



IDAHO'S

**FINAL "SNAP INTO
ACTION" REPORT**

2017



Our vision is that in a state as abundant as Idaho, hunger will not exist.



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Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force

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SNAP into Action 2017 FINAL REPORT



Introduction:



Developed in July 2013, *SNAP into Action* is Idaho's plan to increase participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) Program to strengthen food security and decrease poverty throughout the state.

Increasing SNAP participation is also a goal of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) division. To address this goal, FNS offers a 50% reimbursement of administrative costs to state SNAP departments who submit a SNAP Education and Access Plan for approval every year. Close to 100% of states submit reports. Currently, Idaho chooses not to participate, preventing the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) from engaging in SNAP education and access efforts.

Therefore, Idaho is unique in that it has the only privately-funded SNAP Education and Access Plan in the nation and is administered by the Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force (IHRTF). This document is meant to capture the successes and barriers observed throughout the plan's fourth year of implementation

The IHRTF convenes the Idaho SNAP Advisory Network which guides development and execution of the plan. The 2017 advisory network was comprised of the following 12 partner organizations:


- 2-1-1 Idaho Careline, (2-1-1)
- Community Action Partnership Association of Idaho, (CAPAI)
- Community Council of Idaho, (CCI)
- Duck Valley Indian Reservation Garden Growers, (DVGG)
- Idaho Farmers Market Association, (IFMA)
- Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force, (IHRTF)
- Idaho Interfaith Roundtable Against Hunger, (IIRAH)
- Metro Meals on Wheels, (MMOW)
- Payette Valley Food Connection, (PVFC)
- The Hunger Coalition, (THC)
- The Idaho Foodbank, (IFB)
- University of Idaho Extension Eat Smart Idaho, (Eat Smart)

Non-network partner organization:

- Idaho Department of Health and Welfare – Food Stamp Program, (DHW)

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS



 In 2017, the Idaho SNAP Advisory Network worked collaboratively to improve food stamp education and participation. In this report, a few selected successes are highlighted.

Western Region USDA, Food & Nutrition Services, San Francisco. As in past years, Andy Naja-Riese and his western region team, evaluated the *Idaho SNAP into Action 2016 Report* and *SNAP into Action 2017 Plan*. Highlights from this evaluation and network presentation included:

- Idaho Plan leveraged resources
- Elderly Strategies – Metro Meals on Wheels
- SNAP-friendly farmers markets in Idaho
- Blaine County Hunger Coalition—Summer Food Service Program partnership and the Bloom program

Recommendations for 2017 and beyond:

- Address 'churn' and client notifications during recertification for SNAP
- Health Care—screening for food insecurity in medical clinic settings; integrating the screening into electronic health records; referrals to SNAP, SFSP, NSLP, etc., expand into pharmacists, school-based dental clinics, community health workers
- Serving vulnerable populations: Latino and seniors
- Partner coalition evaluation tools

Idaho Farmers Market Association (IFMA)



The IFMA continued their statewide mission to "...increase accessibility to local food systems for all Idahoans." IFMA worked with seven new farmers markets across Idaho to get the markets EBT certified, allowing patrons to use SNAP benefits to pay for food-items at the respective farmers markets. IFMA also worked with two new farmers markets to come on board to the *Double Up Food Bucks* program, bringing their own private funding for this program. **Payette Valley Food Connection** leveraged \$2,000 for their 'Double Up Food Bucks' in 2017. To compliment this impressive effort, Rexburg, Idaho became the second city in Idaho to commit to supporting Double Up Food Bucks in the 2018 season, helping expand the SNAP Advisory Network's goal of increasing SNAP awareness and access.

Duck Valley Indian Reservation—Garden Growers (DVGG)



The Duck Valley Indian Reservation Garden Growers were able to bring Thunder Valley Community Development Corps of Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota to Duck Valley in July 2017 to learn about the Lakota Model of Hope and Food Sovereignty. Presenters Andrew Iron Shell and Ernest Weston traveled to Duck Valley to share about their successes. The Pine Ridge Reservation is home to the lowest life expectancy, and a number of the poorest communities in the United States. The average life expectancy on Pine Ridge is 66.81 years, the lowest in the United States. In spite of dire statistics, their Thunder Valley Community Development effort has been successful and recognized by many such as former President Obama. At Duck Valley, they shared about their community as a food desert with diabetes and preventable diseases at the highest rates in the country.

