

# VALLEY COUNTY

## Valley County Opioid Response Project



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## **Health Resources & Services Administration Funding**

**2018-2019 1-year, \$200,000, HRSA Rural Communities Opioid Response Planning Grant**

**2020-2023 3-year, \$1,000,000 HRSA Rural Communities Opioid Response Implementation II Grant**

**2022-2026 4-year, \$2,000,000 HRSA Rural Communities Opioid Response Behavioral Health Grant**

**2025-2028 3-year, \$1,200,000 HRSA Rural Communities Opioid Response Pathways Grant**

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## VISION

We envision a community where individuals thrive, develop resiliency, and live to their full potential.

## MISSION

To mobilize community strengths to improve the physical and mental well-being of youth, families, and individuals through innovative initiatives in the West Central Mountains.

## VALUES

Collaboration | Compassion | Excellence | Inclusiveness |  
Adventurousness

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# ABOUT VCORP

## AN INTRODUCTION



- Uses a multidimensional, interdisciplinary, community-based approach to address opioid use behavioral health in Valley & Adams County
  - Leverages different community services and supports through its membership and partners
  - Create sustainable systemic and environmental change to address opioid use disorder (OUD)
  - Member meetings and Steering Committee meetings held monthly
  - Established bylaws
  - Led by the Steering Committee
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# **VCORP STEERING COMMITTEE**

**Lyle Nelson**, Member-at-Large  
**Patty Giardina**, Prevention Chair  
**Crystal Ormsby**, Treatment Chair  
**Traci Jamieson**, Recovery Chair  
**Shelly Hitt**, Project Director

# AGENCY VOTING PARTNERS



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- Anew Life Coaching
  - Area Health Education Center- Southwest Idaho
  - Boise State University
  - Cascade School District
  - Central District Health
  - Central Idaho Counseling
  - City of McCall
  - City of New Meadows
  - Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections
  - Idaho West Central Mountain Youth Advocacy Coalition (YAC)
  - Ignite Idaho
  - Project ECHO at the University of Idaho
  - Rise 2 Thrive
  - Southwest District Health
  - St. Luke's McCall
  - Valley County
  - Valley County Sheriff
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## MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1.0 FTE Project Director
- Grant management
- Program infrastructure
- Coordination of VCORP meetings and activities
- Reporting to HRSA
- Sustainability
- Financial management/oversight
- Anti-Stigma Campaign



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# Other VCORP Responsibilities

- Letters of Support for County Opioid Funding
  - Monthly Subgrantee Meetings
  - Anti-Stigma Campaign
  - Strategic Planning
  - Health District Coordination
  - Training Scholarships
  - Overdose Prevention Training
  - Drug Take Back Day
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# Courage to Connect



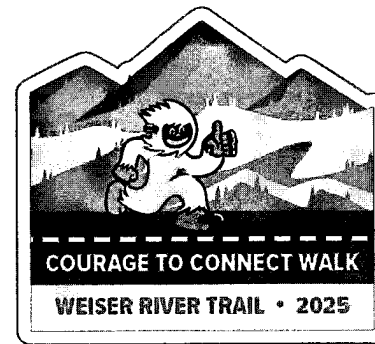
- Mental Health Stigma Reduction
- Media Subcommittee
- <https://couragetconnectidaho.com/>
- Zeb
- Annual June Education Event
- Adams County Health Action Team (ACHAT) Community Awareness Walk
- Wellness/Resource Journals
- Animated Naloxone Admin Video

Hi there! I'm Zeb the Yeti!

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# Courage to Connect





**BOISE STATE  
UNIVERSITY**



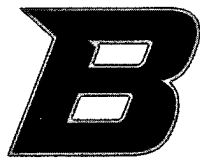
#### **PROGRAM EVALUATION**

Royce Hutson, PhD, MSW  
Associate Professor  
Boise State University  
School of Social Work

Assists sub-grantees in the development of  
performance measures.

