

2024

IDAHO COMMERCE

ANNUAL REPORT





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FROM THE DIRECTOR

At Idaho Commerce, we move at the speed of business to meet our Idaho businesses' ever-changing, ever-evolving needs.

Idaho has seen unprecedented growth and ranks among the top in the nation for jobs, income, business and tourism growth. To address this growth, in FY2024 our department reorganized, consolidated and added additional focus on strategic industries and rural Idaho.

Combining our Business Retention and Expansion and International teams, we formed a new Business Development Services team. The team will lead initiatives aimed at supporting, retaining and expanding Idaho businesses.

Additionally, a new Rural Services team was formed to expand our support for rural Idaho. The team will advise and strengthen rural communities and over 180,000 small businesses through various initiatives and programs such as the Idaho Gem Grant, Idaho Main Street Program and more.

The Idaho Office of Broadband (IOB) continues to monitor and administer the Idaho Broadband Fund Grant Program, which awarded \$26.3 million in FY2023 and Capital Projects Fund (CPF), which awarded \$120 million in FY2024. In FY2025, IOB will deploy the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program, which will award nearly \$600 million and in FY2024, awarded \$500,000 in planning grant funds.

Furthering our involvement and impact in Idaho's communities, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) awarded nearly \$11 million to community projects across Idaho. The Community Development team also awarded an additional \$430,000 through the Rural Community Investment Fund (RCIF). These grant programs fund critical community infrastructure projects in the state.

Economic and community development has many facets and does not happen in a vacuum. Development happens because of teamwork, coordination and working with partners at the local, state and federal levels through shared priorities and initiatives.

This shared focus was mirrored at the annual Idaho Rural Success Summit. The third annual Idaho Rural Success Summit was held in Fort Hall in May 2024, and over 250 attended from across the state, representing a variety of regions, industries and levels of government.

Idaho is a business-friendly state with low taxes, limited regulation and efficient infrastructure. Our workforce is one of the best in the nation with grit and a strong work ethic. Additionally, our performance incentives are smart and fiscally responsible.

The Idaho Tax Reimbursement Incentive (TRI) celebrated a decade as a powerful tool that fuels economic development in Idaho. From FY2015 through FY2024, the Idaho Economic Advisory Council (EAC) has approved 96 TRI projects. Once the projects are completed, their investments are estimated to create over 18,000 jobs across the state and generate over \$1.3 billion in direct state tax revenue. With an average project wage of over \$54,882, these new jobs are above the statewide average annual wage.

Idaho offers endless places to recreate, as such, it is no surprise that this year marks another successful year for Idaho's third-largest industry - travel and tourism. In FY2024, lodging tax collections generated \$21.7 million, a 2.4% increase from FY2023. The Idaho Travel Council awarded \$9.8 million, 45% of the total collections, to grantees throughout the state through the Idaho Regional Travel and Convention Grant.

Finally, none of our department's accomplishments would be possible without Idaho Commerce's fiscal, grants and compliance teams. These teams are essential to ensuring our department runs efficiently, effectively and responsibly.

As Idaho continues to grow, Idaho Commerce remains committed to serving the people, businesses and communities that call Idaho home. Please read our full report for a more comprehensive look at our department's accomplishments this fiscal year.



TOM KEALEY
Director, Idaho Commerce



OUR MISSION

As the lead economic development agency for the State of Idaho, the mission of Idaho Commerce is to foster a business-friendly environment to aid in quality job creation, support existing companies, strengthen communities, promote innovation and market Idaho domestically and internationally.



- Promote Good Trade Policy
- Market & Promote Idaho
- Support Rural Idaho
- Support Existing Businesses
- Strategic Business Attraction
- Advance Technology Ecosystem & Increase Broadband Connectivity

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The Idaho Commerce team moves at the speed of business, constantly evolving to best meet the needs of Idaho communities and businesses. In response to this ever-shifting, ever-changing need, in FY2024 Idaho Commerce established a new Business Development team.

Although the Business Development team is new, its services are not. The team combines the previous Business Retention and Expansion team and International team duties - including management of the State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) Grant - and places additional emphasis on Idaho's regions and emerging industries.

The Business Development team leads strategic initiatives aimed at supporting, retaining and expanding individual Idaho businesses. Through the strategic development of industry clusters, domestic and international marketing, business engagement and community outreach, the team supports Idaho's entrepreneurial spirit and fosters a thriving business ecosystem.

Industries of focus include advanced technology, innovation, entrepreneurial ventures, advanced energy, healthcare technologies, aerospace, agritech, food



technology, natural resources, outdoor recreation, defense technology and more.

Along with determining new team initiatives and focuses, in FY2024 the Business Development team completed nine major international trade shows and one trade mission, serving 28 unique Idaho companies. The team organized and completed 220 export consulting and diplomatic meetings, as well as facilitated over 297 export and import inquiries. The Idaho trade offices in Mexico and Asia assisted Idaho companies in facilitating nearly \$19 million in export sales.

FY2024 STEP AWARD OVERVIEW

The STEP grant is funded through a grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and is administered by Idaho Commerce.

Since 2011, Idaho has received STEP awards, making funds available to qualifying Idaho companies for international marketing campaigns to export their products.

Program objectives are to increase the number of small businesses that export, increase the value of exports and increase the number of small businesses exploring significant new trade opportunities. Participants must meet SBA eligibility requirements to participate in STEP-funded programs.

The State of Idaho received \$319,000 for the STEP Year 10 (September 30, 2022 - September 29, 2023), and all federal funds were expended. In this grant cycle, 44 companies participated, 13 of which were new to the program. Over 50% of the activities were conducted by companies that are women-owned, veteran-owned, or rural and economically disadvantaged businesses. The return on investment for this award was \$13.45 : \$1 for over 60 projects.

