funding opportunities.

A key component of sustainability is organizational independence. During the grant period, The Children's Bridge will intentionally build the governance, financial systems, and operational readiness necessary to transition to an independent 501(c)(3) organization. This transition is anticipated to occur near the end of the project period, following demonstrated program stability, operational effectiveness, and diversified revenue development. Charity Reimagined will continue to serve as a collaborative partner, while The Children's Bridge assumes independent governance and fiscal responsibility.

By the final year of the grant period, The Children's Bridge will operate as a fully stabilized system with a diversified revenue model. Ongoing public investment is projected to represent approximately 30–40% of total operating costs, complementing earned revenue, participation fees, employer partnerships, and philanthropic support. This balanced funding structure reduces long-term reliance on state funds while ensuring the system remains accessible, equitable, and responsive to workforce and family needs.

I. **Submission Instructions**

Please submit the completed form via email to jbisharat@lso.idaho.gov. Applications will be considered by the Joint Millennium Fund Committee. Recommendations for funding will be made to the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee. For questions, contact Janica Bisharat at the Legislative Services Office (LSO) at (208) 332-1286.

Section F. Budget & Narrative

The requested funding supports a phased implementation of The Children's Bridge over the project period, with budgets structured to reflect responsible growth, fiscal discipline, and long-term sustainability. Consistent with the shared services approach described above, the initiative focuses on reducing administrative burden for child care providers by coordinating back-office systems and operational supports that strengthen business stability while preserving provider independence.

Services are delivered through a three-tier provider model designed to align shared services and supports with provider readiness, operational capacity, and sustainability goals. Each tier builds on the previous level, intentionally moving child care programs from stabilization to sustainability to long-term resilience.

The goal of Tier 1 is stabilization. This level focuses on strengthening core business systems and administrative capacity, so child care programs can operate consistently and preserve existing capacity. Services include access to a child care management system to support enrollment, attendance, and recordkeeping, along with targeted technical assistance and on-demand training. Providers receive individualized one-to-one coaching focused on building a business plan, planning tuition, and making informed decisions related to business structure and long-term sustainability. Support related to the federal Child and Adult Care Food Program is also included, helping providers access meal and snack reimbursements that offset food costs and improve financial stability.

The goal of Tier 2 is sustainability. Building on the Tier 1 foundation, this level introduces deeper shared services that reduce ongoing operating costs and administrative burden, allowing programs to function more predictably over time. Services include shared purchasing opportunities, where small groups of child care businesses coordinate bulk purchasing through wholesale vendors. Back-office shared services expand to include enrollment tracking and bookkeeping support, further streamlining administrative work. This level also includes access to tele-health services that support the health and well-being of the child care workforce and contribute to staff retention and program stability, along with facilitated access to business liability insurance options that support risk management and regulatory compliance.

The goal of Tier 3 is resilience. Building on the Tier 1 and Tier 2 foundations, this level focuses on long-term workforce stability and organizational resilience by expanding access to benefits and professional services that are typically unavailable or cost-prohibitive for small child care businesses. Services include facilitated access to retirement benefit options, discounted professional services (such as information technology support, legal and tax consulting, facilities consulting, and custodial services), and — as conditions allow — facilitated access to group health insurance options for the child care workforce.

Corporate sponsorship is a vital component of The Children's Bridge's sustainability model and reflects employer investment in child care as essential workforce infrastructure. Corporate funding will support shared services across all service tiers rather than funding tier-specific benefits. As employer engagement deepens and regional participation expands, sponsorship revenue grows alongside earned revenue, strengthening the long-term financial stability of the shared services model.

The 2026 budget represents a conservative launch year focused on establishing shared services infrastructure, onboarding participating providers into Tier 1 services, and building the operational systems necessary to support future expansion. Staffing levels during this initial implementation period are intentionally modest and aligned with the limited scope of services available at launch.

Personnel costs support the leadership, coordination, and operational capacity required to design, implement, and manage shared services across participating child care programs. As provider participation increases and Tier 2 and Tier 3 services are introduced in subsequent years, and staffing expands incrementally in alignment with demonstrated demand and earned revenue. This phased approach ensures that personnel costs scale responsibly rather than ahead of service capacity.

Operating and program expenses support the core infrastructure required to deliver shared services as defined earlier, including technology systems, administrative coordination, and provider-specific support. These investments are foundational to preserving existing child care capacity and enabling modest, sustainable expansion over time.

As a fiscal sponsor and incubator, Charity Reimagined provides accounting, fiscal management, and compliance support throughout the project period. Associated administrative costs are represented transparently in the budget to reflect the organizational infrastructure required to responsibly manage public funds while The Children's Bridge builds its own operational and governance capacity.

As shared services mature and service tiers expand, staffing and operating capacity increase in alignment with revenue growth.

The final year of the budget, 2029, reflects a fully stabilized operating model with modest growth supported by diversified funding sources. This structure positions The Children's Bridge to sustain operations beyond the grant period with reduced reliance on public funding and full system functionality in place.

The Children's Bridge

Projected Operating Budget – Final Year (2029)

This table reflects the projected stabilized operating budget for The Children's Bridge in the final year of the project period, following phased implementation, workforce stabilization, and maturation of shared services. The budget reflects modest, sustainable scale and does not represent maximum theoretical capacity.

Project Operating Budget by Year

Category	Line Item	2026	2027	2028	2029
Personnel	Staffing & Benefits	$288,600	$359,500	$448,075	$458,550
Core Infrastructure	Operating & Administrative Costs	$128,737	$135,174	$141,933	$156,481
Shared Services	Tier 1, 2, and 3	$65,651	$75,498	$571,025	$656,679
	Total Operating Costs	$482,988	$570,172	$1,161,033	$1,271,710
	Total Revenue	$482,988	$570,172	$1,161,033	$1,271,710

View results

Respondent

1 Anonymous

294:48
Time to complete

Application Information

1. Full Legal Organization Name: *

Idaho Safe Teen Assessment Center Coalition

2. Organizational Description: *

ISTAC is a statewide partnership of Idaho's Safe Teen Assessment Centers and key community partners working together to strengthen and sustain a consistent, high-quality early-intervention "front door" for youth and families. We coordinate shared standards, training, data/ROI reporting, and cross-system collaboration so Idaho communities can respond earlier and more effectively to youth behavioral health, safety, and diversion needs.

3. Organization Type (State agency, Local government, School/University, Tribal government, Nonprofit 501(c)(3), Other): *

Other

4. Primary Contact Name: *

Nancy Winmill

5. Title: *

President

6. Address: *

1323 Oakley Ave. Burley, ID 83318

7. Phone: *

208-219-9147

8. Email: *

Nancy.Winmill@Simply-hope.com

9. Website: *

https://www.idjc.idaho.gov/community-operations/cops-project-manager/youth-assessment-centers/

10. Authorized Signatory Name/Title: *

Nancy Winmill ISTAC President

Eligibility and Compliance

11. Check the following boxes to ensure funding eligibility. *

- [ ] The proposed project aligns with tobacco/youth nicotine prevention, cessation, or substance misuse prevention outcomes.
- [ ] Funds will be used within Idaho and benefit Idaho residents.
- [ ] Applicant will comply with legislative requirements and reporting.
- [ ] All moneys received will be accounted for using generally accepted accounting principles.
- [ ] No supplanting: funds will not replace existing funding for currently financed activities.

Program/Project Summary

12. Title: *

Idaho Safe Teen Assessment Center Sustainability & ROI Project

13. Requested Amount ($): *

1,000,000.00

14. Brief Summary of Request: *

We are requesting $1,000,000 to sustain Idaho's existing Safe Teen Assessment Centers by stabilizing staffing and core operations across 12 centers, with Tier 2 centers funded at double Tier 1 to maintain higher-intensity capacity. The request also includes $50,000 for a statewide data dashboard and grant management thought an agent to strengthen uniform reporting, ROI documentation, and accountability. In addition, we are actively working to establish an oversight and pass-through structure with state partners (DHW, ODP and IDJC) to improve governance, transparency, and long-term sustainability.

