



IDAHO SOLUTIONS?

A PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF IDAHO'S USE
(AND MISUSE) OF SELECTED FEDERAL GRANTS

FEBRUARY 2016



THE IDAHO FREEDOM FOUNDATION (IFF) IS A NON-PARTISAN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND GOVERNMENT WATCHDOG DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE LIVES OF IDAHOANS BY PROMOTING PRIVATE FREE MARKET SOLUTIONS, HOLDING PUBLIC SERVANTS ACCOUNTABLE, EXPOSING GOVERNMENT WASTE AND CORRUPTION, AND PROMOTING POLICIES THAT ADVANCE IDAHO'S INDEPENDENCE.

VISION STATEMENT

We see an Idaho where individuals, families and businesses, can thrive and grow unlike anywhere else. We can see Idaho leading the country as a beacon of opportunity and prosperity. We believe nothing in human history has been more successful at improving the human condition as free markets, which is why we want to use our resources to educate policymakers, the media and the public on ideas that restore liberty and improve lives.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our goal is to hold public servants and government programs accountable, expose government waste and cronyism, reduce the state's dependency on the federal government and inject fairness and predictability into the state's tax system.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Every year, Idaho receives millions of dollars in grants from the federal government. While proponents often portray these grants as “free money” for Idaho, they are far from it.

The Idaho Freedom Foundation (IFF), using federal funds grants data compiled by state agencies in accordance with state law, conducted a preliminary analysis of the effectiveness of—and the agendas associated with—federal grant money provided to Idaho state agencies. The results of this survey should concern Idaho taxpayers and legislators and heighten the state’s scrutiny of federally funded programs.

IFF identified two broad classes of programs that failed to live up to the ideal of “Idaho Solutions”—cost-effective programs that align with our state’s way of doing things.

Some federal programs partner with outside special interest groups with agendas out of step with Idaho, creating a problem of questionable agendas. These programs all open Idaho policy to politicized special interest groups—many of which might prove objectionable to legislators and the general public if their political agendas were revealed.

The Forest Legacy Program: Conducted under the auspices of the Idaho Department of Public Lands, the Forest Legacy Program partners with environmentalist groups and logging companies to increase public land holdings and restrict development on forest lands.

The Team Nutrition Grants Program: This program pays Idaho bureaucrats to promote the new school lunches created as part of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act pushed by First Lady Michelle Obama—using materials provided by the controversial “nudge” theories of the Cornell University Behavioral Economics Network.

The Work Supports Strategies Program: Using funds from the liberal Ford Foundation and Urban Institute, Idaho Department of Education and Welfare participated in a program urging support for the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) and increased use of welfare services. It involved George Soros’ Open Society Foundations and the labor-union-funded Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Other programs seem to be managed more to fund the salaries of public employees rather than the public good of Idaho.

Project Safe Neighborhood Initiative: The Idaho State Police received funds from the federal Department of Justice ostensibly to reduce gang and firearm violence. Instead, funds paid for police overtime in places like the City of Caldwell to conduct ineffective “Street Sweeps,” as the number of serious criminal offenses in Caldwell actually increased.

Idaho State Arts Plan: Idaho receives a “matching grant”—meaning Idaho taxpayers must pay a portion of the cost out of state tax revenues—from the National Endowment for the Arts to fund its arts programs. In truth, over a third of the total money goes to pay program staff Idaho receives, with direct arts services accounting for barely 1/10 of the grant spending.

This report identifies five grants programs that fit these problem categories. Our preliminary analysis suggests other grants programs have similar ineffectiveness or questionable Washington special-interest agenda strings attached. As Idaho’s state budget comes up for consideration, legislators must examine federal grants programs carefully and conduct rigorous oversight of these and similar programs. Federal money isn’t “free money”—Washington’s cash often comes with Washington’s agenda, not Idaho solutions.

SECTION 1: QUESTIONABLE AGENDAS

FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM

WHAT IS THE GRANT?

The Forest Legacy Program is a federal program through the United States Forest Service that exists to protect “environmentally sensitive forest lands” from development. USFS funds supplement funds raised locally (either from private parties, nongovernmental organizations, or the states) to purchase lands and establish conservation easements that prohibit certain uses of the land.

The federal grant is used to purchase the land in conjunction with locally raised funds, which can include state money, funds from nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), discounts from the seller, and other funds. Review of the fine print of the grants reveals two seriously concerning features. First, groups that are facilitating the Forest Legacy easements include several that hide a radical environmentalist agenda behind a conservation façade. Second, the landowners—typically timber companies—gain considerable taxpayer subsidies in the form of direct purchases at guaranteed prices, estate tax breaks, and continued harvesting rights.

Idaho Department of Lands reports showed that total federal funds grants expenditures on Forest Legacy projects totaled slightly more than \$5 million in Fiscal Year 2015.

HOW DOES IT AFFECT IDAHO?

Green Radical Partners

Under the Forest Legacy Program, Idaho frequently partners with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to organize easement sales and/or to get money for them. (The federal government will pay no more than 75% of the assessed price of the land—the other 25% must come from local sources, such as sellers’ discounts, NGOs, or states themselves.) These NGOs are often groups with close ties to radical environmentalists, if not radical environmentalists themselves.

Here are just a few of the organizations that have partnered with Idaho on Forest Legacy Projects, with some of the ties they have to radical environmentalists.

- **Ducks Unlimited:** Supported the Clagstone Meadows project and the McArthur Lake Wildlife Corridor project. Receives substantial funding from the liberal Pew Charitable Trusts. Opposes oil extraction by hydraulic fracturing. See Figure 1.
- **Nature Conservancy of Idaho:** Supported several projects. The national Nature Conservancy has received over \$10 million from numerous environmentalist foundations, including the Wyss Foundation, the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, and the Gordon E and Betty I Moore Foundation. Opposes oil extraction by hydraulic fracturing. Idaho Director Toni Hardesty is a former EPA official. See Figure 2.