The team is finalizing STEP Year 11 (September 30, 2023 - September 29, 2024), which had an award amount of \$233,000. The final results are still being reported, but as of writing this, results show an ROI of \$61.24 : \$1. This ROI is nearly 2.5 times higher than last year's national average for STEP, further showcasing the incredible impact STEP funding has on Idaho's companies and the economy. Grant awards for company-led STEP activities can be found on page 4.

STEP Financial Assistance Awards (FAA) are available to qualifying companies seeking support in various international trade activities such as foreign market sales trips, governor or foreign trade missions and international or domestic trade shows.

The STEP Idaho Online Global Program (OGP) is available to qualifying companies seeking support with international websites and e-commerce.

The U.S. Commercial Service (USCS) is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration, offering companies a full range of expertise in international trade. The Business Development team works with the local USCS office to offer services to eligible small businesses.

CUTTING EDGE BULLETS FINDS SUCCESS AND SALES AT ENFORCE TAC

With a name that is very aptly given, Cutting Edge Bullets products separate themselves from nearly everything else on the market.

In over 15 years, Cutting Edge Bullets has made a name for itself with its unique product offerings, but according to Vice President of Operations Bob Savard, recently the company had begun to consider expanding its presence overseas.

With assistance from the STEP grant program, Cutting Edge Bullets received a FAA grant to attend the Enforce Tac Trade Show in Nuremberg, Germany on February 26 - 28, 2024.

The show brings together a variety of exhibitors from the security and armed forces industries. In addition to Cutting Edge Bullets, Idaho companies WMD Tech, Genesis Arms and Primary Weapons Systems also attended.

Savard said receiving the STEP grant to cover booth costs made the decision to attend Enforce Tac easy.

“The big impact was the booth cost for Enforce Tac being covered,” Savard said. “It really helped push us over the fence, we are glad we did it. It was a good deal and ultimately, we did make a lot of good contacts at Enforce Tac. It was definitely worth our time.”

Since attending the show in February, Savard reported their international sales from the show totaled \$802,000 and he expects that number to continue to increase.

Savard said with all the success from Enforce Tac, he

PHOTO COURTESY: CUTTING EDGE BULLETS



FOUR IDAHO COMPANIES ATTENDED ENFORCE TAC, INCLUDING CUTTING EDGE BULLETS.



FY2024 STEP 11 GRANT AWARDS*

STEP FUNDING	AWARD	RECIPIENT
Financial Assistance Award	\$10,800	Aviation Specialties Unlimited Inc.
	\$5,700	Snowbound Solutions
	\$7,600	21st Century Scientific Inc.
	\$8,800	Industrial Ventilation Inc.
	\$3,700	LRP Group
	\$9,300	Liberty Lubricants
	\$6,200	Snacktivist
	\$10,200	Genesis Arms
	\$8,300	Bishop Ammunition & Firearms
	\$9,600	Cutting Edge Bullets
	\$9,000	HMI Hamilton Manufacturing Inc.
	\$10,800	ATC Manufacturing
	\$4,200	Cognito Brands Inc.
	\$5,223	Hops Ops
	\$10,400	Plant Therapy
	\$9,300	Wild Rye Inc.
	Online Global Program	\$8,100
\$8,100		ATC Manufacturing
\$8,100		Crease Inc.
\$7,600		HMI Hamilton Manufacturing Inc.
\$6,750		Cutting Edge Bullets
\$4,374		Wild Rye Inc.
USCS Services	\$1,720	Solar Tools USA
	\$1,160	ATC Manufacturing
	\$1,440	Oxyfresh Worldwide Inc.
	\$796	Plant Therapy
	\$720	Patriot Energy Systems LLC
	\$560	Snowbound Solutions LLC
	\$1,000	Plant Therapy
	\$760	Snowbound Solutions LLC
TOTAL	\$180,303	

*FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR, STEP GRANT 11
NOTE: TABLE DOES NOT INCLUDE STATE-LED STEP ACTIVITIES

looks forward to working with Idaho Commerce to attend future shows.

“I would say it is a win-win,” Savard said. “There is a lot of the headaches of traveling to new countries, doing new shows and Idaho Commerce really helped negate all those issues so it was not a problem.”

RURAL SERVICES

With over 88% of the state classified as rural, in FY2024 Idaho Commerce created a new Rural Services team to expand the department’s involvement and support of rural Idaho.

The Rural Services team will support and strengthen rural communities and over 180,000 small businesses through a variety of initiatives and programs including the Idaho Gem Grant, Idaho Main Street Program, Rural Economic Development Professionals (Rural ED Pro) Program, Idaho Rural Success Summit and the

Rural Impact Strategy. This new team will also manage the Idaho Rural Partnership (IRP) – which through legislation passed in FY2024 – will be housed within Commerce. A new IRP Board has been formed with 18 members. Idaho’s rural communities and businesses are the heart of Idaho, and this new IRP Board and its resources will support rural Idaho’s growth.

IDAHO GEM GRANT

The Idaho Gem Grant is available to local governments of rural communities with populations of 10,000 or less and can be leveraged to plan and implement projects that create and retain jobs.

In FY2024, the team awarded 13 Gem Grants for a total of \$555,193 for infrastructure projects across the state.