#### **DATA COLLECTION & REPORTING**

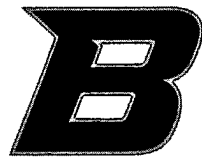
- Youth Focus Groups
- Ripple Mapping
- Community Focus Groups
- Community Presentations
- Program Evaluation



**BOISE STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

**Suicides in Valley County  
1/1 – 8/31, 2025**

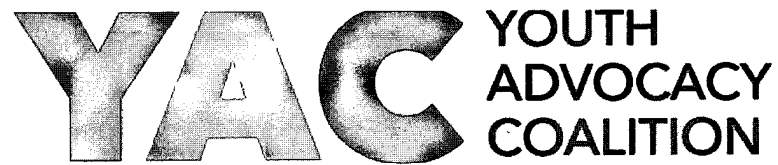
- 7 Total
- 5 of 7 had positive drug and/or alcohol toxicology
- One from apparent overdose
- 5 of 7 from gunshot wound to the head
- 1 minor (15 y/o)
- 2 twenty-somethings



**BOISE STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

**Strategic Planning 2025  
Ripple Mapping Evaluation**

- Social connection and social capital continues to be a strength of VCORP
- The overall reputation within both local and federal government officials has improved remarkably since the last Ripple Mapping Exercise in 2023
- The grant writings successes of VCORP are directly tied to the strong coordination and collaboration between partnering organizations, CDH, and government.
- Challenges in housing, transportation, and lack of professional mental health providers remain



## Behavioral Health Grant

### YOUTH SURVEYS

- 2021-Surveyed 60 students
- 2023- surveyed 200 students across 5 schools
- 2025- surveyed 500 students across 6 schools
- Communities for Youth

### COMMUNITY COALITIONS

- Cascade
- McCall/Donnelly
- Meadows Valley
- Afterschool programming
- Policy Change
- Community Connection
- Community Youth Advisory Boards

### HOPE SQUAD

- 25/26 Hope Squad (suicide prevention)- 10 schools across the region with 120 Hope Squad members
- Recognizing warning signs.
- Knowing when and how to get help.
- Knowing what to do for a friend contemplating suicide.
- Can identify at least three trusted adults they could turn to.



FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

# Ignite's Services Behavioral Health Grant

## RESOURCE CENTER

- Community members can walk in, call, or fill out an online referral form for help
- Strong partnerships with community partners, including law enforcement

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- Counseling for uninsured and underinsured
- Mobile in-home behavioral health services
- Recovery wellness support groups
- Teen support groups
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)

## FAMILY SERVICES

- Parenting Classes
- Childcare





FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

# Ignite's Growth Behavioral Health Grant



## EXPANSION

- Approximately 5,000 sq ft office space in McCall
- Expansion to Cascade at the community center
- Expansion to New Meadows at the new youth center building



## PEOPLE SERVED

- 200 program participants in 2022-2023
- Average of 30 monthly walk-ins in 2022-2023
- 500 program participants in 2024-2025
- Average of 200 monthly walk-ins in 2024-2025



## MENTAL HEALTH OUTCOMES

- Everyone is screened for substance use concerns, anxiety, and depression
- We are tracking improvement in anxiety and depressive symptoms in youth



# Pathways Grant



**IGNITE IDAHO**

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER



## Area Health Education Center SWID

- Mental Health Careers Academy
- Deliver a five-week-long long summer curriculum
- 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students
- Virtual – Kahoot Platform
- Youth Internships/Stipends
- College Credit
- Partner with schools, Ignite Idaho & YAC
- [www.idahoahhec.org](http://www.idahoahhec.org)

## Ignite Idaho

- Youth Mentorship
- Youth Internships/Stipends
- Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Shadowing