Form 990, Schedule I, Part II, Grants and Other Assistance to Governments and Organizations in the United States

(a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC Code section if applicable	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of non-cash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of non-cash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
Ducks Unlimited 3074 Gold Canal Dr Rancho Cordova, CA 95670	13-5643799	501(c)(3)	2,275,000				Policy
Ducks Unlimited 3074 Gold Canal Dr Rancho Cordova, CA 95670	13-5643799	501(c)(3)	6,000,000				Policy

Figure 1: Image from Pew Charitable Trusts FY 2013 Form 990

Sustainable Markets Foundation	45 West 36th Street, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10018, New York, NY	52,800	Charitable Contribution	Public Charity
The Nature Conservancy	4245 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 100, Arlington, VA 22203	160,000	Charitable Contribution	Public Charity
The Sierra Club Foundation	85 Second Street, Suite 750, San Francisco, CA 94105	165,000	Charitable Contribution	Public Charity
The Wilderness Land Trust	P.O. Box 1420, Carbondale, CO 81623	200,000	Charitable Contribution	Public Charity

Figure 2: Image from Wyss Foundation FY 2013 Form 990

Greenpeace Fund	501 c 3	Greenpeace Canada: Great Bear Rainforest: A New Reality of Conservation and Human Well Being 2012 (Renewal)	\$ 60,000 00
Grist Magazine	501 c 3	General Support	\$ 10,000 00
Grist Magazine	501 c 3	Capacity Building: Evaluation Tools	\$ 3,000.00
Groundwire	501 c 3	Wilburforce Engagement Capacity Project 2012	\$ 110,000 00
Gwich'in Steering Committee	501 c 3	General Support Matching 2012	\$ 15,000.00
Gwich'in Steering Committee	501 c 3	Capacity Building: Board/Strategic Planning	\$ 14,000.00
Headwaters Economics	501 c 3	Economics Support for Conservation 2012	\$ 100,000 00
Headwaters Montana, Inc.	501 c 3	Transboundary Project 2012	\$ 10,000 00
Hells Canyon Preservation Council	501 c 3	General Support 2012 (Renewal)	\$ 35,000.00
Hells Canyon Preservation Council	501 c 3	Capacity Building: Groundwire Consulting	\$ 5,000 00
Hells Canyon Preservation Council	501 c 3	SCB North American Congress 2012	\$ 1,000.00
Hells Canyon Preservation Council	501 c 3	Transition Expenses	\$ 1,500 00
High Country News	501 c 3	General Support	\$ 500 00
Idaho Conservation League	501 c 3	Protecting Idaho's Yellowstone to Yukon Region 2012 (Renewal)	\$ 60,000 00

Figure 3: Image from Wilburforce Foundation FY 2012 Form 990

- **Idaho Conservation League:** Supported several projects. Funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Wyss Foundation, and the Wilburforce Foundation. Opposes oil extraction by hydraulic fracturing.¹ See Figure 3.

Subsidizing Logging Companies

Under Forest Legacy, forest land is bought using mostly federal money on the condition that a “conservation easement”—a legal provision forbidding certain development on the land—is

part of the deal. Often, the seller is a logging company (of any size) seeking to reclaim some value for already-harvested or marginal timberland.

One such project is in Clagstone Meadows in Bonner County. Stimson Lumber Company had sought to redevelop a 13,000-acre parcel into vacation properties, golf courses, and horse-riding grounds. This got the attention of Forest Legacy and the Trust for Public Land, which proposed a purchase of the \$12.6 million tract with a

¹Funding of groups by the foundations can be tracked using foundations' Forms 990, which are available through Guidestar and similar services. The foundations listed here have all given to numerous environmentalist groups involved in the public lands, oil and resource exploration, and climate change debates.

conservation easement. The *Spokesman-Review* reported that the Idaho Department of Fish and Game would be a possible source of funding up to the \$4 million Trust for Public Land needed to raise. See Figure 4.

In exchange for a discount to the purchase price, Stimson will sell the land to be administered by the Trust for Public Land, while retaining the rights to harvest lumber on the land.

Given that Stimson was having trouble getting planning permission for its development at Clagstone Meadows, the opportunity to lock in at least some of the money that would be spent on development could have been a major coup. A Forest Service report notes that if federal funds were not appropriated, Stimson's development would probably go forward. See Figure 5.

Additionally, by retaining the lumber rights to the easement-affected lands they had yielded to the Trust for Public Land, Stimson could con-

tinue to make revenue from the lands it had sold at taxpayer expense.

The Clagstone case is not unique: Several Forest Legacy projects offer this continued harvesting right to the logging companies that own the land bought under the grant program.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

The funding sources of the partnering organizations and the potential benefits reaped by logging conglomerates should concern Idaho taxpayers. State bureaucrats, with the aid of timber interests who may stand to profit, are using federal and state money to advance the interests of green radicals—including funders of Greenpeace—in rural Idaho. This closes off Idaho lands to development and non-timber resource extraction, whether Idahoans want the lands closed or not.

FUNDING HISTORY

FY 2015 Forest Legacy Program Funding	\$5,500,000
FY 2015 Non-Federal Cost Share	\$7,155,000
FY 2015 Project Costs	\$12,655,000
FY 2015 Project Acres	13,093
Forest Legacy Funding To Date	\$5,500,000
Total Project Costs	\$12,655,000
Total Project Acres	13,093

Tract Name	Size (ac)	Tract Cost	FLP Funding	Non-Fed Cost Share	Status
Clagstone Meadows	13,093	\$12,655,000	\$5,500,000	\$7,155,000	Funded 2015

Figure 4



on the site. If this FY15 FLP funding request fails, Stimson will continue moving forward with its plans to develop the property, leading to the loss of irreplaceable wildlife habitat, the destruction of unique forested wetlands, a likely decrease in ground water quality & quantity and increased home density in the Wildland-Urban Interface. Finally, it would

Figure 5

SCHOOL LUNCH NUTRITION TRAINING

WHAT IS THE GRANT?

The Team Nutrition Grants are administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as part of the National School Lunch Program. They are intended to educate school lunch officials and train them in nutritional best practices to reduce childhood obesity.

The grants are intended to reduce childhood obesity by ensuring compliance by school administrators and students eating lunch with the new Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act lunches, made notable by First Lady Michelle Obama's publicity campaigns.