From a 2014 Oglala Lakota Nation Food System Assessment, they created a Food Sovereignty Initiative to work toward:

1. Improved food access on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.
2. Increased food system sovereignty.
3. Improved nutrition and public health.
4. Decreased economic burdens on low-income families and increased economic opportunities.

In a full-day planning and community meal session, they inspired 32 Duck Valley tribal members to identify their own 'next steps.' The Duck Valley Reservation worked with the IHRTF to leverage \$6,000 from MAZON and Barrick Gold Corp. for this event. A Duck Valley Final 2017 Report is available, and the reservation was awarded an AmeriCorps VISTA position to move this initiative forward.

Idaho Interfaith Roundtable Against Hunger



● The Idaho Interfaith Roundtable Against Hunger (IIRAH) focused their fall 2017 community gathering on *Climate Change: Impact on Idaho's Food System*. The event had a panel of four that included Dr. Rebecca Som Castellano, Assistant Professor at Boise State University with expertise on climate change and food security; Dr. Jen Pierce, who explained the biophysical aspects of climate change and its impact on the food system. Two other Idahoans with personal food system impact from severe weather changes were Purple Sage Farms and Richards Ranch losing cattle and grazing land to the Soda Fire. This event garnered almost 90 participants, leaving standing-room only space—the largest IIRAH gathering to date.

The Idaho Foodbank (IFB)

● The Idaho Foodbank is the lead partner in Idaho for the Cooking Matters program, developed by Share Our Strength. Cooking Matters is a 6-week, hands-on, cooking-based program for all ages that teaches food preparation and food budgeting skills that people need to make lasting changes to their eating habits. In 2017, The Idaho Foodbank provided 42 Cooking Matters classes across the state to 327 participants, including adults, parents, and families with a 94% graduation rate. Also this past year, The Idaho Foodbank lead 30 Cooking Matters at the Store tours to 205 participants. Cooking Matters at the Store Tours are one-time, guided grocery stores that teach low-income adults how to get the most nutrition for the food dollars.



● The Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force (IHRTF)



The Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force continued the *Food is Medicine—Screen and Intervene* project in partnership with the Family Medicine Residency of Idaho during 2017 to follow up with clinic referrals and assist in accessing SNAP and other resources. In partnership with the Meridian Schools Clinic and Peaceful Belly Farm, the IHRTF implemented a pilot for *Prescription for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables through Community Supported Agriculture*. Pilot households that screened positive for food insecurity and had one other comorbid condition such as diabetes, hypertension or obesity were eligible. Pre- and post-surveys indicate the households increased consumption of fresh produce from 1-2 cups daily. The project created a 5-minute video for expansion and was the focus of a workshop at the 2017 Collaborating for Health Conference in Boise.

MAJOR CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS DEVELOPED



Restrictions on Idaho State Agency Housing the State SNAP Plan.

The restrictions on the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare being involved in food stamp outreach, education and access prove to be a continuing barrier. Network partners are unable to receive 50% reimbursement of administration costs from the USDA FNS as in other states as the Plan is not housed in the state agency. As such, the SNAP Advisory Network partners fund 100% of the activities. During this fourth year, partners' contributions are underestimated at \$40,662 with only 9 of 12 partners reporting their financial investments. Funding for this work would significantly improve the ability of network partners to expand their impact.