## YAC

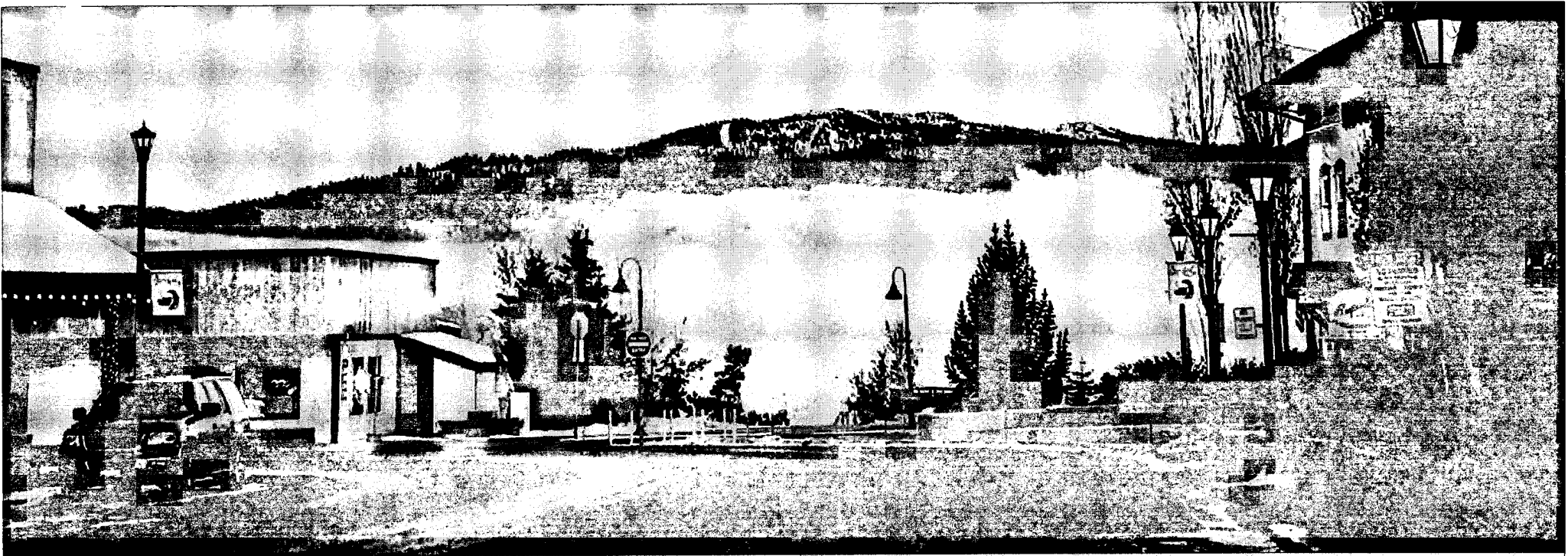
- Hope Squad Mentorship
- CYAB expanded to Cascade
- Table Talks



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**If everyone is moving forward together,  
then success takes care of itself.**

HENRY FORD



**CONTACT**

SHELLY HITT

[shitt@cdh.idaho.gov](mailto:shitt@cdh.idaho.gov)

208-215-5262

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**Thank you!**

**Questions?**

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**Vision**

We envision a community where all individuals opportunity to thrive, develop resiliency, and live to their full potential.

**Mission**

To mobilize community strengths to improve the physical and mental well-being of youth, and families through innovative initiatives in the West Central Mountains.

**Values**

Collaboration | Compassion | Excellence | Inclusiveness | Adventurousness

Date: October 14, 2025

To: Traci Jamieson

Ignite Idaho Executive Director

Re: Letter of Support for Crisis Response Program Funding

Dear Traci,

On behalf of the Valley County Opioid Response Project (VCORP) Consortium, we are pleased to provide this letter of support for your request for funding to sustain and expand your crisis response program in Valley County.

**Summary of Support:**

Your crisis response program provides vital, timely intervention for individuals and families experiencing behavioral health crises, including mental health, substance use, and domestic violence emergencies. The program's impact—averaging 19 crisis responses per month—has made it a critical resource for local law enforcement, schools, and community partners. Your request for funding to ensure two qualified providers are available on-call during nights and weekends will further enhance safety and effectiveness for both clients and staff.

**Consortium Recommendations and Contingencies:**

During our October 14, 2025 meeting, the VCORP Consortium discussed your proposal in detail and voted to support your request with the following recommendations and contingencies:

1. Sustainability Planning: Continue to pursue long-term sustainability through partnerships with state and regional funders (e.g., Magellan, state crisis response funds), and explore additional grant opportunities.
2. Data Collection and Outcome Tracking: Maintain robust data collection on crisis response outcomes, including hospitalizations prevented, cost savings, and community impact, to support future funding requests and demonstrate return on investment.
3. Collaboration and Partnerships: Continue to strengthen partnerships with law enforcement, schools, healthcare providers, and other community organizations to ensure coordinated, effective crisis response and follow-up care.
4. Community Education and Outreach: Expand efforts to educate the community about available crisis services, referral pathways, and the importance of early intervention.
5. Transparency and Communication: Keep the Consortium and the Board of Commissioners informed of program progress, challenges, and any significant changes to service delivery or funding.