The State of Idaho requested \$267,521 from the USDA for fiscal year 2015 from the program. Of that money, \$127,619 was earmarked for personnel costs.

A separate \$54,293 was requested for promotion and pilot programs related to the Cornell Center for Behavioral Economics in Child Nutrition Programs (the B.E.N. Center) "Smarter Lunchrooms Movement," an effort to employ "behavioral economics" in the design and promotion of school lunches.

HOW DOES IT AFFECT IDAHO?

Given the controversy surrounding some of the mandates in the new school lunches, the USDA has chosen an aggressive strategy to promote the school lunch mandates and ensure that kids follow them. The most recent cycle of Team Nutrition Grants focused on using techniques of "behavioral economics" to ensure that students eat more fruits and vegetables.

Behavioral economics is a controversial, politically charged field that seeks to pair psychological findings with economic decision-making strategies. (One of the nation's most prominent behavioral economists, Cass Sunstein, was President Obama's first "regulatory czar.") Some people believe that behavioral economics strategies are overly manipulative. This clip of language from education materials distributed by Idaho shows the general outlook and drive of the BEN Center:

Behavioral Economics is a field of study that looks at behaviors from a psychology, sociology or other social sciences standpoint to create successful solutions that can be used to not only help the consumer (or student in this case), but companies and governments as well. And so, that is what the BEN Center is doing to improve the eating habits of children in the school environment through low-

GOAL I: Use behavioral economics in the NSLP to develop environmental cues to increase children's choice of whole grains, fat-free or low-fat dairy products, fruits, vegetables, and legumes.

TN Behavior-Focused Strategies:

- Provide ***training and technical assistance*** to child nutrition foodservice professionals to enable them to prepare and serve nutritious meals that appeal to children by providing behavioral economics statewide training and follow-up assistance for implementation.
- Provide ***fun and interactive nutrition education*** for children, teachers, parents, and other caregivers through behavioral economic changes in the cafeteria environment.
- Build ***school and community support*** for creating healthy school environments that are conducive to healthy eating through implementing behavioral economics in Idaho schools.

Figure 6

cost/no cost lunchroom changes that have been shown (evidence-based) to subtly lead the student in the direction of more healthy choices.

The USDA funds the B.E.N. Center and then gives grants to states like Idaho to promote BEN's work and principles. Idaho school lunch bureaucrats proposed the following goal in their grant request to the USDA. See Figures 5, 6 and 7.

Consider also this clipping from a different material:

The BEN Center believes that this can be done using low-cost/no-cost solutions to create an ongoing environment that successfully "nudges kids toward healthful choices."

The Cornell BEN researchers are known for proclaiming that weird things make you fat. These things include paying for food with credit cards, using larger plates, and so forth.¹

Additionally, the Team Nutrition grants require a bureaucrat to travel to an annual conference in the D.C. area. In FY 2015, this will cost taxpayers \$4,870. The state also requested to fly a BEN Center researcher to Idaho for a June 2016 conference, at a cost of \$2,700.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Using federal funds, Idaho bureaucrats are propagandizing school lunch officials using controversial methods to try to fix the Obama Administration's school lunch policies by subtle manipulation of students. The program is on-

Idaho CNP will meet its first objective by increasing the knowledge of behavioral economics as it relates to school meal participation and healthier food selection by utilizing educational materials from the BEN Center, USDA, and NFSMI to get the word out that simple, proven techniques exist. Idaho CNP will advertise the BEN Center and promote the Smarter Lunchrooms Movement and behavioral economic techniques through monthly email blasts, segments in Idaho's monthly NSLP webinars, and mailings to school administration and food service directors and managers. Idaho CNP has been in communication with a representative from Cornell University's BEN Center (Kathryn Hoy). This grant would fund a visit by her (or another representative of the BEN Center) to Idaho to train on Smarter Lunchrooms techniques. This visit would include a 1.5 hour overview presentation of the Smarter Lunchrooms Movement and an 8-hour in-depth training on techniques in behavioral economics to Idaho school foodservice personnel from around the state.

Figure 7

Sustainability

Sustainability is inherent in the nature of this project because permanent changes related to behavioral economics will be made in the schools. The increase in understanding of the Smarter Lunchrooms techniques will give the school foodservice professionals the confidence to make ongoing changes beyond the life of this grant. The partnership with FUTP60 increases the audience and broadens opportunities for school wellness. The experience with the pilot project and Smarter Lunchrooms sub-grants will be the foundation to take behavioral economics from NSLP to CACFP in the future.

Figure 8

¹John Naish, "How buying food with your credit cards can make you fat. Preposterous? No, experts say it's just one of the bizarre reasons you might be piling on the pounds," The Daily Mail, 10 June 2015 <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-3119270/How-buying-food-credit-cards-make-fat-Preposterous-No-experts-say-s-just-one-bizarre-reasons-piling-pounds.html>

going throughout Fiscal Year 2015, with materials sent monthly to participating school lunch officials.

In the grant submission, officials expressed a desire to expand the behavioral economics techniques to the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) a separate USDA program which provides food to senior citizens in nonresidential settings. See Figure 8.

WORK SUPPORT STRATEGIES

WHAT IS THE GRANT?

The Work Support Strategies (WSS) Initiative is a roughly \$1.5 million grant from the Urban Institute and supportive Ford Foundation to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. It was carried out in three phases beginning in April 2012 and ending in December 2015. See Figure 9, 10, and 11.

The grant's purpose was to expand access to federal and state welfare programs, especially providing support to those individuals who find

it difficult to navigate the application and payment retention process. See Figure 12.

HOW DOES IT AFFECT IDAHO?

The grant attempts to influence how Idahoans receive federal and state assistance, and increase the total number of welfare recipients. It does so by funding technological improvements which strengthen the relationship between applicants and the public-sector employees determining eligibility. See Figure 13 and 14.