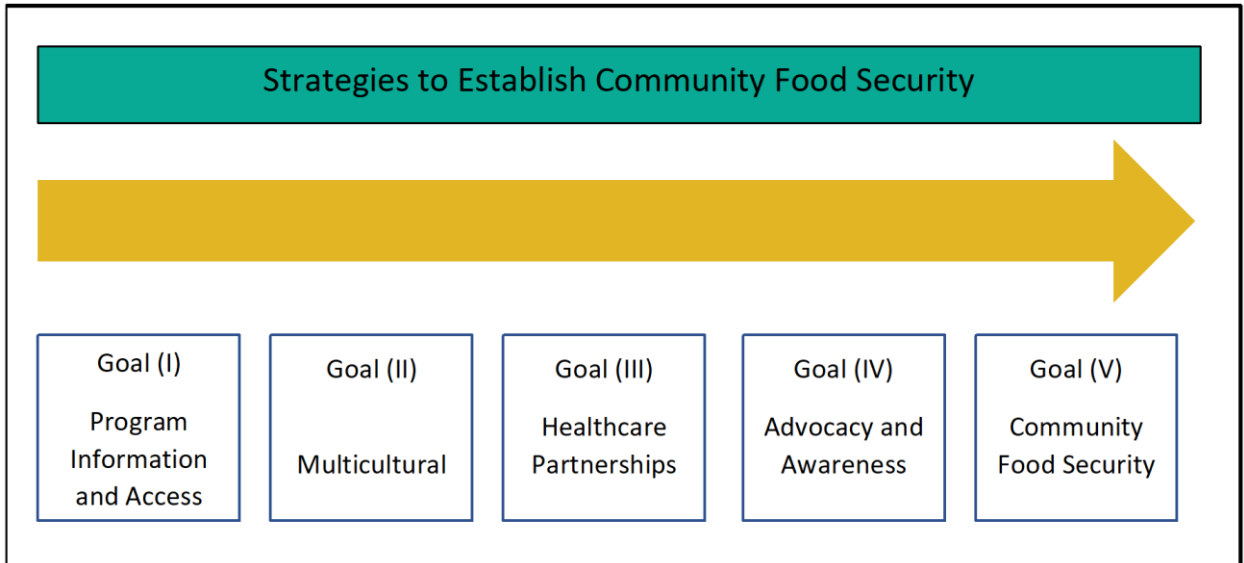
Immigration Policy Impacting Idaho Immigrant Households.

Reports indicate that immigrants are afraid to apply for or asking to be removed from critical programs for which they or their family members are eligible. Immigrant families are concerned that personal information provided to public benefit programs could be used to enforce evolving federal immigration laws and this fear is depriving immigrants and U.S. citizen children of vital health, nutrition, income support, and childcare benefits.

Network partners reported interest in a value-added presentation on 'Protecting Immigrant Families'



EVALUATION METHODOLOGY & FINDINGS



With the ultimate goal being community food security, the SNAP Advisory Network embraces a continuum as follows:

- (1) Program Information and Access
- (2) Multicultural Food Systems
- (3) Healthcare Partnership
- (4) Advocacy and Awareness
- (5) Community Food Security

The SNAP into Action Commitment Letters for 2017 represent this strategy with the template in *Appendix B*

Goal (I)
Program
Information
and Access

Goal (II)
Multicultu-
rality

Goal (III)
Healthcare
Partnerships

Goal (IV)
Advocacy
and
Awareness

Goal (V)
Community
Food
Security

Partner	2-1-1 Idaho Care Line (211)
Goals	(I) Engagement in Idaho Food Stamp Advisory Network (II) N/A (III) Public referral to low-cost or affordable medical care and/or medical nutritional advisement (IV) N/A (V) Public access to food pantries and food assistance resources
Outcomes	(I) 1 quarterly meeting attended (III) 9,803 callers referred for access to medical care (III) 2,918 resources in community support database that address medical care (V) 4,599 callers referred for access to food pantries or food assistance (V) 640 resources in community support database that address food pantries and food assistance
Evaluation	The number of callers referred for access to medical care and the number of resources and community partners in support database that address this need area were recorded throughout the year.