15. Project Start Date: *

7/1/2026

16. Project End Date: *

6/30/2027

17. Geographic Area(s) Served: *

The 7 Judicial Districts of Idaho

18. Target Population(s): *

Youth ages 5 through 18

Statement of Need

19. The statement of need should describe the problem the proposed project will attempt to address. It should clearly set forth the rationale, or justification, for what is being proposed. Please indicate if there has been an effort to have this program/project subsumed by a state or local government agency.

Statement of Need: Idaho communities are experiencing growing and increasingly complex challenges among adolescents and families, including behavioral health needs, substance use, safety concerns, and crises. These issues are especially acute in rural and frontier areas, where long wait times, transportation barriers, and fragmented systems delay help. When concerns are not addressed early, they escalate into crises that strain families, emergency rooms, and public systems, while youth miss critical opportunities for early intervention.

Justification: Idaho's Safe Teen Assessment Centers offer a proven, cost-effective early-intervention model by rapidly assessing youth and connecting families to appropriate services. The centers were established to help Idaho Juvenile Justice Centers align with national juvenile justice standards. The centers reduce unnecessary emergency room visits, law enforcement involvement, and entry into juvenile justice and child welfare systems. However, rising demand and reliance on one-time and grant-based funding threaten their long-term viability.

Problem: The primary challenge is sustainability. Initial funding was one-time, while the need is ongoing. Although rural cities, counties, and school districts are supportive partners, most lack the capacity to sustain operations. Medicaid constraints and service gaps are expected to further increase demand. In today's economy, grants and donor funding are less predictable, putting proven early-intervention infrastructure at risk and increasing future costs to state and local systems.

This proposal seeks to sustain and strengthen Idaho's existing Safe Teen Assessment Centers by stabilizing core operations so centers can continue to provide timely assessments, coordinated interventions, and effective connections to care, while protecting prior state investments and helping the Legislature avoid significantly higher future costs. Prevention and early intervention cost far less than crisis response, detention, court involvement, or repeated emergency room use. Stable funding will preserve a system that is already working and saving taxpayer dollars.

Effort to be subsumed by government: Assessment Centers have worked closely with local cities and counties, juvenile probation departments, schools, and law enforcement to integrate into local response systems and reduce duplication. While these partners support the model, full absorption by local government has not been feasible particularly in rural Idaho due to limited local funding capacity and increasing demand, making statewide support essential to sustain the existing network.

Work Plan & Timeline

20. Describe program goals and major activities. *

Program Goals:
1.Sustain reliable access to early intervention statewide: Maintain stable staffing and core operations so Idaho youth and families can receive timely screening/assessment, safety planning, and coordinated support—especially in rural and frontier communities.

2.Strengthen consistent, high-quality service delivery: Ensure centers continue to operate in alignment with the National Assessment Center (NAC) framework and shared best practices, with consistent processes across sites.

3.Improve connections to care and reduce costly system involvement: Increase successful service linkage and ongoing participation in supports, helping reduce avoidable emergency room use, unnecessary law enforcement response, and deeper involvement in juvenile justice and child welfare when appropriate.

4.Document ROI and strengthen accountability: Implement uniform reporting, a statewide data dashboard, and coordinated grant management through an oversight agency to improve transparency, data quality, and measurable return on investment for Idaho taxpayers.

Major Activities:
1. Maintain qualified staffing and core operations (Tier 1 & Tier 2):
a. Retain/maintain qualified staff to manage intake, triage, assessment coordination, and case management.
b. For Tier 2 centers, hire/retain counseling capacity and support higher-intensity response to youth with mental health crises, suicide risk, and CPS-related instability, and diversion needs.

2. Deliver prevention and early-intervention services:
a.Conduct screening and assessment, develop safety plans, and provide coordinated interventions.
b. Provide prevention programming and family supports (e.g., after-school prevention activities, family education/classes) as allowable and based on local needs.
c. Ensure warm handoffs and active case management support to connect families to appropriate services and sustain engagement.

3. Coordinate with community partners to reduce duplication:
a. Maintain strong cross-system collaboration with schools, juvenile probation, law enforcement, behavioral health providers, CPS partners, cities, and counties.
b. Use shared referral pathways and coordinated response practices to ensure youth are connected to the right supports quickly and efficiently.

4. Build statewide reporting infrastructure (dashboard + grant management):
a. Develop and implement a statewide data dashboard with uniform definitions, data quality checks, and center-level/statewide reporting.
b. Coordinate grant management and compliance support through an oversight agency to streamline reporting, strengthen fiscal accountability, and support quarterly performance review and continuous quality improvement.

Budget & Narrative

Please e-mail a detailed, itemized budget and narrative justification. This includes a breakdown of personnel costs and operating expenditures, as well as any matching funds or in-kind contributions. Please email to Janica at jbisharat@lso.idaho.gov.

Evaluation & Performance Measurement

21. Briefly explain what you want to learn about your program goals, outcomes, and process over the grant period and how you plan to measure performance. *

What we want to learn: The goal is to ensure Idaho's existing Assessment Centers consistently deliver three results: timely access, effective connection to appropriate services, and measurable system impact/return on investment for Idaho taxpayers.

How We Will Measure: We will measure performance using uniform definitions and routine reporting across centers.

Metrics will include:
1. Referral volume and sources (self, schools, juvenile probation, law enforcement, etc.)

2. Timeliness (referral-to-first contact and referral-to-assessment); core services delivered (screenings, assessments, safety planning, family supports, warm handoffs)

3. Outcomes such as successful service linkage and participation in services/supports & diversion.

How the Dashboard Strengthens Transparency and Consistency: To strengthen consistency, transparency, and ROI reporting statewide, the Coalition will implement a state data dashboard and a coordinated grant management process through a state oversight agency to standardize data collection, support data quality checks, and produce center-level and statewide performance summaries for quarterly review and continuous quality improvement.

Sustainability

22. Clearly and effectively communicate your organization's plan and rationale for sustaining, expanding, replicating, or terminating the project once the grant period ends. Information should also include a discussion of how you will secure future funding to sustain the project over the long-term. *

Plan for sustainability: The plan of the Coalition is to sustain Idaho's existing Safe Teen Assessment Centers; not to build something new. The original funding was one-time, but centers are now established, trusted, and experiencing growing demand across behavioral health, suicide risk, family instability, diversion needs, and prevention programming. With Medicaid constraints and service gaps, we anticipate demand will continue to grow, particularly in rural Idaho.

How We Will Secure Future Funding (Braided Strategy): Long-term sustainability will be pursued through a braided funding strategy: (1) continued local cost-sharing where feasible with cities and counties, (2) partner agreements and in-kind support with schools, juvenile probation, law enforcement, and providers, (3) maximizing eligible reimbursement pathways when available, and (4) coordinated pursuit of grants and predictable annual philanthropy. This request reflects the least amount needed to stabilize the statewide system, and we project this level will remain consistent as diversification continues.

State Partnership Pathway: The Coalition is also in active discussions with the Office of Drug Policy (ODP) and the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections (IDJC) about longer-term sustainability solutions, including a potential state agency oversight structure and support for Assessment Centers through future legislation. This pathway strengthens alignment with statewide prevention priorities and supports durable funding mechanisms that match ongoing needs.

The Case for Continued Investment: Avoid Higher Costs Later: The reality is that communities cannot carry this alone. Ongoing state support is necessary, and it is a wise investment. Prevention and early intervention cost far less than responding after a youth is deeper in court involvement, on probation, in detention, or repeatedly in emergency rooms during crisis. Idaho already has a prevention system in place that is working. Sustaining it is a decision the State can be proud of and one that protects families and strengthens Idaho's future.