WSS is also being used as a tool to more efficiently implement the controversial Affordable Care Act (ACA), expanding not only welfare payments but also health coverage through ACA exchanges. See Figure 15.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

While the Urban Institute grant does not have a matching requirement—meaning that Idaho taxpayers don't directly foot the bill—it does strive to expand the welfare system and ACA in Idaho, which are funded by taxpayer money. WSS



Phase II, Final Period, Progress Report: April 1, 2015-September 30, 2015

Figure 9

This Modification Agreement No. 4, effective as of May 1, 2015, is made and entered into between the Urban Institute (Grantor), a non-profit corporation organized and existing under the laws of Delaware, having its principal place of business at 2100 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037-1297, and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (Grantee), a state entity organized and existing under the state of Idaho, having its principal place of business at 450 State Street, Boise, ID 83702.

Figure 10

“3. Subgrant Amount. This is a fully funded Subgrant. The total estimated amount of this Subgrant is \$1,457,588 of which \$258,543 is designated for Year One (April 1, 2012 – March 31, 2013); \$571,190 is designated for Year 2 (April 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014); and \$627,855 is designated for Period Three (April 1, 2014 – December 31, 2015).”

Figure 11

The Work Support Strategies, or WSS, Initiative is motivated by the value public benefit programs can provide to working families and the belief that the states and localities administering these programs can improve how eligible families access and retain these benefits. In the first year of the demonstration, nine states took on the challenge of streamlining, integrating, and improving the provision of work support benefits through their SNAP, Medicaid, and child care programs (and, in some states, additional programs such as heating assistance and cash welfare). While most states hope their efforts will also reduce burden on caseworkers and administrative costs in these systems, all are motivated to improve the lives of the families they serve.

Figure 12

Through the Work Support Strategies grant, our Department of Health and Welfare has joined with community partners, policymakers, officials in other states, and the Urban Institute to identify gaps in the services available to low-income working Idahoans and reduce the impediments to receiving those services for which they are eligible. Specifically, we have focused on improving delivery of SNAP (food stamps), Medicaid, child care subsidies, and our Temporary Cash Program to the working poor, while streamlining administration and reducing our own operating costs.

Figure 13

thus indirectly affects those paying into the system and supporting government assistance programs such as Medicaid, food stamps, and state-run child care among others.

A closer look also suggests that WSS money is almost entirely used to cover personnel costs rather than direct grant services themselves. Out of the \$627,855 spent to implement the third period of WSS, for instance, over \$617,000 went to project staff salaries.

Other costs over the three-year period of the grant included the installation of large-screen televisions in waiting rooms statewide. See Figure 16.

It's also important to note that WSS is supported by several left-leaning nonprofit organizations which aren't compatible with conser-

vative Idaho values. These include the Urban Institute, Ford Foundation (which supplied the money for the grant), and Open Society Foundation among others. The Ford Foundation, for instance, finances a wide variety of liberal groups, while the Open Society Foundation is financed by liberal megadonor George Soros. See Figure 17.

Idaho aimed to make as many eligibility decisions as possible the first time applicants contact the department. During the WSS planning year, the state began developing a system to support “automated verifications”—technology that would help self-reliance specialists (frontline workers) quickly verify client circumstances affecting eligibility.

Figure 14

Looking Ahead: The Opportunity of Health Reform

The WSS states wanted to do more than just improve upon the past and combat the recession's effects on struggling workers and families. These states are looking ahead to the challenges and opportunities presented by the implementation of the health reform in 2014. Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), states must transform their eligibility and enrollment systems for health coverage in a tight time frame. These changes involve launching major new computer systems, offering health coverage applicants (including existing Medicaid clients) new options such as web and phone services, and overhauling the basic rules for measuring applicants' eligibility for coverage. In light of this major undertaking, some have argued that states should focus only on the changes to the health programs and delay efforts to coordinate these required changes with improvements to the delivery of human service programs, such as SNAP.

Figure 15

Period Three: April 1, 2014 – December 31, 2015

PROJECT STAFF	
Project Manager	\$145,966.50
Project Coordinator	\$71,760.50
Process Implementation Engr #8	\$19,481.76
Process Engineer #2	\$79,825.34
Program Integration Analyst - UAT #7	\$22,005.00
DW Architect	\$26,406.00
Program Integration Analyst - ACA #5	\$9,128.00
Process Engineer #1	\$56,244.78
Process Implementation Engr #10	\$11,905.52
Process Implementation Engr #9	\$13,591.59
Process Engineer #3	\$11,464.61
Process Implementation Engr #11	\$15,990.30
Program Integration Analyst - Child Care #6	\$4,539.60
Business Architect	\$27,286.20
Rules Architect	\$29,340.00
Customer Interactive Designer	\$20,962.00
Deputy Administrators	\$51,440.98
SUBTOTAL PROJECT STAFF	\$617,338.68
OTHER DIRECT COSTS	
Travel/Conferences	\$10,186.32
PCs	\$330.00
SUBTOTAL OTHER DIRECT COSTS	\$10,516.32
TOTAL	\$627,855.00

Figure 16

Lobby Video Installation: large screen televisions were installed in all 19 offices statewide where customers visit. The televisions loop a video with slides highlighting different programs that customers might be interested in. These slides expand beyond the Division of Welfare benefit programs and there are slides for several community and Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) partners. The videos are updated quarterly with season specific information.

Figure 17

SECTION 2: FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY?

PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE

WHAT IS THE GRANT?

The Project Safe Neighborhood Initiative (16.609) was a federal grant administered by the Department of Justice for the period January 2012 to June 2014. Its stated purpose was to “provide support...to state and local agencies to reduce gun and gang related violent crimes” by providing additional financial resources to local law enforcement.

The federal grant is distributed among Idaho municipalities. A follow-up assessment of the program focused specifically on the City of Caldwell, which had one of Idaho’s highest crime rates in the early 2000s—in 2005, for instance, Caldwell’s violent crime rate surpassed 12,000 crimes per 100,000 people, ranking Can-

yon County as one of the state’s most crime-ridden counties.²

The program consisted of several components, including but not limited to public education on gang violence, monthly raids (so-called SCOAP or “Street Sweeps”), drug and weapon seizures, civil asset forfeiture, and regular traffic stops. They were meant “to enhance the ability of officers to reduce the activities involving gangs and guns within Caldwell City.” See Figure 18.

HOW DOES IT AFFECT IDAHO?