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Partner	Community Action Partnership Association of Idaho (CAPAI)
Goals	<p>(I) Distribute IHRTF materials/communication regarding recertification to CAP agencies as appropriate; Continue to distribute recertification flier/handout that was created and distributed in 2015; Relay communication on staggered issuance information to CAP agencies</p> <p>(II) N/A</p> <p>(III) N/A</p> <p>(IV) N/A</p> <p>(V) N/A</p>
Outcomes	(I) 4,713 recertification flyers distributed
Evaluation	Record number of materials distributed



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Partner	Community Council of Idaho (CCI)
Goals	STAFF TRANSITION YEAR
Outcomes	N/A
Evaluation	N/A



Partner	Duck Valley Garden Growers (DVGG)
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) N/A (ii) Address food sovereignty with guidance from the Thunder Valley Community Development of Pine Ridge, South Dakota (iii) N/A (iv) N/A (v) N/A
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (II) Thunder Valley Community Development of Pine Ridge Indian Reservation traveled to Duck Valley in July 2017 (II) 2 Pine Ridge presenters (II) 32 Duck Valley Tribal members in attendance (II) \$6,000 provided by MAZON and Barrick Gold for event (II) Final report on Duck Valley and Pine Ridge planning (II) AmeriCorps VISTA awarded to Duck Valley
Evaluation	DVGG met goes of engaging with Pine Ridge and creating a food sovereignty plan for the future.



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Partner	Idaho Farmers Market Association (IFMA)
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) (I) Statewide Food Stamp Friendly Farmers Market messaging (II) N/A (III) N/A (IV) N/A (V) Food Stamp Friendly Farmers Market expansion; Double Up Food Bucks strengthening and expansion
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) 1 promotional material developed (V) 7 new markets accepting EBT (V) 2 new markets participating in Double Up Food Bucks (V) \$15,541 of SNAP benefits and \$10,728 of DUFBI incentives distributed at the participating DUFBI markets (V) \$1,000 Double Up Food Bucks materials distributed
Evaluation	New markets are accepting food stamp benefits and Double Up Food Bucks. SNAP benefits are being redeemed at markets and promotional materials have been disseminated.



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Partner	Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force (IHRTF)
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) Idaho Food Stamp “Train the Trainer” Curriculum update; Idaho SNAP Advisory Network Coordination (II) Cultivate Wilder Initiative (III) Screen and Intervene in low-income medical clinic settings (IV) N/A (V) Food stamp EBT in local food systems
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) 2 Train the Trainer updates (I) 6 Train the Trainer trainings (I) 37 Train the Trainer participants (I) 2 SNAP quarterly meetings (I) Completed SNAP quarterly reports (II) AmeriCorps VISTA member placed at Cultivate Wilder (II) 3 families assisted through Wilder Community Fund (III) 2 families selected for Screen and Intervene Veggie RX Pilot (III) 138 Screen and Intervene households identified as food insecure (III) 116 Screen and Intervene kindergarteners identified as food insecure (III) 100% of Screen and Intervene patient follow up with referrals (V) Support of IFMA in their leadership to achieve 31 of 45 farmers markets accepting EBT
Evaluation	IHRTF advised and supported AmeriCorps VISTAs and their projects at the Community Council of Idaho, Idaho Farmers' Market Association, Cultivate Wilder Initiative and University of Idaho Extension – Payette County.



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Partner	Idaho Interfaith Roundtable Against Hunger (IIRAH)
Goals	(I) N/A (II) N/A (III) N/A (IV) Spring Community Gathering – Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE); 2017 Idaho Legislative Session; Fall Community Gathering (V) N/A
Outcomes	(IV) 6 Spring Gathering: ALICE event committee planners and meetings (IV) 50 flyers emailed to endorsers and press releases for ALICE spring gathering (IV) 1 ALICE spring gathering panel presenter (IV) 30 community members attending ALICE spring gathering (IV) Legislature: white paper of grocery sales tax exemption published (IV) Legislature: 5 legislative bills monitored (IV) Legislature: 5 Idaho legislation hearings and/or testimonies (IV) Fall Gathering: Planned 'Climate Change and Idaho Effects' community gathering (IV) Climate Change panel presenters (IV) 90 community members attending Climate Change panel
Evaluation	IIRAH hosted successful spring and fall community gatherings and engaged with the 2017 Idaho legislative session.