Submission Instructions

Thank you for submitting your application. Applications will be considered by the Joint Millennium Fund Committee. Recommendations for funding will be made to the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee. For questions, contact Janica Bisharat at the Legislative Services Office (LSO) at (208) 332-1286 or jbisharat@lso.idaho.gov.

Idaho Safe Teen Assessment Center Sustainability & ROI Project

Question 1: The statement of need should describe the problem the proposed project will attempt to address. It should clearly set forth the rationale, or justification, for what is being proposed. Please indicate if there has been an effort to have this program/project subsumed by a state or local government agency.

Statement of Need: Idaho communities are experiencing growing and increasingly complex challenges among adolescents and families, including behavioral health needs, substance use, safety concerns, and crises. These issues are especially acute in rural and frontier areas, where long wait times, transportation barriers, and fragmented systems delay help. When concerns are not addressed early, they escalate into crises that strain families, emergency rooms, and public systems, while youth miss critical opportunities for early intervention.

Justification: Idaho's Safe Teen Assessment Centers offer a proven, cost-effective early-intervention model by rapidly assessing youth and connecting families to appropriate services. The centers were established to help Idaho Juvenile Justice Centers align with national juvenile justice standards. The centers reduce unnecessary emergency room visits, law enforcement involvement, and entry into juvenile justice and child welfare systems. However, rising demand and reliance on one-time and grant-based funding threaten their long-term viability.

Problem: The primary challenge is sustainability. Initial funding was one-time, while the need is ongoing. Although rural cities, counties, and school districts are supportive partners, most lack the capacity to sustain operations. Medicaid constraints and service gaps are expected to further increase demand. In today's economy, grants and donor funding are less predictable, putting proven early-intervention infrastructure at risk and increasing future costs to state and local systems.

This proposal seeks to sustain and strengthen Idaho's existing Safe Teen Assessment Centers by stabilizing core operations so centers can continue to provide timely assessments, coordinated interventions, and effective connections to care, while protecting prior state investments and helping the Legislature avoid significantly higher future costs. Prevention and early intervention cost far less than crisis response, detention, court involvement, or repeated emergency room use. Stable funding will preserve a system that is already working and saving taxpayer dollars.

Effort to be subsumed by government: Assessment Centers have worked closely with local cities and counties, juvenile probation departments, schools, and law enforcement to integrate into local response systems and reduce duplication. While these partners support the model, full absorption by local government has not been feasible particularly in rural Idaho due to limited local funding capacity and increasing demand, making statewide support essential to sustain the existing network.

Program Goals and Major Activities

Program Goals

1. **Sustain reliable access to early intervention statewide:** Maintain stable staffing and core operations so Idaho youth and families can receive timely screening/assessment, safety planning, and coordinated support—especially in rural and frontier communities.
2. **Strengthen consistent, high-quality service delivery:** Ensure centers continue to operate in alignment with the National Assessment Center (NAC) framework and shared best practices, with consistent processes across sites.
3. **Improve connections to care and reduce costly system involvement:** Increase successful service linkage and ongoing participation in supports, helping reduce avoidable emergency room use, unnecessary law enforcement response, and deeper involvement in juvenile justice and child welfare when appropriate.
4. **Document ROI and strengthen accountability:** Implement uniform reporting, a statewide data dashboard, and coordinated grant management through an oversight agency to improve transparency, data quality, and measurable return on investment for Idaho taxpayers.

1. **Maintain qualified staffing and core operations (Tier 1 & Tier 2):**
    a. Retain/maintain qualified staff to manage intake, triage, assessment coordination, and case management.
    b. For Tier 2 centers, hire/retain counseling capacity and support higher-intensity response to youth with mental health crises, suicide risk, CPS-related instability, and diversion needs.
2. **Deliver prevention and early-intervention services:**
    a. Conduct screening and assessment, develop safety plans, and provide coordinated interventions.
    b. Provide prevention programming and family supports (e.g., after-school prevention activities, family education/classes) as allowable and based on local needs.
    c. Ensure warm handoffs and active case management support to connect families to appropriate services and sustain engagement.

3. **Coordinate with community partners to reduce duplication:**
    a. Maintain strong cross-system collaboration with schools, juvenile probation, law enforcement, behavioral health providers, CPS partners, cities, and counties.
    b. Use shared referral pathways and coordinated response practices to ensure youth are connected to the right supports quickly and efficiently.
4. **Build statewide reporting infrastructure (dashboard + grant management):**
    a. Develop and implement a statewide data dashboard with uniform definitions, data quality checks, and center-level/statewide reporting.
    b. Coordinate grant management and compliance support through an oversight agency to streamline reporting, strengthen fiscal accountability, and support quarterly performance review and continuous quality improvement.

Question 3: Budget, Budget Narrative, and Matching / In-Kind Contributions

Line Item	Description	Budget	Budget Total
Tier 1	5 Centers	$50,000.00	$250,000.00
Tier 2	7 Centers	$100,000.00	$700,000.00
Statewide Data Dashboard	Grant management	$50,000.00	$50,000.00
		Total Centers	**$950,000.00**
		Statewide	**$50,000.00**
		Total Request	**$1,000,000.00**

Justification:

$50,000.00 x 5 Tier 1 Centers (core "front door" stability): may be used to maintain qualified staff and operations that sustain intake, coordination, prevention programming, outreach, and reporting. All tiers: funding may be used to enhance or develop new/existing prevention programming (as allowable) and to maintain qualified staffing necessary to meet demand. **Grant Request: $250,000.00**

$100,000.00 x 7 Tier 2 Centers (higher demand capacity): may be used to hire or maintain qualified counseling staff, retain trained staff, and support essential operations tied to assessment, stabilization, and service linkage. **Grant Request: $700,000.00**

$50,000 Data Dashboard + Grant Management: Funds will support a statewide performance dashboard and coordinated grant management through the oversight agency (i.e. the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections (IDJC), Department of Health and Welfare or Public Health) to ensure consistent reporting, stronger documentation of public value, data reporting, and alignment with the NAC framework (including technical development, maintenance support, and reporting coordination).

This budget is designed to sustain Idaho's existing Assessment Centers at a level that matches real community demand. Tier 2 centers receive double funding because they require higher staffing intensity (including counseling capacity) to respond to youth facing mental health crises, suicide risk, CPS-related instability, and diversion needs reducing avoidable escalation to emergency rooms and deeper system involvement. Tier 1 funding stabilizes the essential "front door" functions that keep families from falling into crisis while improving coordination across agencies. The statewide dashboard/grant management investment strengthens transparency, reduces administrative burden across sites, and supports data-driven ROI reporting.

Matching / In-Kind Contributions: Matching and in-kind contributions vary by site and often look different for nonprofit-run versus county-run Assessment Centers. All centers apply for and receive grants and leverage volunteers. Many utilize AmeriCorps members to expand prevention programming and outreach.

Across Tier 1 and Tier 2 models, common in-kind contributions include facility space/utilities, partner agency coordination time (schools, juvenile probation, law enforcement, behavioral health), donated program materials, transportation support, and volunteer hours.

- County-run centers often provide in-kind support through existing infrastructure: partial staffing support, administrative oversight, and building/facility costs (space, utilities, maintenance).
- Nonprofit-run centers often provide match through fundraising, private donations, business sponsorships, and event revenue, plus donated goods/services and volunteer hours.

Question 4: Briefly explain what you want to learn about your program goals, outcomes, and process over the grant period and how you plan to measure performance.

What we want to learn: The goal is to ensure Idaho's existing Assessment Centers consistently deliver three results: timely access, effective connection to appropriate services, and measurable system impact/return on investment for Idaho taxpayers.

How We Will Measure: We will measure performance using uniform definitions and routine reporting across centers.

Metrics will include:

- **Referral volume and sources** (self, schools, juvenile probation, law enforcement, etc.)
- **Timeliness** (referral-to-first contact and referral-to-assessment); core services delivered (screenings, assessments, safety planning, family supports, warm handoffs)
- **Outcomes** such as successful service linkage and participation in services/supports.