The City of Caldwell’s story provides insight into how Project Safe Neighborhood money is generally used in Idaho. For example, it received \$51,219 in federal funds to strengthen the Caldwell Police Department to better combat gang-related violent crime. The entirety of the budget was used to cover personnel costs related to public education campaigns, “Street Sweeps,” and other program initiatives. See Figure 19.

An even closer look found that the federal grant was exclusively used to fund overtime for participating officers. See Figure 20.

Continuation Application Abstract :

The Caldwell Police Department utilized grant funds received from the Project Safe Neighborhood grant for the 2011-2012 periods to enhance the ability of officers to reduce the activities involving gangs and guns within Caldwell City. The department dedicated over 460 hours conducting gang sweeps, and assisting Probation and Parole officers conduct SCOAP visits. These events resulted in 117 misdemeanor arrests, 15 felony arrests and 41 warrants served. In addition, eight gang arrests were made; including an arrest of a known gang member that was a suspect in a residential burglary. When officers arrested the suspect they also seized methamphetamine, marijuana, drug paraphernalia and a loaded firearm.

The grant funds allowed officers to attend training in California, Oregon, Washington, and Oklahoma. Officers gained valuable information on gang trends and identification, enhanced report writing, federal law updates, search and seizure procedures, and interdiction training. Members of the Street Crimes Unit were able to bring back the training, provided through this grant, to train other officers.

SCU also used their training during the monthly Taking Back Our Streets meetings. Officers were able to educate the public on how to identify juveniles who are involved with gangs and gang crime through the clothing style and colors they wear, hand signs they use, numbers a gang favors, tattoos they have, etc. The meetings allowed the public to ask questions they have, express concerns, and network with police and neighbors. Community outreach is important to the Caldwell Police Department, and while hosting meetings at the department was not as successful as hoped, the department is committed to trying different techniques to get the information on gangs and gang crime out to the community.

Figure 18

² <https://www.isp.idaho.gov/BCI/ucr/2005/documents/CanyonCounty.pdf>

Application Budget :
Project Title : Taking Back Our Streets
Expense Budget

Personnel	51,219
Operating/Consultant	0
Travel	0
Equipment	0
Other	0
	\$ 51,219

Figure 19

The Caldwell Police Department would like to address this growing issue of well-organized violent Motorcycle Outlaw gang activity, while continuing efforts with local gangs through the continuation of monthly Street Sweeps, knock and talks, SCOAP, and public education training. All funds for this grant will be used to fund overtime for participating officers.

Figure 20

During this reporting quarter, October through December 2014, the Street Crimes Unit (SCU) conducted three SCOAP events, a juvenile sweep, and a specialized sweep for the quarter of October through December 2013. The unit presented three gang awareness trainings in December, and is currently investigating Westside Locos and the Caldwell Northside Villains gangs. Additionally, the unit is working several gang related prostitution complaints.

SCU Sgt. Finley and CPD Chief Allgood met with State Representative Christy Perry and the State Attorney Generals Office to discuss new laws and an addition to the existing law which would make possession of a firearm by a documented gang member illegal.

Figure 21

The increased funding of the Caldwell Police Department contributed to law enforcement's heightened presence in the community, which meant more arrests, warrants served, and drug and weapon seizures than in previous years—in addition to public education courses pertaining to violent crime and gang-related offenses. See Figure 21.

The Project Safe Neighborhood Initiative's end goal was crime reduction, specifically in terms of "gang involved cases." The Caldwell Police

Department cited a reduction in such cases from 260 in 2012 to 39 in 2013 as a testament to the program's success.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

A closer look at the crime statistics for the City of Caldwell paint a different picture. Despite the Caldwell Police Department's implementation of Project Safe Neighborhood from January 2012 to June 2014, the number of "Group A" criminal offenses—aggravated assault, drug trafficking, and other offenses often associated

³<https://www.isp.idaho.gov/BCI/CrimeInIdaho/CrimeInIdaho2012/CanyonCounty.pdf>

⁴<https://www.isp.idaho.gov/BCI/CrimeInIdaho/CrimeInIdaho2014/CanyonCounty.pdf>

⁵<https://www.isp.idaho.gov/BCI/CrimeInIdaho/CrimeInIdaho2013/CanyonCounty.pdf>

with gang activity—went up from 2012 to 2014. In 2012, there 3,312 total criminal offenses reported in Caldwell; in 2014, there were 3,425.^{3,4} The violent crime rate (crimes per 100,000 people) also showed no signs of a sustained decrease—it dropped from 2012 to 2013 and then rose from 2013 to 2014.⁵ See Figure 22, 23 and 24.

One reason might be the nature of the “Street Sweeps” conducted by the Caldwell Police Department. They often amounted to irregular one- or two-day events rather than sustained week- and month-long efforts, more closely resembling

a quota system than a consistent crime reduction effort sustained over an extended period of time. And numerous short-duration “Street Sweeps” yielded rather little. For example, an August 2012 sweep resulted in the seizure of “one drug pipe and .4 grams of marijuana.”

It’s important to note that additional information on the civil asset forfeiture component of the Project Safe Neighborhood Initiative was not available. The Idaho State Police also had no two-year progress report on record, which would have shed light on final outcomes and relevant program expenses. See Figure 25, 26 and 27.