FY2024 IDAHO GEM GRANT AWARDS



APPLICANT	AWARD	MATCH	TOTAL	PROJECT
Deary	\$50,000	\$10,000	\$60,000	Downtown engineering
Weiser	\$50,000	\$285,000	\$335,000	Water infrastructure
Marsing	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$150,000	Fitness court
Soda Springs	\$25,000	\$10,000	\$35,000	Infrastructure for a car dealership
Shoshone County	\$50,000	\$35,000	\$85,000	Park and recreation area parking
Grangeville	\$50,000	\$88,550	\$138,550	Art pavilion in the park
City of Orofino	\$50,000	\$10,000	\$60,000	Design for an adventure park
Pierce	\$16,325	\$4,082	\$20,407	Park restroom
Horseshoe Bend	\$35,000	\$24,900	\$59,900	Park planning and utility construction
Sandpoint	\$50,000	\$404,000	\$454,000	Skate park lighting
Valley County	\$35,000	\$70,000	\$105,000	Housing gap analysis
Stanley	\$43,871	\$6,500	\$50,371	Skate rink relocation
Idaho County	\$49,997	\$10,018	\$60,015	Hospital security doors
TOTALS	\$555,193	\$1,058,050	\$1,613,243	



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF MARSING
THE NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART FITNESS FACILITY IN OWYHEE COUNTY WILL BE OPEN TO ALL RESIDENTS.

IDAHO GEM GRANT FUNDS FITNESS FACILITY IN OWYHEE COUNTY

In FY2024, Owyhee Health Coalition, in partnership with the City of Marsing, successfully applied for and was awarded an Idaho Gem Grant to fund the Owyhee County Fitness Court.

The city was awarded \$50,000 in Gem Grant funds, with \$100,000 in matching funds to install the fitness court.

According to Jolyn Thompson, City Clerk for the City of Marsing, the goal of the fitness court was to provide a state-of-the-art fitness facility accessible to anyone, regardless of age or fitness level.

As of writing this report, the city just held its groundbreaking ceremony and the fitness court slab is being poured. The city hopes to open the court by next year.

“The Idaho Gem Grant is important because it is a vital funding program that supports rural economic development projects in Idaho,” Thompson said. **“By providing up to \$50,000 in matching funds, the grant enables towns and counties to undertake projects like the Owyhee County Fitness Court that enhance the quality of life and install infrastructure improvements, which might otherwise be unaffordable for rural communities.”**

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS PROGRAM

Amplifying its economic development efforts through the Rural Economic Development Professionals (Rural ED Pro) grant program, the Rural

Services team partners with 17 experts located in Idaho’s seven regions. Rural communities can tap into the Idaho Rural ED Pro grant program which awards grants, in tandem with local funding, to hire full-time economic development professionals. Experts are managed by a local board and work on initiatives such as business retention, expansion, attraction and more.

The team awarded 17 Rural ED Pro grants in FY2024 totaling \$466,100.

FY2024 RURAL ED PRO AWARDS



APPLICANT	RURAL ED PRO	POPULATION	AWARD
Benewah County	Aaron Nelson	10,277	\$30,000
Blaine County	Harry Griffith	25,606	\$24,100
Bonner County	Brent Baker	51,428	\$30,000
Boundary County	David Sims	12,821	\$30,000
Clearwater County	Susan Jacobson	9,022	\$30,000
Custer County	Jolie Turek	4,544	\$28,000
Fruitland	Kristen Nieskens	38,859	\$25,000
Glenns Ferry	Christy Acord	2,438	\$16,000
Greenleaf	David Lincoln	43,349	\$15,000
Idaho County	Tim McDonald	21,127	\$30,000
Lemhi County	Tammy Stringham	8,287	\$28,000
Oneida County	Molly Beseris	33,780	\$30,000
Power County	Kristen Jensen	11,867	\$30,000
Shoshone County	Paige Olsen	14,008	\$30,000
Teton County	Brian McDermott	12,508	\$30,000
Twin Falls County	Cheryl Viola	42,268	\$30,000
Valley County	Lindsey Harris	14,250	\$30,000
TOTAL			\$466,100



RESIDENTS OF MALAD TAKE PART IN AN ACTIVITY AT MALAD CITY PARK.

RURAL ED PRO ASSISTS WITH UPDATES TO MALAD CITY PARK

Since the late 1990s, the City of Malad has made it a goal to develop Malad City Park into a flourishing center of activity for the community.

Over the years, utilizing a master plan created in 2013, the city has made continued improvements to the park, adding a walking path, planting new trees, adding an outdoor amphitheater and more.

In recent years, Rural Economic Development Professional at 4CASI, Molly Beseris, with the help of local leaders, has continued this progress.

In the fall of 2022, the City of Malad became a designated Age-Friendly Community. 4CASI led this program for the community, assisting them in putting together a 5-year Age-Friendly Community Plan. This plan identifies and supports activities in the community for all ages.

Additionally, the city was seeking funding for a pickleball court to be installed in the park. The Community Challenge Grant from AARP was applied for and awarded to assist with the construction of the new court.

Malad was also awarded the Community Health Academy Grant from the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation and installed an outdoor fitness center in the park.

Other recent improvements to the park funded by residents and local businesses, and made possible by strong partnerships and leadership in the city, include a disc golf course, lighting for the walking path, a splash pad and a new restroom facility that were all installed in 2022.

“As a small town, we wanted a place where people could meet to enjoy one another’s company, where children could safely play,” Beseris said. “This park is enjoyed by everyone, from senior citizens to youngsters. It is a place to gather for community events and family reunions, or just individually to take a walk around the greenbelt.”

Beseris said this project is a great example of why Rural ED Pros are so important.

“Rural communities often lack the specialized expertise found in larger urban areas,” Beseris said. “By fostering sustainable economic growth, the Rural ED Pro can help rural communities build a stronger foundation for the future. This includes supporting local businesses, promoting entrepreneurship and diversifying the economy.”