How the Dashboard Strengthens Transparency and Consistency: To strengthen consistency, transparency, and ROI reporting statewide, the Coalition will implement a state data dashboard and a coordinated grant management process through a state oversight agency to standardize data collection, support data quality checks, and produce center-level and statewide performance summaries for quarterly review and continuous quality improvement.

Question 5: Clearly and effectively communicate your organization's plan and rationale for sustaining, expanding, replicating, or terminating the project once the grant period ends. Information should also include a discussion of how you will secure future funding to sustain the project over the long-term.

Plan for sustainability: The plan of the Coalition is to sustain Idaho's existing Safe Teen Assessment Centers; not to build something new. The original funding was one-time, but centers are now established, trusted, and experiencing growing demand across behavioral health, suicide risk, family instability, diversion needs, and prevention programming. With Medicaid constraints and service gaps, we anticipate demand will continue to grow, particularly in rural Idaho.

How We Will Secure Future Funding (Braided Strategy): Long-term sustainability will be pursued through a braided funding strategy: (1) continued local cost-sharing where feasible with cities and counties, (2) partner agreements and in-kind support with schools, juvenile probation, law enforcement, and providers, (3) maximizing eligible reimbursement pathways when available, and (4) coordinated pursuit of grants and predictable annual philanthropy. This request reflects the least amount needed to stabilize the statewide system, and we project this level will remain consistent as diversification continues.

State Partnership Pathway: The Coalition is also in active discussions with the Office of Drug Policy (ODP) and the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections (IDJC) about longer-term sustainability solutions, including a potential state agency oversight structure and support for Assessment Centers through future legislation. This pathway strengthens alignment with

statewide prevention priorities and supports durable funding mechanisms that match ongoing needs.

The Case for Continued Investment: Avoid Higher Costs Later: The reality is that communities cannot carry this alone. Ongoing state support is necessary, and it is a wise investment. Prevention and early intervention cost far less than responding after a youth is deeper in court involvement, on probation, in detention, or repeatedly in emergency rooms during crisis. Idaho already has a prevention system in place that is working. Sustaining it is a decision the State can be proud of and one that protects families and strengthens Idaho's future.

View results

Respondent

2 Anonymous

206:07
Time to complete

Application Information

1. Full Legal Organization Name: *

Idaho Network of Children's Advocacy Centers

2. Organizational Description: *

The Idaho Network of Children's Advocacy Centers is the accredited state chapter for Idaho's Children's Advocacy Centers and a membership organization dedicated to strengthening Idaho's response to child abuse and maltreatment. We exist to support, train, and advance the work of Children's Advocacy Centers across the state by promoting nationally recognized best practices, providing professional training and technical assistance, and fostering collaboration among multidisciplinary partners who serve children and families.

3. Organization Type (State agency, Local government, School/University, Tribal government, Nonprofit 501(c)(3), Other): *

Nonprofit 501(c)(3)

4. Primary Contact Name: *

Sonja Howerton

5. Title: *

Executive Director

6. Address: *

417 S. 6th Street

7. Phone: *

208-577-4451

8. Email: *

sonjah@cacidaho.org

9. Website: *

www.cacidaho.org

10. Authorized Signatory Name/Title: *

Sonja Howerton, Executive Director

Eligibility and Compliance

11. Check the following boxes to ensure funding eligibility. *

- [ ] The proposed project aligns with tobacco/youth nicotine prevention, cessation, or substance misuse prevention outcomes.
- [ ] Funds will be used within Idaho and benefit Idaho residents.
- [ ] Applicant will comply with legislative requirements and reporting.
- [ ] All moneys received will be accounted for using generally accepted accounting principles.
- [ ] No supplanting: funds will not replace existing funding for currently financed activities.

Program/Project Summary

12. Title: *

Idaho Children's Advocacy Centers

13. Requested Amount ($): *

$3,000,000

14. Brief Summary of Request: *

This project request is to fund Children's Advocacy Centers throughout the state of Idaho. Children's Advocacy Centers are a key partner in the state's response to child abuse, providing critical, trauma-informed services to child victims and their non-offending caregivers. Through coordinated advocacy, access to medical and mental health resources, and ongoing support, Children's Advocacy Centers play an essential role in the healing process and in prevention by helping children and families develop healthy coping strategies that reduce the risk of future harm, including the use of tobacco and other substances. Trauma-informed care helps break the link between traumatic experiences and later unhealthy coping mechanisms; research shows that early, integrated trauma-focused interventions can reduce trauma symptoms and the risk of subsequent substance use challenges when trauma and substance use are addressed together.

Children's Advocacy Centers also serve as trusted partners to first responders, offering wrap-around support for children throughout the investigative process while helping multidisciplinary teams work more effectively and collaboratively. This coordinated approach allows children and families to navigate investigations with less trauma and greater stability, supporting their path toward healing and more hopeful futures.

15. Project Start Date: *

7/1/2026

16. Project End Date: *

6/30/2027

17. Geographic Area(s) Served: *

Statewide

18. Target Population(s): *

Child abuse victims and their non-offending caregivers

Statement of Need

19. The statement of need should describe the problem the proposed project will attempt to address. It should clearly set forth the rationale, or justification, for what is being proposed. Please indicate if there has been an effort to have this program/project subsumed by a state or local government agency.

Children's Advocacy Centers are a vital partner in Idaho's child protection system, yet their funding is consistently in jeopardy due to the lack of stable, dedicated funding streams. During the 2025 legislative session, the state stepped up to support Children's Advocacy Centers through $3 million general fund appropriation. Funds were appropriated as one-time.

As a result, Children's Advocacy Centers across the state now face a potential funding gap that threatens the continuity of critical, trauma-informed services for child abuse victims, their non-offending caregivers, and the first responders and multidisciplinary teams who rely on CACs as essential partners. These centers coordinate effective investigations, reduce trauma to children, and connect families to advocacy, medical, and mental health resources that support healing and long-term stability. Without interim financial support, centers may be forced to reduce or delay services during a period of high need, placing additional strain on already limited state resources and risking disruptions to care that are known to improve outcomes for children and families.

The Idaho Network of Children's Advocacy Centers has made significant efforts to advance long-term, sustainable funding solutions through the state budget by working with legislative champions and state partners. However, FY27 is anticipated to be a particularly challenging budget year due to the projected state budget deficit. In response, this proposal seeks a one-time, one-year grant to bridge the funding gap while continued efforts are underway to secure committed and reliable state funding. This temporary support is essential to maintain service continuity and ensure Children's Advocacy Centers remain fully operational and focused on supporting Idaho's children and families during a critical period of fiscal transition.

Work Plan & Timeline

20. Describe program goals and major activities. *

This program's primary goal is to sustain and strengthen critical Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) services for child victims of abuse and their non-offending caregivers across Idaho. Funding will support trauma-informed, evidence-based services that play a key role in healing, promote long-term resilience, and reduce reliance on harmful coping strategies, including the use of substances. By ensuring continuity of high-quality CAC services, this program directly supports healthier outcomes for children and families while reinforcing prevention through effective trauma-focused care.

The program will be implemented over a one-year period and will focus on strategic budgeting and targeted support for all 10 Idaho Children's Advocacy Centers. At the outset, the Idaho Network of Children's Advocacy Centers will work with each center to conduct needs assessments and review current budgets to identify gaps and priorities. Budget allocations will be developed and distributed based on these assessments, with a clear emphasis on funding direct victim services and evidence-based care models. Throughout the year, funding decisions will be continuously evaluated to ensure alignment with best practices and the greatest impact statewide. In parallel, the program will prioritize strengthening state partners and first responders by supporting best-practice child abuse investigation training and multidisciplinary team development grounded in trauma-informed practice models.