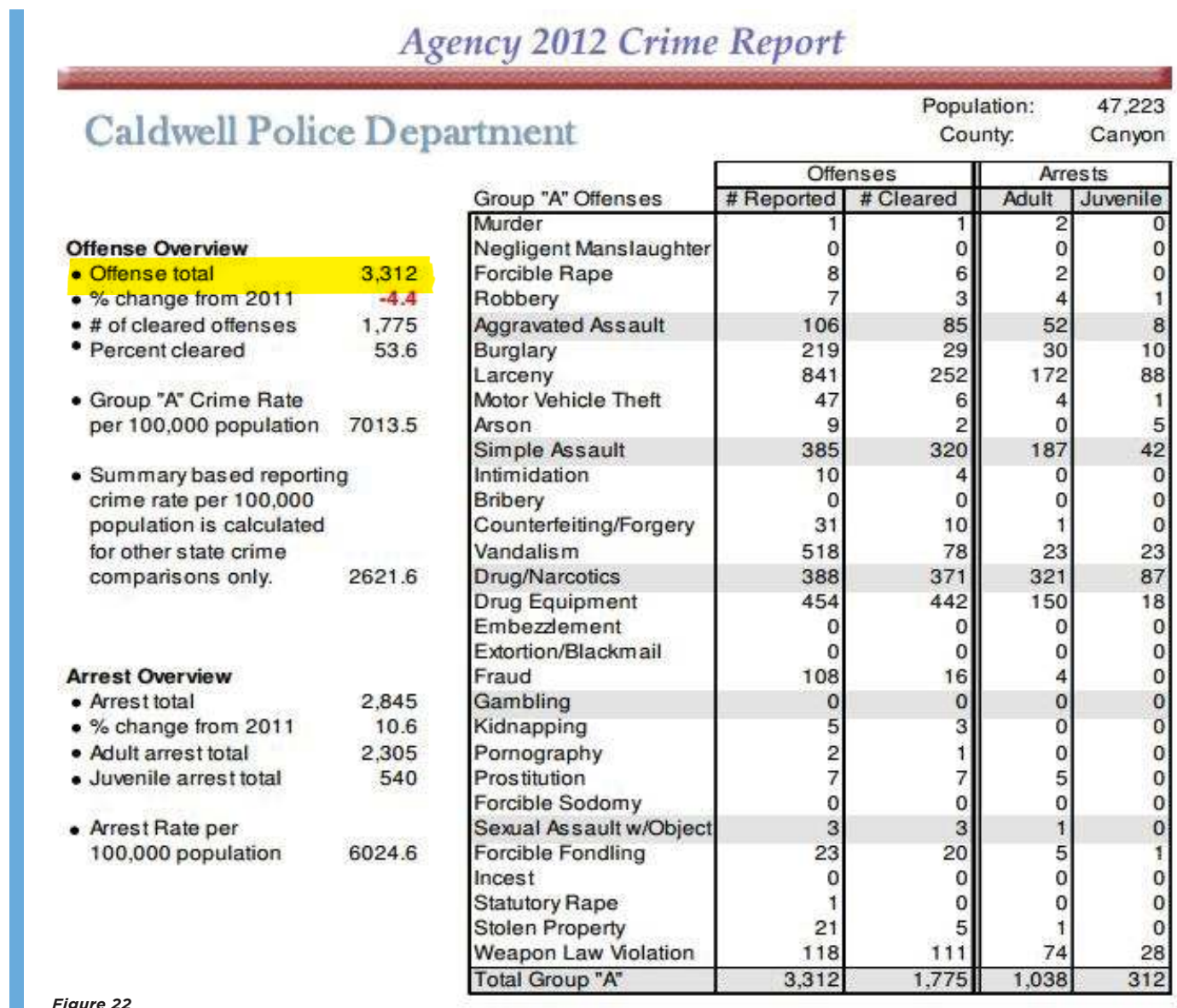


Figure 22

Agency 2013 Crime Report

Caldwell Police Department

Population: 48,069
County: Canyon

Offense Overview

- Offense total 3,286
- % change from 2012 -0.8
- # of cleared offenses 1,917
- Percent cleared 58.3

- Group "A" Crime Rate per 100,000 population 6836.0

- Summary based reporting crime rate per 100,000 population is calculated for other state crime comparisons only. 2654.5

Arrest Overview

- Arrest total 2,776
- % change from 2012 -2.4
- Adult arrest total 2,249
- Juvenile arrest total 527

- Arrest Rate per 100,000 population 5775.0

Group "A" Offenses	Offenses		Arrests	
	# Reported	# Cleared	Adult	Juvenile
Murder	0	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0
Rape	13	11	2	0
Robbery	6	4	5	0
Aggravated Assault	108	86	52	7
Burglary	193	43	63	14
Larceny	903	352	281	102
Motor Vehicle Theft	48	11	0	3
Arson	5	2	1	0
Simple Assault	346	292	216	32
Intimidation	21	11	1	1
Bribery	0	0	0	0
Counterfeiting/Forgery	32	8	5	1
Vandalism	445	85	23	15
Drug/Narcotics	441	417	370	75
Drug Equipment	485	465	170	33
Embezzlement	1	0	0	0
Extortion/Blackmail	1	1	0	0
Fraud	93	16	7	1
Gambling	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping	4	4	3	0
Pornography	3	0	0	0
Prostitution	0	0	0	0
Sodomy	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assault w/Object	6	5	5	1
Fondling	27	21	2	5
Incest	0	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	1	1	0	0
Stolen Property	21	5	2	0
Weapon Law Violation	83	77	33	18
Total Group "A"	3,286	1,917	1,241	308

Figure 23

Agency 2014 Crime Report

Caldwell Police Department

Population: 49,597
County: Canyon

Offense Overview

• Offense total	3,425
• % change from 2013	4.2
• # of cleared offenses	1,802
• Percent cleared	52.6

• Group "A" Crime Rate per 100,000 population 6905.7

• Summary based reporting crime rate per 100,000 population is calculated for other state crime comparisons only. 3151.4

Arrest Overview

• Arrest total	2,323
• % change from 2013	-16.3
• Adult arrest total	1,907
• Juvenile arrest total	416

• Arrest Rate per 100,000 population 4683.8

Group "A" Offenses	Offenses		Arrests	
	# Reported	# Cleared	Adult	Juvenile
Murder	1	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	1	0	0	0
Rape	8	6	0	0
Robbery	8	5	4	1
Aggravated Assault	140	109	59	2
Burglary	250	54	50	21
Larceny	1,046	324	274	75
Motor Vehicle Theft	97	13	0	2
Arson	13	7	1	0
Simple Assault	339	287	160	46
Intimidation	21	13	1	0
Bribery	0	0	0	0
Counterfeiting/Forgery	33	2	2	0
Vandalism	404	108	16	12
Drug/Narcotics	369	344	281	56
Drug Equipment	442	419	180	24
Embezzlement	6	1	0	0
Extortion/Blackmail	2	2	0	0
Fraud	104	6	5	0
Gambling	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping	2	2	1	0
Pornography	4	2	0	0
Prostitution	0	0	0	0
Sodomy	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assault w/Object	5	3	0	0
Fondling	28	23	9	7
Incest	0	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	1	0	0	0
Stolen Property	36	10	2	0
Weapon Law Violation	65	62	28	6
Total Group "A"	3,425	1,802	1,073	252

Figure 24

Report Narrative :

July:

Caldwell Police Department officers conducted a Sweep in July. Officers made 40 contacts, made two misdemeanor arrests, cited four for DWP, four for seat belt violations, one infraction and made two drug arrests.