OVER 250 ATTENDED THE 2024 IDAHO RURAL SUCCESS SUMMIT IN FORT HALL.

RURAL COMMUNITY LEADERS AND BUSINESSES ATTEND 2024 IDAHO RURAL SUCCESS SUMMIT

Over 250 attendees representing Idaho cities, counties, state government agencies, business owners and other community organizations attended the third-annual Idaho Rural Success Summit on May 1 - 2, 2024.

Over the two-day event, Lieutenant Governor Scott Bedke provided opening remarks that were followed by presentations, panels and speakers focusing on rural business, community health, housing, agriculture, infrastructure and workforce.

Other notable keynote speakers included Shoshone-Bannock Tribe Chairman Lee Juan Tyler; Board Director for the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco Skip Oppenheimer; U.S. Small Business

Administration Associate Administrator of the Office of Entrepreneurial Development Mark Madrid; USDA Senior Advisor for Rural Engagement, Delivery and Prosperity Cindy Axne and many more.

In addition to the presentations, the summit provided an opportunity to participate in a resource fair and network with other attendees from across the state.

“The Idaho Rural Success Summit is a one-of-a-kind event,” Idaho Governor Brad Little said. “As the backbone of our state, rural communities and businesses need to be supported. I am proud of all we are doing at the state level to strengthen rural Idaho, and the Idaho Rural Success Summit brought together partners from across the state to provide resources to help rural Idaho succeed.”

The Rural Services team looks forward to holding the next event in Worley on April 30 - May 1, 2025.

IDAHO OFFICE OF BROADBAND

In FY2024, the Idaho Office of Broadband (IOB) continued its mission of improving broadband access across the state through its close partnership with the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board (IBAB).

The office hired two additional staff members and continues to closely monitor and administer the Idaho Broadband Fund Grant Program, Capital Projects Fund (CPF) and the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program.

IDAHO BROADBAND FUND GRANT PROGRAM

In FY2023, IBAB awarded \$26.3 million to two middle-mile broadband projects through the Idaho Broadband Fund Grant Program.

The board awarded \$20 million to the Intermountain Infrastructure Group (IIG) and the Idaho Regional Optical Network (IRON) for a 198-mile public and private partnership project from Grangeville to Star. This project establishes a long-awaited north-south Idaho broadband backbone and will provide broadband access for commercial use, non-profits, local communities and rural internet service providers.

The board also awarded \$6.3 million to the Port



of Lewiston to connect with the IIG and IRON project. This middle-mile project will support commerce, non-profits and economic development and stretch from Grangeville to Moscow. Both projects have support from many stakeholders including the state's public universities.

IOB continues to monitor and assist these projects for their successful completion.

IDAHO CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND (CPF)

Approved by the Idaho Legislature and signed by the Governor, the CPF grant program was opened prior to the end of FY2023.

In FY2024, IBAB awarded \$120 million in funding from the CPF program to 18 broadband projects across Idaho, connecting over 30,000 homes and businesses.

IBAB and the State of Idaho funded broadband projects that assist with or improve distance learning, telehealth, telework, economic development and public safety. These awards meet the Federal CPF criteria and improve internet connectivity in unserved and underserved locations.

IDAHO CPF GRANT OFFERS OPPORTUNITY IN IDAHO COUNTY

Idaho County was one of 18 grantees awarded a CPF grant in FY2024.

The grant, totaling \$11,589,881, will fund an open-access, middle-mile hybrid project from Orofino through Nezperce to Grangeville. The project is planned to connect to the Idaho Broadband Fund IIG/IRON project.

Jerry Zumalt, Idaho County Disaster Management Coordinator said this project has the potential to



THE IDAHO COUNTY CPF PROJECT IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY AND CONCLUDING SURVEY WORK.

create new opportunities for Idaho County including increased internet access for local government and anchor institutions, promoting increased economic activity, expanding employment opportunities and access to higher paying jobs.

Zumalt said this kind of infrastructure is key to sustaining communities and is foundational to helping residents thrive in the digital age.

“The completed project will provide distance learning options, including higher education offerings for completing advanced degrees, obtaining critical technical skills and also improving and expanding rural healthcare delivery,” Zumalt said.

Although the project is still underway, Zumalt said the project is ahead of schedule and is currently concluding environmental and survey work, with permitting and engineering design work underway as of writing this report.

“We want Idaho connected and our citizens, businesses, anchor institutions and dispatch centers provided with robust, high-speed fiber,” Zumalt said. “To reinforce this effort, we are also building a

broadband coalition and planning team with a BEAD Planning grant from IBAB to pursue BEAD funds for last-mile connectivity across this service area.”

BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD) PROGRAM

IOB continues to work on upcoming funding related to the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

At the end of FY2023, NTIA announced Idaho will receive \$583,256,249 to bring affordable, reliable high-speed internet to Idahoans across the state. These funds will be used for broadband infrastructure in order to get reliable, high-speed internet access to every single home and business. This money will be sub-granted to internet service providers, cities, counties and tribal governments who will coordinate infrastructure projects over the next several years.

IOB is administering this grant program, and after submitting its Initial Proposals I and II to NTIA, is in the Challenge Process phase of the grant at the time of writing this report.

IDAHO BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD

The Idaho Broadband Advisory Board (IBAB) was created by the Idaho Legislature in 2021 through House Bill 127. The board consists of three members from the Idaho House of Representatives, three from the Idaho Senate and the Governor appoints three from the private sector. The board created a statewide plan for structuring, prioritizing and dispersing grants from state and federal funding. This plan supports the board’s vision that Idahoans have access to affordable and reliable broadband infrastructure.