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Partner	Payette Valley Food Connection (PVFC)
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) N/A (II) N/A (III) N/A (IV) N/A (V) Promotion of Payette and Weiser Farmers Markets - EBT at the Market; Farm Stand & Farmer's Market EBT Acceptance Outreach Campaign
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (V) 1 New EBT outreach contact made (V) 1 referral to IFMA (V) 1 new area EBT processor (V) 130 locations with marketing materials (V) 1 farmers market awareness material created for public pools, libraries, schools, new letters, etc.
Evaluation	PVFC obtained a new area EBT processor and disseminated marketing materials.



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Partner	The Hunger Coalition (THC)
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) Food Stamp application assistance; Fresh Bucks implementation (II) N/A (III) N/A (IV) N/A (V) Advocacy for Blaine County Hispanic population at risk of food insecurity; Cooking Matters in collaboration with The Idaho Foodbank
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) 113 clients received applications from office (I) 12 clients received one-on-one application assistance (I) 12 clients used THC phone and/or mailing address to communicate with DHW to apply for SNAP (I) 11 adults participated in Fresh Bucks (I) \$624 food stamp dollars matched with Fresh Bucks grant funds (V) 10 youth interns hired to work on Bloom Farm (V) 3 CMATS class were offered in English and Spanish with 100% of participants in one session being Spanish speaking (V) Collaborated with St. Luke's and their YEAH! program to provide a CMATS class to participants (V) Hired a bilingual and bicultural office assistant and a second case manager that is also bilingual (V) 2 Cooking Matters classes taught (V) 43 Cooking Matters participants Launched food truck at a low-income housing site which provides fresh grown produce (V) 229 people engaged in Volunteer for Veggies program, where individuals volunteered and received food as part of their commitment
Evaluation	<p>The Blaine County Hunger Coalition tracked application distribution and assistance for English and Spanish speaking clientele. Clients are offered the option to use The Hunger Coalition's phone number and address as their own for application purposes and keeps track of this number. THC implemented the Fresh Bucks program and offered Cooking Matters classes.</p>



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Partner	The Idaho Food Bank (IFB)
Goals	(I) Provide food stamp information to The Idaho Foodbank's partner agency network (II) Direct distribution of food stamp program materials and information (III) N/A (IV) N/A (V) N/A
Outcomes	(I) 8 meetings hosted (II) 529 participants at Cooking Matters class provided with materials (II) 2,200 Commodity Supplemental Food Program participants provided with materials
Evaluation	The Idaho Foodbank was successful with providing information to clients.



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Partner	University of Idaho Extension Eat Smart Idaho
Goals	<p>(I) Idaho Food Stamp 'Train the Trainer' Curriculum instruction; Eat Smart Idaho faculty and staff will receive training on the newly updated SNAP brochures and Live Better website offered through the Department of Health and Welfare</p> <p>(II) N/A</p> <p>(III) N/A</p> <p>(IV) N/A</p> <p>(V) N/A</p>
Outcomes	<p>(I) 30 educators completed Train the Trainer curriculum</p> <p>(I) 38 faculty and staff completed Live Better Idaho training</p>
Evaluation	The number of people receiving trainings was recorded.



APPENDIX A: PARTNER EVALUATION SURVEY



Appendix A. SNAP into Action Partner Survey

Partner Organization:

Date:

Introductions and Purpose of the Meeting: These survey questions are in relation to the 2017 SNAP into Action Plan and your organization’s Letter of Commitment to the SNAP into Action Plan and Report. We want to make sure the quarterly data collected is accurate as we look back [and] gain your input as we look forward to 2018.

1. Do we have the correct outcomes collected on the ‘**2017 SNAP into Action Plan Results?**’ Do they reconcile with your Letter of Commitment? Is there anything missing?

2. How comfortable with the current **quarterly reporting methods** are you?

- (1) Very Uncomfortable
- (2) Uncomfortable
- (3) Neither Uncomfortable or Comfortable
- (4) Comfortable
- (5) Very Comfortable

Comments:

3. What **population(s)** are you serving in Idaho through your work related to SNAP? What **geographic parts of Idaho** are you serving?