SCU spent three hours on 7/31/12 going door to door in Hardy Estates in Area 2. Officers distributed 261 Gang Awareness flyers, identified three drug houses and two gang houses.

August:

On August 7, 2012, in conjunction with National Night Out, the Caldwell Police Departments Street Crimes Unit distributed 124 Gang Awareness flyers to residents of Weston Pointe subdivision in Area 2H, Stonegate subdivision in Area 3A, and Willow Falls subdivision in Area 3E. An additional 39 flyers were distributed to residents at the Stardust Mobile Home Park located at 818 N. Illinois. This area is known for Northside gangs and gang graffiti.

On August 23, 2012 four Caldwell Police officers and seven probation officers spent six hours conducting SCOAP visits. During this event, ten misdemeanor arrests were made and two warrants served. Officers documented five gang members and seized one drug pipe and .4 grams of marijuana.

Figure 25

Performance Measure Description :

1. Number of field interviews
2. Number of arrests (gang/other)
3. Number of gang members identified
4. Number of gang associates identified
5. Number of weapons seized
6. Number of drugs seized

Update Narrative :

1. Four Field Interview Cards
2. Sixteen arrests
3. Five gang members identified
4. Zero associates identified
5. Zero weapons seized
6. .4 grams marijuana seized, 2 drug pipes, 1 drug bong

Figure 26

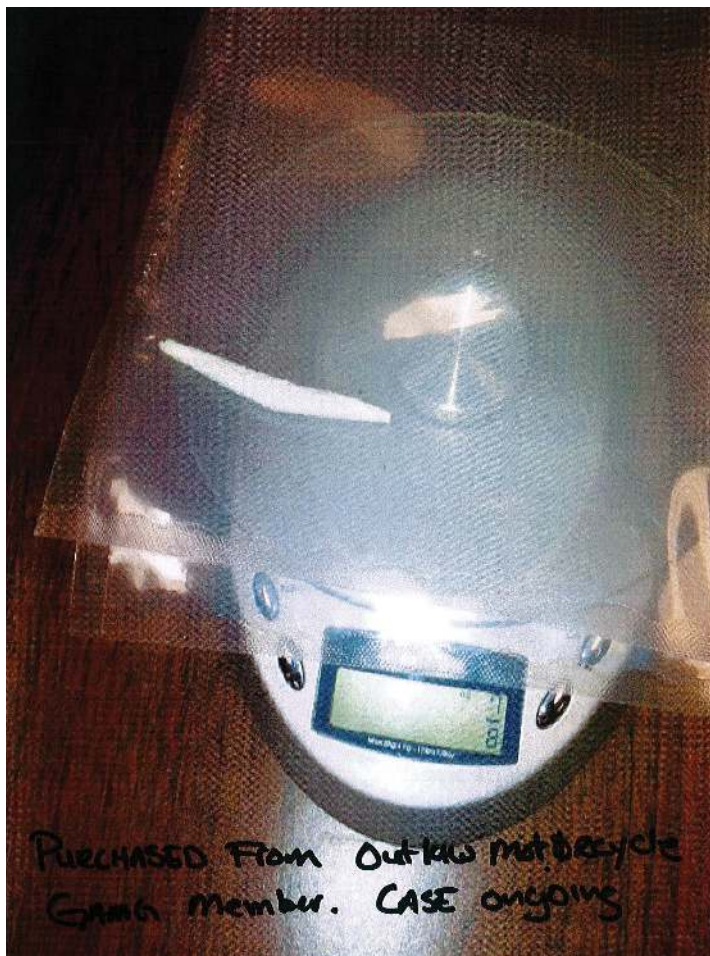


Figure 27

IDAHO STATE ARTS PLAN

WHAT IS THE GRANT?

The “Partnership Agreement” to support the Idaho State Arts Plan (45.025) is a federal grant administered by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) on an annual basis. Moving forward, the NEA has provided the state of Idaho with over \$1 million in available funds in both fiscal years 2016 and 2017. The program’s goal is to enrich Idahoans’ understanding of the fine and performing arts.

The Idaho State Arts Plan encompasses a variety of initiatives, from introducing waterfowl carving and rawhide braiding tutorials to sponsoring poetry competitions and “culture cafes” (e.g. art exhibition in local cafes). It also strives to uphold and strengthen the fine and performing arts in school curriculums—one example is the “Arts Powered Schools” initiative, which is responsible for exposing schoolchildren to artistic training classes, mentorships, and scholarships. See Figure 28 and 29.

HOW DOES IT AFFECT IDAHO?

The federal grant has strings attached—specifically, it has a matching component, meaning that the state of Idaho provides taxpayer money to the Idaho State Arts Plan in order to qual-

ify for federal money. In fiscal year 2016, for instance, the projected budget for the program was over \$1.5 million, but only \$751,800 of it is federal money. The rest is derived from Idaho state taxes. See Figure 30.

The program itself encompasses the entire state, from the largest cities to its more secluded rural parts. The Idaho State Arts Plan is responsible for the initiatives mentioned above—waterfowl carving, poetry competitions, “culture cafes,” and others—which are available to school-age children and adults.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

The federal funding of the Idaho State Arts Plan through the National Endowment for the Arts is not “free money”—the program requires Idaho taxpayers to sustain relevant expenses. As such, relatively obscure initiatives such as waterfowl carving, rawhide braiding, saddle-making, tribal weaving, silver engraving—all sponsored by the Idaho State Arts Plan—call into question the necessity of the program. So do poetry competitions and “culture cafes.” While they might improve artistic literacy—a follow-up assessment of the initiatives found no tangible outcome-based evidence—such efforts are also a drain on the state’s coffers.