MEMBERS*

- REPRESENTATIVE JOHN VANDER WOUDE**
- CHAIR
- SENATOR DOUG RICKS** - VICE CHAIR
- MARGIE WATSON** - JC WATSON & COMPANY
- SENATOR JAMES RUCHTI**
- REPRESENTATIVE BARBARA EHARDT**
- SENATOR TREG BERNT**
- ANDY EMERSON** - MH SOLUTIONS
- HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE** - VACANT
- GOVERNOR APPOINTEE** - VACANT



**MEMBERSHIP AS OF 12/13/2024*



FY2024 IDAHO CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND (CPF) AWARDS*



APPLICANT	PROJECT	AWARD AMOUNT
Custer Telephone Cooperative Inc.	Salmon Idaho Highway 93 North Fiber and Hwy. 28 South	\$3,399,900
Comcast Cable Communications LLC	City of Preston, City of Franklin and Surrounding Area	\$9,873,892
Idaho County	Orofino to Grangeville Fiber Optic Conduit	\$11,589,881
Whitecloud Communications	Owyhee County	\$4,357,749
Lincoln County	Lincoln County Broadband Initiative Phase 2- Fiber to the Premise	\$4,039,860
Camas County	Camas County Wireless Fiber and Fiber to the Premises	\$5,090,020
Zipty Fiber	Valley County Fiber to the Premise	\$9,027,501
Latah County	Latah County Dark Fiber Network	\$15,000,000
Zipty Fiber	Aberdeen Fiber to the Premise	\$2,306,353
Intermax Networks	State Highway 54	\$5,889,175
Kanixsu	Bonner County Sagle Fiber	\$2,527,976
MiFiber	Priest River and Oldtown Last Mile Project	\$6,259,110
Gooding County	Gooding County Wireless Fiber and Middle Mile Fiber	\$7,509,334
Intermax Networks	Selle Valley	\$6,315,211
Madison County	Madison County and FyberCom Fiber Initiative	\$13,673,938
Intermax Networks	Hauser Lake Area	\$1,585,130
Jerome County	Jerome County Fiber to the Premises and Fiber Fixed Wireless	\$10,838,022
FyberCom	Taylor and Basalt Fiber	\$716,948
TOTAL		\$120,000,000

*AMOUNTS ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST DOLLAR



FY2024 BEAD REGIONAL COORDINATION AND PLANNING GRANT AWARDS



The Challenge Process helps IOB obtain the best mapping information about internet service availability before allocating BEAD grant funds. There are only four eligible entities that could submit challenges regarding internet availability including local governments, Internet Service Providers, Tribal governments and non-profit organizations.

Once IOB has completed all the steps of the challenge, rebuttal and adjudication phases of BEAD, and with NTIA's approval of Idaho's Volume II, IOB will begin its sub-grantee selection process. The sub-grantee selection process will allow interested parties to submit grant funding applications for project areas that will be predetermined by IOB. The goal of BEAD funding is to reach 100% internet coverage for all Idahoans.

As part of this program, IBAB also awarded \$500,000 in funding from the State's BEAD Regional Coordination and Planning grant to communities throughout the state for the support and development of broadband action teams and coalitions.

IOB received 19 applications totaling \$899,925 from interested parties across Idaho expressing a desire to support broadband education and broadband infrastructure planning for their local communities. A total of 15 projects were funded.

Through innovative and strategic practices, Idaho continues to pave the way for local communities to get engaged.

For the latest updates visit LinkUp.Idaho.gov.

APPLICANT	AWARD
Idaho County	\$36,500
Madison County	\$36,000
Bear Lake County	\$36,000
Benewah County	\$36,000
City of Greenleaf	\$30,250
City of Teton	\$30,250
East Bonner County Free Library District	\$25,000
City of Ammon	\$25,000
Clearwater County	\$35,000
Camas County	\$35,000
Elmore County	\$35,000
Jerome County	\$35,000
Lincoln County	\$35,000
City of Mountain Home	\$35,000
Gooding County	\$35,000
TOTAL	\$500,000



GREYLOCH HELD A RIBBON CUTTING FOR ITS NEW FACILITY LOCATED IN STAR.

BUSINESS ATTRACTION

The Business Attraction team, in coordination with local economic development partners, serves as the state's single point of contact for businesses looking to expand or locate in Idaho. The team offers expertise in Idaho's business environment and serves as customer representatives and subject matter experts for Idaho's incentives.

IDAHO TAX REIMBURSEMENT INCENTIVE (TRI)

The Idaho Tax Reimbursement Incentive (TRI) took effect July 1, 2014, as a tool to encourage businesses to grow or expand in Idaho with jobs paying above the average county wage. This post-performance incentive offers a maximum refundable tax credit of up to 30% of a company's income, payroll and sales taxes for up to 15 years.

During FY2024, seven TRI projects were approved by the Idaho Economic Advisory Council (EAC).

Two projects were awarded in rural areas and five in urban areas. Furthermore, four of these awards were approved for existing Idaho companies and three were for businesses new to Idaho. These seven prospective investments will create over 1,700 jobs across the state with an estimated annual payroll of over \$131 million in new wages for Idaho. The average projected wage is over \$87,813 per year, which is above the statewide average annual wage. The total capital investment is estimated to be over \$300 million for all seven projects.

During FY2024, six companies with TRI awards announced their expansion or relocation projects. These companies are Darigold, Diversified Fluid Systems, Dot Foods, Exyte, POWER Engineers and The Stow Company.