4. Were **emails an effective means of communication?** Would you benefit from more or less reminders?

5. The SNAP into Action Network facilitates **value-added presentations**. Some of the past topics included: 1) Western Region USDA review of Idaho Plan and Report; 2) Community Food Systems with the Oregon Food Bank; 3) Farm to Summer with USDA; Idaho Dept. of Education and Boys and Girls Clubs; 4) U. S. Census Bureau webinar on data collection; 5) ‘Protecting Idaho Immigrant Families’ planned for 2018.

Please tell us: a) were these **beneficial to you?** (Utilize the table below for discussion); b) What **are other topics** you might want to see? c) **how many** would you want to see a year—in 2017 we combined the Task Force meeting with the presentations—did that work?

Appendix A. SNAP into Action Partner Survey

(cont.)

Idaho Food Stamp Education and Access Plan – Western Region USDA - Andy Naja-Riese				
Not at all beneficial	Not beneficial	Neutral	Beneficial	Very Beneficial
Community Food Systems, Oregon Food Bank, Sharon Thornberry				
Not at all beneficial	Not beneficial	Neutral	Beneficial	Very Beneficial
Farm to Summer, USDA, ISDE, Boys and Girls Club of Ada County				
Not at all beneficial	Not beneficial	Neutral	Beneficial	Very Beneficial
US Census Webinar				
Not at all beneficial	Not beneficial	Neutral	Beneficial	Very Beneficial

6. What barriers or challenges did you or your clientele face while working on SNAP goals?
7. Have you found ways to address these barriers or challenges? Is there any technical assistance you need?
8. Do you have any success stories or best practices that could be highlighted in the final report?
9. What is the closest estimate of the monetary value of agency’s efforts during this 2017 Plan Year?
10. Opportunities for growth for the SNAP into Action Network?



APPENDIX B: SNAP INTO ACTION PARTNER COMMITMENT LETTER TEMPLATE

Appendix B. SNAP into Action Partner Commitment Letter Template

[Date]

[Address]

The [organization] is submitting this Letter of Partner Commitment for the annual [year] project period. Specifically, the [organization] will commit to the following activities:

GOAL I. Program Information and Access

Title:

Description:

Timeline:

Evaluation:

GOAL II. Multicultural Food Security

Title:

Description:

Timeline:

Evaluation:

GOAL III. Health Care Partnerships

Title:

Description:

Timeline:

Evaluation:

GOAL III. Health Care Partnerships

Title:

Description:

Timeline:

Evaluation:

GOAL IV. Advocacy and Awareness

Title:

Description:

Timeline:

Evaluation:

GOAL V. Community Food Security

Title:

Description:

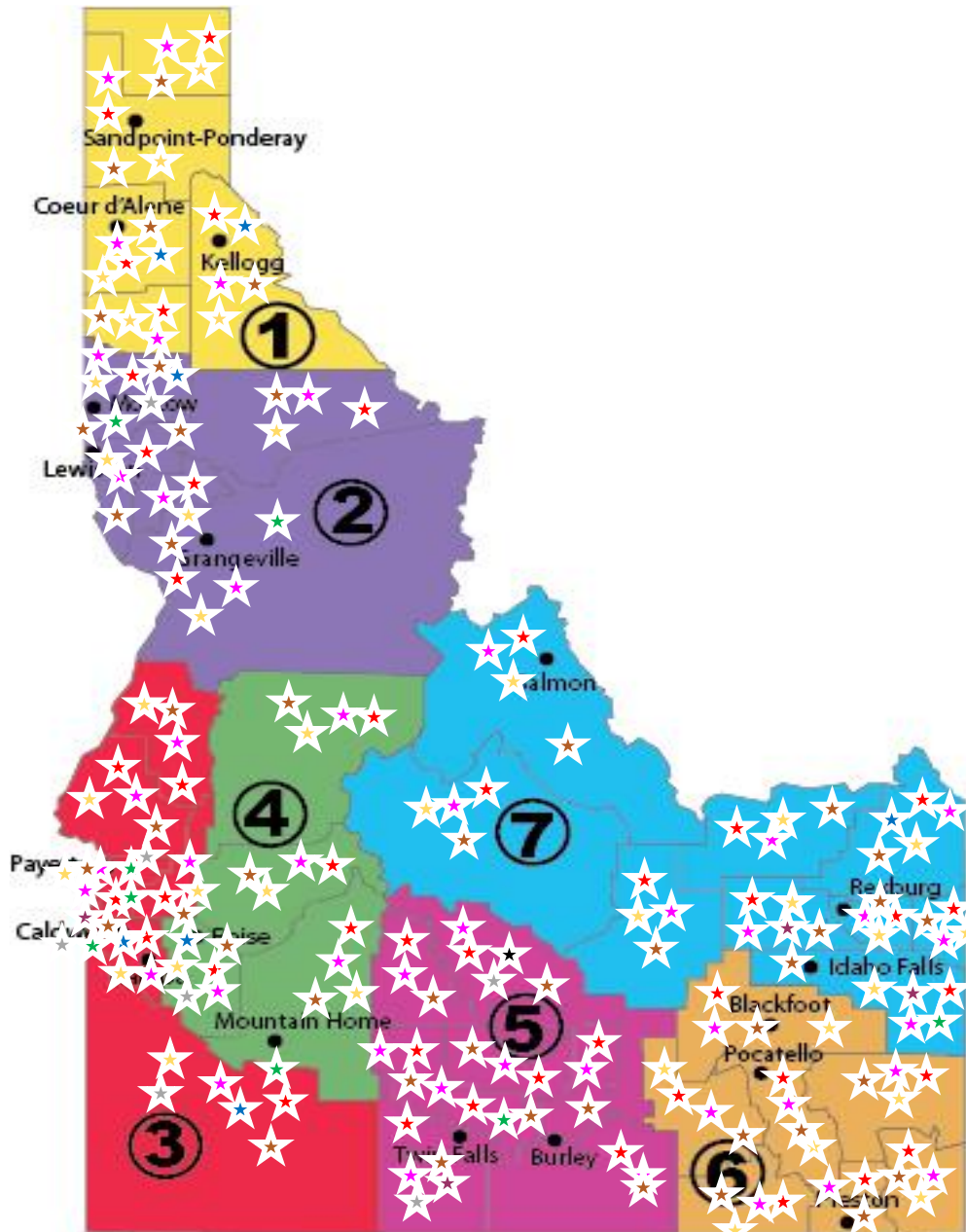
Timeline:

Evaluation:

Sincerely,

[Signature]

APPENDIX C: SNAP INTO ACTION MAP OF SERVICES



PARTNER SERVICE AREAS

211 Idaho Careline (211)

- Statewide

Community Action Partnerships of Idaho (CAPAI)

- Statewide

Community Council of Idaho (CCI)

- Canyon
- Bingham
- Bonneville
- Twin Falls

Department of Health and Welfare (DHW)

- Statewide

Duck Valley Garden Growers (DVGG)

- Duck Valley Indian Reservation

Idaho Farmers Market Association (IFMA)

- Ada
- Canyon
- Fremont
- Kootenai
- Latah
- Owyhee
- Shoshone

Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force (IHRTF)

- Ada
- Blaine
- Canyon
- Owyhee
- Twin Falls
- Latah

PARTNER SERVICE AREAS (cont.)



Idaho Interfaith Roundtable Against Hunger (IIRAH)

- Ada
- Bonneville
- Canyon
- Gem
- Idaho
- Jerome
- Nez Perce
- Payette



The Hunger Coalition (THC)

- Blaine



The Idaho Foodbank (IFB)

- Statewide



Metro Meals on Wheels (MMOW)

- Ada



Eat Smart Idaho (U of I Ext)

- Statewide



Payette Valley Food Connection (PVFC)

- Payette
- Washington
- Ontario