**Important Note:**

This letter of support reflects the Consortium's recommendation that Ignite Idaho's crisis response program addresses a critical need in our community and meets the criteria for consideration. However, it does not guarantee funding. The final decision rests with the Valley County Board of Commissioners.

We commend your dedication, innovation, and collaborative approach to behavioral health crisis response, and we look forward to continued partnership in serving the Valley County community.

Sincerely,

Shelly E. Hitt

Project Director, VCORP Consortium

[slhitt@cdh.idaho.gov](mailto:slhitt@cdh.idaho.gov), 208-412-3957



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September 12, 2025

Dear VCORP Steering Committee,

Ignite Idaho Family Resource Center is writing to respectfully request \$52,000 of the opioid settlement funds to expand our Crisis Response Team by adding a second crisis responder to be available 24/7. Due to the increasing volume and intensity of crisis calls in our rural region, it has become essential to have two responders on-call at all times to ensure the safety, support, and stabilization of individuals experiencing behavioral health or substance use crises. Industry practice advises that crisis calls should never be attended alone. In the past two months, Valley County has had four suicides; there have been at least six suicides over the past six months. Crisis services are vital at this time.

Ignite Idaho Family Resource Center has a fully insured and credentialed behavioral health clinic based out of McCall with the ability to mobilize services to surrounding areas as well. We currently operate our Crisis Response Team, which has already proven to be an invaluable resource to Valley County and the West Central Mountains. From July 2024 through June 2025, we responded to 144 crises, these crises included suicide attempts, acute substance use incidents, domestic violence situations, law enforcement initiated welfare checks, and more.

This past month, when a local youth tragically died by suicide, Ignite Idaho's Crisis Response Team was dispatched by Sheriff Copperi and arrived on scene within 25 minutes. Our team's immediate response not only helped reduce the workload on the Sheriff's Department, but also provided vital support to the grieving family and connected them with community resources for ongoing care. This illustrates the urgent need for a second responder, as the demands of these crisis situations are often too great for one individual to manage alone.

We have built strong partnerships with Valley County Sheriff's Office, McCall Police Department, Cascade Medical Center, St. Luke's Hospital, and the McCall-Donnelly and Cascade School Districts. These partnerships allow us to collaborate seamlessly to provide higher-level care for individuals in crisis while reducing unnecessary



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incarceration, emergency room admissions, and the need for Health and Welfare involvement whenever possible.

The demand for services has outpaced our capacity. With only one responder, there are often situations where simultaneous crises occur, or the safety of both staff and clients requires at least two trained responders. Adding a second on-call responder ensures:

- Increased safety during volatile or high-risk crisis interventions.
- More comprehensive support to individuals and families in acute crises.
- Reduced response time and expanded coverage when multiple calls come in simultaneously.
- Stronger collaboration with law enforcement, schools, and hospitals that already depend on us to provide behavioral health and support services and resources.
- Decreased reliance on Health and Welfare interventions by resolving crises locally and connecting individuals directly to appropriate care.

Although we applied for a HRSA grant through Central District Health for Crisis Response, we were not awarded funding. This request is not a duplication of services for any of our other grants, including our Behavioral Health Grant through HRSA. Currently, we have secured \$52,000 in funding from the Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation, which allows us to sustain one on-call responder. However, this funding is not sufficient to meet the rising demand, and it does not provide the resources necessary to ensure two responders are available around the clock.

Our request for \$52,000 from the opioid settlement funds will allow us to hire and sustain this second responder position to meet the growing needs of our community. This aligns directly with the Opioid Settlement Act, Exhibit A, particularly:

- Part One, Section B: providing the full continuum of care for individuals with OUD and co-occurring mental health conditions, including crisis response, peer support, case management, and connection to community resources.
- Part One, Section A: expanding availability of treatment and timely interventions for OUD and co-occurring conditions, preventing overdose deaths and stabilizing





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individuals in moments of highest risk.

Ignite Idaho Family Resource Center remains committed to reducing barriers to treatment and ensuring that every individual in Valley County has access to compassionate, evidence-based crisis intervention. With these funds, we will strengthen our ability to respond rapidly, effectively, and safely saving lives, reducing strain on law enforcement and healthcare systems, and decreasing the need for Health and Welfare involvement.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this vital request for our vulnerable community members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Traci Jamieson".

Traci Jamieson, LCPC  
Executive Director  
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