As the TRI program enters its 11th year, it continues to generate higher wages for Idahoans across the state. From FY2015 through FY2024, EAC has approved 96 TRI projects. Once the projects are completed, their investments are estimated to create over 18,000 jobs and generate over \$1.3 billion in direct state tax revenue. With an average project wage of over \$54,882, these new jobs are above the statewide average annual wage.

Of the 96 approved projects, 47 have been for existing Idaho businesses, while 49 have been approved for businesses new to Idaho. Furthermore, the awards have assisted both rural and urban communities with 51 TRIs going to rural communities and 45 to urban communities.

The incentive supports companies across all industries including advanced manufacturing, aerospace, food production, software and technology, chemical processing, transportation and warehousing and distribution.

TRI ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A company must complete an in-depth application and meet the following requirements to qualify for the TRI:



New jobs must be **full-time** (30 hours or more) and pay an average wage **equal to or greater than the average county wage.**



Demonstrate a **meaningful community match.**



Prove that the incentive is a critical factor in the company's decision to **expand in Idaho.**



Provide **significant economic impact** on the community and Idaho.



Create **20 new jobs in rural communities** (population of 25,000 or less) or **50 in urban areas.**



office in Boise. This office will serve as an engineering and design hub, focused on semiconductor projects across the U.S. Exyte already employs around 280 people in Boise and expects to increase jobs in the Treasure Valley area by over 550 as a result of these projects.

According to Jared Guidry, U.S. Director of Finance at Exyte, Idaho’s strong support of the semiconductor industry was a key reason for their decision to open in Idaho.

“Idaho is a leading state in the development of semiconductor manufacturing, and Exyte was attracted to the pro-business environment and technological innovation taking place in the state,” Guidry said. **“The decision to locate our Exyte regional office to Boise was an attractive choice because Exyte has many long-standing customers and suppliers located in the Treasure Valley. Our 2021 acquisition, Diversified Fluid Solutions, was already headquartered in Boise and the Idaho Tax Reimbursement Incentive further supported the decision.”**

Exyte was approved for a TRI award this fiscal year.

“The entire process of working with Idaho Commerce was a collaborative and mutually beneficial undertaking,” Guidry said. **“Idaho Commerce worked with us every step of the way in developing an incentive package that made our entrance into the state a smooth and supported move.”**

EXYTE ANNOUNCES NEW ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE TREASURE VALLEY

This fiscal year, Exyte, a global leader in the design, engineering and delivery of ultra-clean and sustainable facilities for high-tech industries like semiconductors, data centers, biotech and pharmaceuticals, announced it will open a new engineering office in Boise.

Exyte has established new roots with a corporate

FY2024 APPROVED TRI AWARDS*

COMPANY NAME	LOCATION	TRI %	TRI TERM	EST. JOB CREATION	EST. AVERAGE PROJECT WAGES	EST. CAPITAL INVESTMENT
Project Sofa	Bonneville County	15	8	135	\$8,065,305	\$28,000,000
POWER Engineers	Meridian	28	14	1,025	\$65,658,425	\$29,300,000
Darigold	Meridian/Boise	28	14	187	\$23,168,926	\$1,500,000
Diversified Fluids Systems	Nampa	25	12	74	\$5,512,556	\$34,000,000
Exyte	Boise	26	13	102	\$12,835,986	\$100,000
Dot Foods	Burley	20	9	84	\$6,822,480	\$25,000,000
Idaho Milk Products	Jerome	21	9	113	\$9,654,155	\$190,000,000
TOTAL/AVERAGE		23	11	1,720	\$131,717,833	\$307,900,000



*OVER TRI TERM

ECONOMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL



The Economic Advisory Council's (EAC) mission is to advise the Governor and Idaho Commerce on goals and objectives that further economic development within Idaho. The council consists of eight members, appointed by the Governor, with one member appointed from each of the state's seven economic development regions and one member appointed at-large.

Members serve three-year terms and can be reappointed. The council provides Tax Reimbursement Incentive (TRI) recommendations to the Idaho Commerce Director and recommendations to the Governor on applications for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the Rural Community Investment Fund (RCIF). In addition, council members advise their regions on economic development opportunities and represent their regional interests to state government.

MEMBERS*

- JEREMY GRIMM (VICE CHAIR)** – REGION I, OWNER, WHISKEY ROCK PLANNING
- PAUL KIMMELL (CHAIR)** – REGION II, REGIONAL BUSINESS MANAGER, AVISTA CORPORATION
- BRIAN WONDERLICH** – REGION III, GENERAL COUNSEL, BLUE CROSS OF IDAHO
- RANDY BAUSCHER** – REGION IV, OWNER, B&H FARMS
- FRED TITENSOR** – REGION V, PRESIDENT, VALLEY IMPLEMENT COMPANY
- JOHN RADFORD** – REGION VI, CITY COUNCIL, IDAHO FALLS
- TOM BECKWITH** – REGION VII, FRANK CHURCH INSTITUTE
- EVE KNUDTSEN** – AT LARGE, PRESIDENT, KNUDTSEN CHEVROLET

**MEMBERSHIP AS OF 12/13/2024*

FY2024 ANNOUNCED TRI AWARDS*



SINCE 1918



IDAHO MILK PRODUCTS™

**INCLUDES PROJECTS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN APPROVED TRI'S IN PREVIOUS FISCAL YEARS.*



CDBG FUNDS ASSIST WITH DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION SUCH AS THIS PARK PROJECT IN MONTPELIER.



IDAHO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES

In FY2024, the CDBG Program celebrated its 50th anniversary – a milestone marked by fostering and supporting growth in Idaho’s communities.