Major activities will include conducting comprehensive funding needs assessments for each CAC, developing annual service provision models to guide equitable and effective distribution of funds across the state, and implementing outcome measurement and service assessments to track impact. Ongoing data collection and evaluation will be used to monitor service delivery, measure outcomes for children and families, and inform adjustments to funding and support strategies. Together, these activities will ensure that limited resources are used effectively to maintain critical services, strengthen multidisciplinary responses, and advance healing and prevention for Idaho's children and families.

Budget & Narrative

Please e-mail a detailed, itemized budget and narrative justification. This includes a breakdown of personnel costs and operating expenditures, as well as any matching funds or in-kind contributions. Please email to Janica at jbisharat@lso.idaho.gov.

Evaluation & Performance Measurement

21. Briefly explain what you want to learn about your program goals, outcomes, and process over the grant period and how you plan to measure performance. *

Evaluation and performance measurement for this program will focus on both reach and impact, with an emphasis on the number of children served, balanced access across Idaho's diverse geography, and the delivery of core trauma-informed services. Performance data will be collected and analyzed across all participating Children's Advocacy Centers to ensure accountability, consistency, and meaningful outcomes.

Key performance measures will include the total number of child victims served during the grant period, with comparisons to the previous year's service levels to assess continuity and trends over time. Service volume data will be collected and evaluated on a bi-annual basis to allow for consistent statewide reporting and analysis. Data will also be reviewed by region and population served to ensure children in rural and underserved areas continue to have appropriate access to Children's Advocacy Center services, recognizing the challenges associated with Idaho's large geographic footprint and dispersed population.

Service-specific measures will assess the scope and quality of care provided throughout the year. Victim advocacy case management will be evaluated through the number of children and non-offending caregivers receiving advocacy services, the level of ongoing case management support, and successful linkage to medical, legal, and community-based resources. Mental health performance measures will include referrals to evidence-based treatment, engagement and participation in services, and coordination between Children's Advocacy Centers and mental health providers to support timely and effective care.

Evaluation will also include multidisciplinary team (MDT) training and engagement statistics as a key indicator of system-level impact. Measures will include the number of MDT members trained, total training hours delivered, disciplines represented (law enforcement, child welfare, prosecution, medical, mental health, and advocacy), and participation in trauma-informed and best-practice child abuse investigation trainings. These outcomes will be assessed on an ongoing basis throughout the year to monitor reach, engagement, and application of trauma-informed practices.

Progress toward national accreditation will be measured through operational and system-level benchmarks that demonstrate effective child abuse response. For centers working toward accreditation, performance measures will include implementation of successful child abuse investigation protocols, execution and maintenance of signed memorandums of agreement with multidisciplinary team partners, and demonstrated adherence to coordinated response standards. Additional measures will include formal application to become nationally accredited and documented progress through the accreditation process. For centers that are already accredited, evaluation will focus on continued compliance with these protocols and agreements, ongoing collaboration with multidisciplinary partners, and sustained adherence to nationally recognized standards of practice.

Outcome data will be aggregated and reviewed regularly to inform program adjustments, identify gaps or emerging needs, and ensure effective use of funds. This evaluation framework ensures that funding supports measurable improvements in service delivery, investigative quality, multidisciplinary collaboration, and the long-term sustainability of Children's Advocacy Centers across Idaho.

Sustainability

22. Clearly and effectively communicate your organization's plan and rationale for sustaining, expanding, replicating, or terminating the project once the grant period ends. Information should also include a discussion of how you will secure future funding to sustain the project over the long-term. *

Sustainability of this program is a core priority of the Idaho Network of Children's Advocacy Centers and its member centers. This project is designed as a critical bridge while long-term funding solutions are advanced to ensure that Children's Advocacy Centers can continue providing essential, trauma-informed services to Idaho's child victims and their non-offending caregivers.

The Idaho Network of Children's Advocacy Centers is committed to continued engagement with state legislators, budget leaders, and agency partners to work toward establishing recurring funding within the state budget to support core Children's Advocacy Center services. These efforts are focused on securing stable, predictable funding that reflects the essential role CACs play in Idaho's child protection and public safety systems.

In parallel, the Network will continue exploring additional revenue-generating solutions to diversify and strengthen long-term sustainability. This includes research and policy development related to potential changes to Idaho Code that could establish a dedicated funding mechanism, such as directing court fines or fees from those who perpetrate harm into a statewide victim services fund. Such an approach would align accountability with support, ensuring that those who create victims contribute to the systems that provide investigation, advocacy, and healing services.

Together, these strategies reflect a clear rationale for sustaining the program beyond the grant period by reducing reliance on short-term funding, strengthening public investment, and creating durable funding pathways that support effective services for Idaho's children and families well into the future.

Submission Instructions

Thank you for submitting your application. Applications will be considered by the Joint Millennium Fund Committee. Recommendations for funding will be made to the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee. For questions, contact Janica Bisharat at the Legislative Services Office (LSO) at (208) 332-1286 or jbisharat@lso.idaho.gov.

MINUTES
(Subject to Approval by the Committee)
Joint Millennium Fund Committee
Wednesday, December 17, 2025
9:00 A.M.
Room WW55
Boise, Idaho

Call to Order, Meeting Overview, and Approval of Minutes

The Joint Millennium Fund Committee was called to order by Senator Burtenshaw, Co-Chair, at 9:00 am. A silent roll call was taken. Senator Ward-Engelking, Representative Erickson, and Representative Green were absent and excused.

Senator Semmelroth moved and Representative Redman, Co-Chair, seconded to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2025, meeting. Committee members approved the minutes.

New Millennium Income Fund Request

Ross Edmunds, Division Administrator for the Department of Health and Welfare (DHW), presented a funding request on behalf of the Upriver Youth Leadersip Council (UYLC) as directed by Section 3 of S1215 (2025). He emphasized it is not a budget request from DHW. Mr. Edmunds referenced a one-page handout provided to the committee which describes the history of the center and a snapshot of activities over the past year. He advised the center is at a point where additional support is needed to continue to provide services.

Mr. Edmunds reported there are nine community-based recovery centers across Idaho that receive Millennium Funding. Each one receives $150,000 which is passed through DHW and distributed in quarterly payments so long as the centers meet the criteria established in S 1215 (2025). DHW does not operate these centers and is not granted authority over the centers. However, DHW is directed to maintain oversight of the centers to ensure compliance with the requirements set forth in S 1215 (2025). All nine centers are in good standing and receiving the quarterly payments.

A question was asked about the status of a recovery center in Caldwell, Idaho, which closed a couple of years ago. Mr. Edmunds responded that at that time, Millennium Funds were appropriated directly to the recovery centers (not through DHW). They are uncertain what happened to the proprietor of that center, but it did not open and funds were not recovered. As a result, DHW now has oversight over the distribution of the funds for the recovery centers, and a new center has opened in Caldwell with a different proprietor. DHW completed a competitive process and worked with the community to ensure they identified an appropriate entity to operate it.

Strategic Plan / Know Vape Update

Jennie Sue Weltner, Executive Producer for Idaho Public Television, provided an update on the strategic plan. She reminded the committee that a few months ago she was asked to look beyond the individual work as a campaign manager for the Know Vape and Welcome to the Unaltered State campaigns. She took a broader view of the work of Millennium Fund recipients to show the work that has been accomplished, how those pieces fit together, and identify what still needs attention.

Ms. Weltner shared some highlights from the report that was provided to the Committee. She reported results of a recent survey of 2,400 parents and teens across Idaho for the Unaltered State campaign to obtain some baseline information. Ms. Weltner reviewed the mission, vision, and strategy of Millennium Fund recipients, as well as provided an overview of the target audiences and the impact of various initiatives.

A question was asked regarding the impact and how the number of impressions in advertising is known. Ms. Weltner explained the market research that is being conducted to better under the impact of campaign efforts. A question was also asked regarding the purpose of the survey, which was to understand the impact of the campaign, as well as to measure the current attitudes, knowledge, and behavior of parents and teens to establish a baseline. This information provides for a better understanding of how to shift and better target future messaging.