Idaho Commission on the Arts, *Poetry Out Loud* Plan

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The Idaho Commission on the Arts’ Poetry Out Loud program is piloting an evolution in design for 2014-15 and proposing to implement the change on an ongoing basis in 2015-16. The new design is expected to better prepare students for the Idaho and National Finals, and be responsive to the needs of local competitions. The National Endowment for the Arts and Poetry Foundation provided inspiration for Idaho’s new design, with the sense of celebration they create in the large number of champions they gather together in Washington, DC for Nationals. Idaho school champions should have such an opportunity.

Figure 28

What's more, a closer look at the program's fiscal breakdown reveals that the majority of available funds are used to cover personnel-related expenditures. In fiscal year 2016, for example, \$673,800 of the roughly \$1.5 million in available funds was used to cover personnel costs; just

over \$167,000 was spent on travel, meetings, and other administrative costs. By comparison, "direct services" for relevant grant projects, such as sponsored poetry competitions and other extracurricular activities, only totaled \$160,400. See Figure 31.

GOAL THREE: *Provide practical arts business management and arts-learning information to Idahoans. (Status: Achieved)*

Program directors increasingly focus on artists' need for practical business information. Examples under Objective 3A include • collaborating with multiple local arts agencies to deliver visual arts marketing workshops in numerous Idaho locations • sponsoring Tom Jackson's stagecraft clinics for musicians at the Northwest Booking Conference • hosting crowd-funding workshops for artists and arts managers • partnering with *Idaho Writers' Update*, a popular online resource of writing events and opportunities, now reaching 500+ Idaho writers • and gathering masters of occupational trades in *Master-to-Master* workshops to learn from one another (beginning in 2010 with rawhide braiders, followed in 2012 with leather floral carvers, 2013 with silver engravers, and in 2014 with western saddlemakers.) [Creation, Livability]

The Commission contributes to arts education policy through Objectives 3B and its ongoing partnership with the Idaho State Dept. of Education to • continue the development of Humanities content standards • publish and distribute the 2010, *For Our Children: Report on the Status of Arts Education in Idaho* for education policymakers • and collaborate in the 2012 legislative passage of *House Concurrent Resolution 39*, placing arts education on the legislative agenda. [Learning, Understanding]

The Commission communicates arts learning under Objective 3C by • facilitating online lesson and information exchange through the *Arts Powered Schools' Peer Reflection Network* of teachers, administrators, and teaching artists • publishing and distributing the *Arts Powered Learning: An Idaho Arts Education Framework* for the state elementary arts curriculum • and conducting the annual *Arts Education Resource Forum* to help arts organizations effectively communicate their stories of arts education services for schools. [Learning, Understanding]

Achieving Objective 3D in 2014, all arts organizations now submit cash-flow reports with PPA grant final reports, providing current fiscal health information about the state's arts organizations for use by staff to prioritize business services and educate arts managers in cash-flow management and forecasting. [Engagement, Livability]

Figure 29

INCOME

Match

Cash: \$	751,800
In-Kind: \$	0

Total MATCH: \$	751,800
NEA GRANT*: \$	751,800
TOTAL PROJECT INCOME: \$	1,503,600

EXPENSES

Direct Costs

Salaries & Wages: \$	458,559
Fringe: \$	205,450
Travel: \$	26,000
Other: \$	813,591

Total DIRECT Costs: \$	1,503,600
INDIRECT Costs: \$	0

TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES: \$	1,503,600
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Figure 30

BUDGET CHART

Idaho Commission on the Arts, State Partnership Agreement FY 2016 Projected Budget		Total \$ Amount	Legislatively Determined	Arts Education	Underserved
Personnel & Administration					
	<i>Description</i>				
Personnel	10 FTE supporting: 41% on Admin.; 34% on Direct Services; & 25% on Grant Services	673,800	Y		
Administration	Travel, mtgs., staff devel., leases, printing, postage, website, computers, memberships, gen. office	167,100			
Subtotal		840,900			
Direct Services					
	<i>Description</i>				
Community Devel.	Cultural Vitality Index	5,000			
Community Devel.	Arts Northwest, NW Booking Conf. tri-state contract	7,000			
Community Devel.	Change Leader Institute; Community Cultural Plng.	21,000			Y
Community Devel., Artist Services	Travel Sppt. to NW Booking Conf. for Idaho touring artists and presenters	5,000			Y
Artist Services	Fellowship Exhibits & Publicity	3,500			Y
Artist Services, Arts Ed., Literature	Convenings: tech. asst. workshops; Arts Ed. Forum; Readers & Writers Rendezvous	11,000		Y	Y
Literature	Idaho Writer's Update e-newsletter	2,000			Y
Literature	Idaho Writer-in-Residence support	4,400			Y
Literature	Latitudes newsletter	15,000			Y
Folk & Trad. Arts	Folk Arts, Master-to-Master workshops	10,000			Y
Folk & Trad. Arts	Folk Arts, Community Scholar fieldwork	3,000			Y
Folk & Trad. Arts	Folk Arts, Story Quilts Traveling Exhibit	5,000			Y
Folk & Trad. Arts	Folk Arts, Archive	5,000			Y
Arts Education	Arts Ed, ArtsPowered Schools Institute	41,000		Y	Y
Arts Education	Arts Education documentation	2,000		Y	
Arts Education	Idaho Art Educators Assn. conference sppt.	2,000		Y	
Arts Education	Idaho PTA Reflections Program sppt.	1,000		Y	
Arts Education	Poetry Out Loud	17,500		Y	
Subtotal		160,400			
Grant Services					
	<i>Description</i>				
For Organizations	Public Programs in the Arts/Entry Track	252,000			
For Organizations	Cultural Facilities & Public Art	20,000			
For Orgs. & Artists	QuickFunds, projects, prof. dev. & tech asst.	50,000		Y	Y
For Artists	Artist Fellowships	25,000			Y
For Artists	Traditional Arts Apprenticeships	12,000			Y
For Orgs. & Schls.	Tumblewords, Teen Parent Program	6,000			Y
For Orgs. & Schls.	Arts Education Projects	142,000		Y	Y
Subtotal		507,000			
Total		1,508,300			

Figure 31



IDAHOFREEDOM.ORG