Since it was signed into law on August 22, 1974, Idaho’s CDBG program’s impact in Idaho cannot be understated. Throughout the program’s lifespan, it has awarded over \$370,000,000 to Idaho communities, funding over 1,000 projects.

“Over the past 50 years, the State CDBG program has provided funding for essential public infrastructure in communities across Idaho,” Idaho Commerce Director Tom Kealey said. “We look forward to our Idaho program continuing to have a major impact for years to come.”

As Idaho Commerce celebrates the countless successes of CDBG in Idaho over the past 50 years, Idaho Commerce wants to thank our local officials, contractors, design professionals and grant administrators for the important work they do to bring grant funding opportunities to underserved communities throughout our state. Idaho Commerce looks forward to continuing the work accomplished by the CDBG program and working with local leaders and partners to build strong, resilient communities that will thrive for generations.

CDBG AWARD ASSISTS IN DEVELOPING AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN MOUNTAIN HOME

Housing is an ongoing and complex issue for many Idaho Communities. A recent grant awarded through the CDBG Program aims to alleviate that.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Community Development team provides financial and technical assistance via the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Rural Community Investment Funds (RCIF).

Idaho cities and counties may use the funds for the construction and rehabilitation of public infrastructure and facilities necessary to support lower-income communities, job creation, business expansion and a sense of community.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Each year, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides states with CDBG funds to use for projects that benefit low and moderate-income communities, help prevent or eliminate blight conditions and address damage caused by natural disasters.

Allowable projects include:

- Public facilities and infrastructure
- Senior and community centers
- Public parks
- Downtown revitalization (sidewalk, lighting, ADA accessibility, parking lots, etc.)
- Job creation (construction and improvements to public infrastructure or publicly regulated utilities that will help serve a company’s job growth)

This fiscal year, the Community Development team awarded a total of \$10,945,000 in CDBG funds to 31 communities in Idaho.



“Thanks to CDBG, LEAP will be able to complete our very first health-focused housing community,” Moers said. “CDBG is an important tool for communities to utilize, ensuring adequate public infrastructure to support Idahoans who live, work and play across the state. CDBG brings funding to communities big and small that would otherwise be difficult to obtain, realizing important community benefits like housing that syncs to local wages.”

PHOTO COURTESY: LEAP HOUSING



RURAL COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUNDS

The RCIF program helps rural communities improve public infrastructure in support of economic expansion via job creation. Eligible activities include the construction or expansion of infrastructure or new construction and renovation of an industrial building owned by an eligible grantee that will be leased to a business.

This fiscal year, Shoshone County was awarded an RCIF award of \$430,000 for electrical upgrades. The electrical upgrades provided by the grant will serve Idaho Strategic Resource’s Golden Chest Mine located near the community of Murray.

The City of Mountain Home was awarded \$500,000 in CDBG funds to aid in the creation of infrastructure necessary to build a 60-unit multi-family housing complex with 48 rent-restricted units and 12 fair-market units known as Falcons Landing.

CDBG funding was directed toward the extension of sewer lines, curb, gutter and sidewalk construction and road improvements.

Zeb Moers, Director of Development at LEAP Housing, which is the organization that assisted the city with the project, said CDBG funding was “catalytic” to the completion of this project.

“This project brings critical workforce housing inventory that is in sync with local wages in Mountain Home,” Moers said. “Residents in leased and homeownership units will pay no more than 35% of their income on housing, ensuring that members of the community are not housing cost burdened and able to afford other essentials like food, transportation and healthcare.”

Falcons Landing is now leasing its 2 and 3-bedroom units and has officially opened. Affordable rental units are open to households earning at or below 60% area median income (AMI).

FY2024 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) AWARDS*



	APPLICANT	AWARD	PROJECT
Public Facilities	City of Bonners Ferry	\$500,000	Wastewater system improvements
	City of Cottonwood	\$500,000	Water system
	City of Grangeville	\$500,000	Water system
	City of Hagerman	\$500,000	Water system
	Idaho County	\$500,000	Water system improvements
	Latah County	\$500,000	Sewage system improvements
	Madison County	\$500,000	Purchase of a new fire and rescue truck
	City of Shelley	\$500,000	Water system installation
Economic Development	City of Blackfoot	\$500,000	Downtown revitalization
	City of Orofino	\$500,000	Downtown revitalization and infrastructure improvements
	City of Payette	\$500,000	Downtown revitalization
Senior/Community Centers and Parks	Blaine County	\$225,000	Construction of a new covered carport, driveway improvements and garbage enclosure relocation
	City of Downey	\$225,000	Kitchen remodel and installation of food service equipment and fixtures
CARES Projects	City of Aberdeen	\$250,000	Installation of a new prefabricated restroom at Whalen Park
	City of Arco	\$250,000	Construction and installation of a prefabricated ADA restroom at the city's Idaho Science Center Park with ADA parking
	City of Boise**	\$320,000	Installation of a new restroom at Rhodes Skate Park
	City of Burley	\$250,000	Improvements at two city parks, East Park and Storybook Park
	City of Downey	\$250,000	Installation of modern, accessible playground equipment and replacement of a precast bathroom
	Clark County	\$700,000	Construction of ambulance station for Clark County EMS Department
	City of Craigmont	\$250,000	Installation of basketball and pickleball court and ADA accessibility
	City of Franklin	\$250,000	Removal of outdated, unsafe play structures, the installation of modern, safety-focused playground equipment and the completion of an unfinished walking path
	City of Heyburn	\$250,000	Construction of ADA-accessible restroom facilities at two locations—Ball Park and Dayley Park
	City of Hollister	\$250,000	Replacing playground equipment with new structures
	City of Lewiston**	\$250,000	Installation of playground equipment
	City of Murtaugh	\$250,000	Purchase and installation of playground equipment at Wally's Park
	City of Salmon	\$250,000	Reconstruction of basketball, tennis and pickleball courts
	City of Shelley	\$250,000	Resurface existing tennis courts at Brinkman Park
	St. Mary's Hospital	\$325,000	Power upgrades
	City of Weiser	\$250,000	Removal and replacement of playground structure in Memorial Park
	Altura	\$150,000	Installation of five new HVAC units at the Teton River Business Center
Wilder Rural Fire Protection District	\$250,000	Purchase of a new ambulance	
TOTAL		\$10,945,000	

*FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR
**FUNDED WITH CDBG-CARES

VISIT IDAHO

Idaho’s travel and tourism industry continued to grow in FY2024 with lodging tax collections generating \$21,778,508, a 2.4% increase from FY2023.