Ms. Weltner reviewed who is doing the work and what work is being done. The key focus areas are awareness, education, protecting kids while they are in school, pathways out of the judicial system, youth programs, and adult recovery. Finally, she identified where there are some opportunities for collaboration.

Youth Assessment Centers Update

Nancy Winmill, President of the Idaho Safe Teen Assessment Center (ISTAC) Coalition and CEO of the Simply-Hope Center, provided an update on the work of the assessment centers. There are 12 assessment centers across Idaho whose purpose is to give families one main place to go for help, serving as a single point of contact that screens youth, provides assessments when needed, and builds individualized service plans. Ms. Winmill reported on the impact of the state's investment in the centers. She presented the results of a recent return on investment analysis conducted by Dr. J. Mac McCullough, a health economist based in Boise.

The ISTAC Coalition is requesting $1 million in funding for Idaho Youth Assessment Centers. Funds would be made available as $50,000 to $100,000 grants per center. The funds would be used to sustain core services, move centers toward Tier 2 (including hiring counselors/clinicians), and expanding substance use prevention programming.

Questions were asked about Tier 2 services, what ideas are in place for future sustainability, and the increase in recovery and how that equates to individuals.

The Committee took a brief recess at 10:00 a.m. and reconvened at 10:17 a.m.

Idaho Network of Children's Advocacy Centers

Sonja Howerton, Executive Director of the Idaho Network of Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC's), presented on behalf of the ten advocacy centers across the state. The centers serve to bring resources together so that a child only has to tell his/her account once and the right partners are in the room while a trained child forensic interviewer discusses the allegations with the child.

A question was asked what it looks like accessing the services of a center. Ms. Howerton described the process of how law enforcement or child protection services reach out to them, the format of forensic interviewing, and the services that are provided by the centers.

Ms. Howerton discussed how the CAC model is effective for addressing childhood trauma. When children experience this level of trauma, they are significantly more likely to develop substance use as a coping mechanism. These centers are poised to engage prevention efforts for these children.

Funding is increasingly unstable. Traditional funding sources are in decline as are philanthropic donations. Through SB 1203 (2025), the CAC's received a one-time state investment of $3 million, but they need to secure long-term funding. Idaho CAC's are asking to be a partner to receive Millennium Funds. The CAC's don't have a specific dollar amount to put forward at this time, but would like to open a dialogue about what the solution could look like. Ms. Howerton was asked to describe the funding model and what traditional funding sources are no longer available.

State Department of Education Update

Superintendent of Public Instruction Debbie Critchfield reported on the use of funds for priorities and goals that were previously presented to the committee. Superintendent Critchfield provided a one-page report highlighting the prevention efforts undertaken by the Idaho Department of Education. She discussed school resource office (SRO) grants, community training for parents on fentanyl, school assemblies on fentanyl, and providing grants for vape detectors in schools. Department staff ensured funding was used as it was intended, worked right along with school staff to ensure good stewardship, and that the goals set by the committee were met.

Several questions were asked about SRO's, including how many are in the state, how schools can apply for funding, the competitive process developed to apply for and receive the funding, the waiting list, and how many students have access to SRO's. Superintendent Critchfield will report back with that number.

Statewide Drug Awareness Campaign

Monte Stiles, retired Assistant U.S. Attorney (District of Idaho) and drug education trainer, spoke to the committee about his background and experience in the criminal justice system and his observations of how many criminal defendants were there due to underlying substance abuse problems. He spoke in favor of a statewide drug awareness campaign.

The question was asked, what would be our first steps to make a statewide campaign happen. Mr. Stiles shared his view that adults need to be educated about the true impact of drugs. He also suggested supplementing the work outlined in the strategic plan with additional programs such as youth leadership programs.

Committee Discussion and Adjournment

Senator Burtenshaw thanked committee members and presenters for their efforts, focus, and service. The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Idaho Network of Children's Advocacy Centers
Millennium Fund Budget Strategy

Statewide Allocation Framework

97% of our suggested budget allocation would be distributed to Idaho's 10 Children's Advocacy Centers throughout a formula-based allocation overseen by the Idaho Network of Children's Advocacy Centers. Funds support core CAC operations and services aligned to national accreditation standards. 100% of the funds go to supporting and strengthening the state's Children's Advocacy Centers and the multidisciplinary response to child maltreatment for trauma-informed wrap around service provision that is a key prevention factor for healing and healthy outcomes, including substance abuse and addiction.

Budget

Total Requested: $3,000,000

Distribution Method

Funds distributed to 10 Children's Advocacy Centers statewide

Allocations based on

- Core operational expenses
- Geographic coverage and service volume
- Accreditation service provision for depth of program reach

Sample Allocation Table and Estimations

Center	City	County MOUs	Accreditation Status	Base Funding Est.	Population Ratio Funding Est.	Accreditation Service Provision	Total Initial Estimated Funding
St. Lukes CARES	Boise	Ada *mobile unit goes to Payette, Gem, Valley and Elmore	Full Accreditation	$175,000	$96,774	$80,000	$351,774
Nampa Family Justice Center	Nampa	Canyon	Full Accreditation	$175,000	$58,065	$80,000	$313,065
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center	Idaho Falls	Bonneville	Working on Accreditation	$175,000	$77,419	$0	$252,419
Bright Tomorrows CAC	Pocatello	Bannock	Full Accreditation	$175,000	$58,065	$80,000	$313,065
Safe Passage CAC	Coeur d'Alene	Kootenai	Full Accreditation	$175,000	$77,419	$80,000	$332,419
St. Lukes CARES	Twin Falls	Twin Falls	Full Accreditation	$175,000	$58,065	$80,000	$313,065
Upper Valley CAC	Rigby/Rexburg	Freemont, Clark, Jefferson, Madison *mobile unit that serve	Full Accreditation	$175,000	$58,065	$80,000	$313,065
Two Rivers United CAC	Lewiston	Nez Perce	Associate Developing Accreditation	$175,000	$58,065	$40,000	$273,065
LillyBrooke Family Justice Center	Sandpoint	Bonner	Associate Developing Accreditation	$175,000	$38,710	$40,000	$253,710
The Mahoney House	Salmon	Lemhi	Working on Accreditation	$175,000	$19,355	$0	$194,355
Idaho Network of Children's Advocacy Centers	Boise	Statewide 3% Grant Administration Hold Back	Accredited State Chapter	$90,000			$90,000
Total Estimated Budget							$3,000,000

Allowable Use of Funds

1. Personnel & Direct Service Support (Estimated 35–55%)

Allowable costs include:

- Salaries and fringe benefits for staff directly supporting victims
  - Forensic interviewers
  - Victim advocates
  - MDT coordinators
  - Program support staff
- Malpractice and liability insurance

- Recruitment and advertising for funded positions
- Training costs for paid and volunteer staff
- **Excludes bonuses**

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2. Coordination & Multidisciplinary Response (Estimated 10–20%)

Supports a coordinated statewide and local response, including:

- Coordination of MDTs and crisis response teams
- Participation in multidisciplinary investigation and treatment teams
- Interagency coordination with:
  - Law enforcement
  - CPS
  - Prosecutors
  - Medical and mental health providers
- Participation in statewide task forces, workgroups, and protocol development
- Salaries and expenses for coordinators supporting these efforts

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3. Supervision of Direct Service Providers (Estimated 5–10%)

- Salaries and expenses for supervisory staff necessary to effectively support:
  - Direct service providers
  - Volunteers and interns
- Includes volunteer coordination where cost-effective and approved

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4. Contracts for Professional Services (Estimated 5–10%)

- Contracted professional services not available internally, including:
  - Psychological or psychiatric consultation
  - Legal services
  - Interpretation and translation services
- Rates not to exceed **$81.25/hour or $650/day**, unless a waiver is approved

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5. Automated Systems & Technology (Estimated 5–10%)

Technology supporting direct services, including:

- Case tracking and management systems
- Secure communication platforms
- Interview recording systems
- Victim notification systems
- Hardware, software, installation, and staff training
- Ongoing operational costs such as maintenance and supplies

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6. Training, Skills Development & Travel (Estimated 5–10%)

Includes:

- Skills training for direct service providers and volunteers
- Training materials, manuals, books, and electronic resources

- Training-related travel:
  - In-state, regional, or national
  - Registration, lodging, meals
- Travel compliant with Idaho Statewide Travel Regulations
- Pre-approval required for expenses exceeding thresholds

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7. Organizational & Operating Expenses (Estimated 10–20%)

Essential operating costs necessary to provide direct services:

- Prorated rent and utilities
- Liability and property insurance
- Local travel for service providers
- ADA-related facility adaptations
- Audit costs
- Office supplies and printing
- Website and social media maintenance
- Secure data storage and communications
- **Excludes food and beverages for office use**

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8. Equipment, Furniture & Facilities Support (Estimated 5–10%)

- Furniture and equipment facilitating direct services, including:
  - Interview rooms and child-friendly spaces
  - Recording and documentation equipment
  - Office and mobile communication equipment
- Costs are prorated if equipment is not exclusively used for child victim services
- Pre-approval required for items exceeding 10% threshold

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9. Maintenance, Repair & Replacement (Estimated 5%)

- Maintenance or repair of essential items contributing to a safe environment
- Includes vehicles used for service delivery
- Requires consideration of other funding sources first
- Pre-approval required for higher-cost repairs

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10. Administrative & Indirect Costs (Estimated 5%)

- **Administrative costs**
  - Reporting and compliance
  - Time and attendance tracking
  - Data collection and victim satisfaction efforts
- Indirect costs:
  - Federally or state-approved rate, **or**
  - 15% de minimis rate (2 CFR 200.414), if no approved rate exists

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11. Project Evaluation (As Approved)

- Evaluation of specific projects to assess effectiveness
- Aggregate statewide reporting to demonstrate outcomes and impact

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Oversight & Accountability

- Funds administered by the **Idaho Network of Children's Advocacy Centers**
- All CACs must:
  - Meet or actively work toward **National Children's Alliance accreditation**
  - Submit required fiscal and programmatic reports
- Annual statewide summary provided to policymakers demonstrating:
  - Children served
  - Services delivered
  - Geographic reach
  - System efficiencies achieved

Leveraged Funding Through Matching Funds & In-Kind Support

Expected Match and Community Investment:
While the requested $3,000,000 represents critical state investment in Idaho's Children's Advocacy Centers, it is not the sole source of support for CAC operations. Idaho's CACs routinely leverage state and federal dollars with local match, private funding, and in-kind contributions to sustain services in their communities.

Although the exact dollar value of match and in-kind support varies by center and year, the following sources are reasonably anticipated across Idaho's 10 CACs:

Cash Match & Other Funding Sources:
CACs are expected to continue securing:

- Local government support (county and municipal contributions)
- Private foundation grants
- Individual and corporate donations
- Fundraising events and community campaigns
- Other federal grant funding

These funds are typically used to:

- Supplement staffing costs not fully covered by public funds
- Expand service capacity during high-volume periods
- Support services or positions not eligible under certain funding streams

In-Kind Contributions:
CACs also rely heavily on in-kind support, including but not limited to:

- Donated professional services (legal, mental health consultation, interpretation)
- Volunteer and intern hours supporting advocacy, supervision, and administration
- Donated or reduced-cost facility space

- Donated equipment, furnishings, and child-focused resources
- Pro bono training and technical assistance
- Donated gas cards, grocery vouchers, snacks, children clothing, blankets, bedding, and other comfort items collected through local donation drive efforts

City of Lewiston
Police Department

Jason Kuzik
Police Chief

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Lewiston, Idaho 83501
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Website: www.cityoflewiston.org
City Hall (208) 746-3671

Joint Millennium Fund Committee
Idaho State Legislature

Dear Members of the Joint Millennium Fund Committee,

On behalf of the Lewiston Police Department, I am writing to express my strong support for the grant application submitted by the Idaho Network of CAC's. Our local child advocacy center, Two Rivers United Child Advocacy Center (TRUCAC) is a part of this network. TRUCAC is a vital partner in protecting children, supporting victims, and strengthening criminal investigations throughout our region.

Operational funding through the Joint Millennium Fund Committee is essential to TRUCAC's ability to grow and expand services, particularly to rural communities where access to specialized child advocacy resources is limited or nonexistent. Many families in North Central Idaho face significant geographic and logistical barriers when seeking services. TRUCAC's ability to provide coordinated, trauma-informed services ensures that child victims and their caregivers receive timely support regardless of location.

From a law enforcement standpoint, TRUCAC greatly enhances our ability to investigate cases of child abuse and neglect. The Child Advocacy Center model allows for multidisciplinary coordination and professionally conducted forensic interviews that reduce the number of times a child must recount traumatic experiences. This approach minimizes further trauma while improving the quality and consistency of information needed for successful investigations and prosecutions.

TRUCAC also plays a critical role in providing trauma-informed therapy and victim advocacy services to child victims and their caregivers. Early access to these services significantly reduces the long-term effects of trauma, including the risk of future substance abuse, mental health challenges, and other high-risk behaviors. By addressing trauma early, TRUCAC helps promote healing, resilience, and long-term community safety.

The services provided by Two Rivers United Child Advocacy Center align directly with the mission of law enforcement and the broader goal of protecting Idaho's children. I strongly encourage the Joint Millennium Fund Committee to support this application and continue investing in an organization that delivers measurable benefits to victims, families, law enforcement, and our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Jason Kuzik
Chief of Police

Idaho Victim Witness Association

Aleshea Boals
President

Tammara Tarvin
Vice President

Brittney Thorndyke
Secretary

Melody Jenson
Treasurer

January 20, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for Idaho Child Advocacy Centers and the vital role they play in serving children and families affected by abuse and neglect across our state.

Idaho Child Advocacy Centers provide a coordinated, child-focused response to allegations of abuse by bringing together law enforcement, child protection, medical professionals, mental health providers, and prosecutors in a single, supportive setting. This multidisciplinary approach minimizes additional trauma to children while improving the quality of investigations and outcomes for families.

In addition to providing critical services to victims, Idaho Child Advocacy Centers offer essential local support to communities throughout Idaho by engaging in education, outreach, and prevention efforts. Through community education and professional training, they help raise awareness, strengthen local response systems, and promote the prevention of child abuse before it occurs.

The services offered by Child Advocacy Centers—such as forensic interviews, medical evaluations, advocacy, and access to trauma-informed therapy—are essential for helping children feel safe, heard, and supported during an incredibly difficult time. These services not only promote healing and recovery for victims but also strengthen communities by supporting accountability and justice.

Continued support for Idaho Child Advocacy Centers is an investment in the safety, well-being, and future of Idaho's children. Their work reflects a commitment to compassion, collaboration, and evidence-based practices that make a meaningful difference for children, families, and communities statewide.

Sincerely,

Aleshea Boals

Aleshea Boals
President, Idaho Victim Witness Association
Victim Witness Coordinator, Idaho Attorney General

Just 4 Kids
HEALTH

P.O. Box 1407
Idaho Falls, ID 83403
208-656-1500 Main
208-242-4464 Fax
www.just4kidshealth.com

Date: January 21, 2026

Subject: Letter of Support for Upper Valley Child Advocacy Center

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Just 4 Kids Health, I am pleased to offer this letter of strong support for Upper Valley Child Advocacy Center and its application for funding.

As a pediatric medical organization dedicated to the physical and mental well-being of children, we have had the opportunity to observe firsthand the profound and measurable impact that Child Advocacy Centers have on the lives of vulnerable youth and families. Upper Valley Child Advocacy Center plays a critical role in both the prevention of child abuse and the compassionate, coordinated response when abuse occurs.

The work of Upper Valley Child Advocacy Center directly contributes to a reduction in some of the most serious and costly outcomes of childhood trauma, including mental health crises, self-harm, suicidal ideation, sexually transmitted infections, and substance abuse. By providing trauma-informed forensic interviews, coordinated multidisciplinary care, and early access to mental health services, Upper Valley significantly mitigates the long-term consequences of abuse and creates a safer, healthier future for children in the communities it serves.

Just 4 Kids Health is proud to support Idaho's Child Advocacy Center efforts through the provision of specialized forensic medical examinations, pediatric expertise, and ongoing mental health services for children and adolescents affected by abuse and neglect. Our clinicians work closely with advocacy centers across the state and consistently see better clinical outcomes, improved family engagement, and reduced system burden when children are served through a coordinated CAC model such as that provided by Upper Valley.

In our professional experience, the services delivered by Upper Valley Child Advocacy Center are not only effective but essential. Their work reduces downstream healthcare utilization, prevents repeated victimization, and saves lives by intervening early in the trajectory of trauma. Investment in their mission yields meaningful returns for children, families, healthcare systems, and the broader community.

We strongly endorse Upper Valley Child Advocacy Center's application and believe continued funding will allow them to expand their reach, strengthen prevention efforts, and further enhance their life-saving services.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to improving the lives of children.

Sincerely,

Aaron H. Gardner, MD, MS, FAAP
President and Chief Medical Officer

Fremont County Juvenile Probation
A Force for Positive CHANGE.
423 N. 2300 E., St. Anthony, ID 83445
(208) 624-2034; (208) 624-1351 fax
Darin Burrell
Chief Probation Officer/Department Administrator
dburrell@co.fremont.id.us

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Fremont County Juvenile Probation, I am honored to provide this letter of support for the Upper Valley Child Advocacy Center (UVCAC). Their dedicated work in serving vulnerable children and families has had a profound impact on our agency, the community, and the youth we serve. We strongly recommend that they receive the funding necessary to sustain and expand their vital services.

The UVCAC's training and advocacy efforts have been transformative for our agency and community partners. Their *Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences (HOPE)* training, in particular, has reshaped how we approach juvenile justice. By teaching us to shift our focus from solely recognizing adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) to fostering positive childhood experiences (PCEs), the UVCAC has provided us with more tools to engage youth more effectively and compassionately.

This approach has helped influence how we interact with the youth in our care. Our Court and probation officers now prioritize building positive relationships, identifying individual strengths, and connecting youth with community-based resources that promote healthy development. As a result, we have seen meaningful success, including improved school attendance, reduced behavioral incidents, and stronger family connections.

Beyond addressing immediate needs, the work of the Upper Valley Child Advocacy Center serves as a critical form of prevention against more serious problems later in life. By reducing trauma and fostering resilience during formative years, UVCAC interventions help prevent future criminal behavior, substance abuse, and mental health challenges. When youth are empowered with the tools to heal and build positive connections, they are far less likely to re-enter the justice system.

The UVCAC also plays a crucial role in bringing together law enforcement, child protection services, and mental health professionals to ensure children receive comprehensive care and advocacy. Their work not only addresses current issues but builds a foundation for long-term community well-being.

Given the proven success and preventative impact of their efforts, we strongly urge that funding be secured to support the Upper Valley Child Advocacy Center's continued work. Their contributions to children, families, and the community are invaluable. With sustained and expanded funding, they will undoubtedly continue to prevent future crises and foster positive outcomes for countless youth and families.

Sincerely,

Darin Burrell
Director/Dept. Administrator
Fremont County Juvenile Probation

POCATELLO
POLICE
DEPARTMENT

Matt Harris
Detective Sergeant
Pocatello Police Department
911 N. 7th
Pocatello, Idaho, 83205

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(208)234-6121

01/20/2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for sustained funding for Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) in Idaho. As a law enforcement professional with the Pocatello Police Department, I have worked closely with CACs and have seen firsthand the critical role they play in child abuse investigations and ethical prosecutions.

Child Advocacy Centers strengthen investigations by providing trained forensic interviews and coordinated multidisciplinary responses that protect children while preserving the integrity of cases. This model improves the quality of evidence, supports effective prosecutions, and increases accountability for offenders.

Without CACs, the burden of child abuse investigations would shift to law enforcement and child protection agencies that often lack the specialized training, facilities, and resources to replicate these services. This would strain public safety systems, increase costs to taxpayers, and risk weaker investigative outcomes.

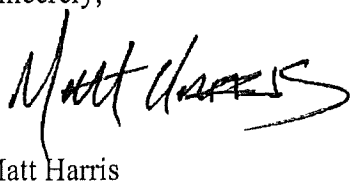
CACs also connect child victims to timely mental health services, helping address trauma early and reducing long term costs related to criminal justice involvement, healthcare, and social services. Investment in CACs supports both immediate public safety and long-term community wellbeing.

I strongly support efforts to secure reliable funding for Child Advocacy Centers in Idaho and encourage continued investment in these proven, effective programs.

POCATELLO
POLICE
DEPARTMENT

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Matt Harris
Detective Sergeant
Pocatello Police Department

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Pocatello, ID 83206

(208) 234-6100
www.pocatello.gov/police

UYLC RECOVERY

RECOVERY IS PREVENTION FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

EMPOWER . RESTORE HOPE SUSTAIN RECOVERY

MISSION

The Upriver Youth Leadership Council Recovery is committed to guiding individuals impacted by addiction toward lasting recovery and renewed purpose.

HISTORY

The Upriver Youth Leadership Council (UYLC) began as a youth prevention coalition, dedicated to protecting young people from the harms of substance use and guiding them toward healthy futures.

As the coalition worked closely with youth, it quickly became clear that prevention could not be achieved in isolation. Many of the challenges young people faced were deeply connected to the struggles within their families and communities. To truly support youth, UYLC recognized the need to help parents, guardians, and adults find recovery themselves.

This realization transformed UYLC's mission: from a youth-focused prevention effort into a comprehensive recovery initiative. By addressing addiction at the family and community level, UYLC Recovery empowers adults to heal, rebuild, and model resilience — creating a stronger foundation for the next generation.

2025 IMPACT SNAPSHOT

- Average **150 consumers per month**
- Facilitated approximately **240 recovery coaching sessions**
- Hosted **144 support meetings**
- Since opening, this center has helped **47 people** access SUD residential treatment services.
- Currently holds a contract with DBH for recovery center services

CORE SERVICES

- **Peer Recovery Coaching** – one-on-one support to build recovery capital
- **Meeting Space & Support Groups** – safe, welcoming environments for healing
- **Resource Navigation** – guidance through housing, healthcare, and community services
- **Employment Support** – updated job listings, resume help, and application assistance
- **Technology Access** – computers, internet, and telephones available for all
- **Basic Needs** – food pantry, clothing closet, safe place to warm up or cool off
- **Health & Safety** – Narcan distribution and training
- **Transportation Services** – ensuring access to treatment and community resources
- **Advocacy** – amplifying peer voices in recovery

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

- **Monthly safe & sober activities and events**
- **Soup kitchens** offering free meals
- **Parenting classes** and **community education** workshops
- **Life skills training** – financial literacy, healthy cooking, and more
- **SOR Services** supporting sustainable recovery

WHY IT MATTERS

UYLC Recovery is a lifeline for rural Idaho families. We reduce barriers, strengthen protective factors, and empower individuals to thrive. Every service builds resilience, prevents relapse, and fosters community wellness.

CALL TO ACTION

Your support ensures recovery resources remain accessible in Kamiah and surrounding counties. Together, we can expand services, sustain safe spaces, and continue saving lives.

Website

UYLC Recovery Facebook