These numbers show a more stable and continued growth for this important sector into FY2025.

The Tourism team continues to support this growth through tailored messaging such as the Beyond Words and Travel With Care campaigns and working closely with regional partners and Idaho Regional Travel and Convention grant recipients.

IDAHO TOURISM PARTNERS COME TOGETHER FOR CRATERS OF THE MOON CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

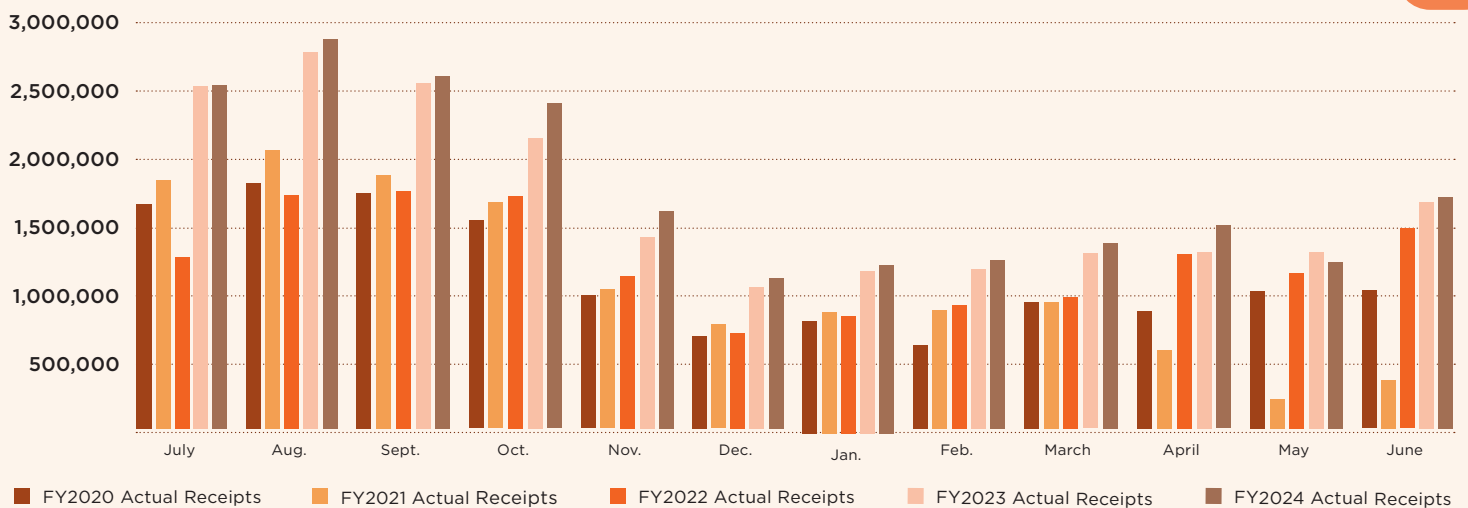
Tourism partners around the state joined together to celebrate one of the most recognizable, unique and iconic landmarks in Southern Idaho.

Established by President Coolidge in May of 1924, Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, located in Arco, celebrated its 100th anniversary this year.

With celebrations kicking off in May 2024, industry partners and Idaho Regional Travel and Convention (ITC) Grantees including Wood River Valley Chamber, Yellowstone Teton Territory, Lemhi County Economic Development Association and Visit Idaho joined together to spread the word about this important milestone.



Comparison of Monthly Lodging Tax Collections FY2020 - FY2024



IDAHO TRAVEL COUNCIL

The Idaho Travel Council is an eight-member council appointed by the Governor. The council meets in various locations across the state in January, March, May, July and October. The public is encouraged to attend these meetings to keep informed about the Tourism team's marketing program.



*MEMBERSHIP AS OF 12/13/2024

MEMBERS*



KAYOKO MAGNUS (CHAIR) - REGION I, COEUR D'ALENE RESORT

ANGELA OSBORNE - REGION II, BEST WESTERN PLUS UNIVERSITY INN

PAT MORANDI - REGION III, ROARING SPRINGS WATER PARK, WAHOZ FAMILY FUN ZONE AND PINZ

SHAWN BARIGAR - REGION IV, CITY OF TWIN FALLS

CRYSTAL NELSON - REGION V, TOWNEPLACE SUITES BY MARRIOTT POCATELLO

STEPHEN DUTCHER - REGION VI, ACTION MOTOR SPORTS

MIKE FITZPATRICK - REGION VII, SUN VALLEY COMPANY

EARL SULLIVAN (VICE-CHAIR) - AT-LARGE, TELAYA WINE CO.



PHOTO COURTESY: VISIT IDAHO

With a \$250,000 budget and additional funds provided by partners, the Craters of the Moon Centennial Celebration campaign focused primarily in-state using both traditional and digital media, raising awareness of the centennial and encouraging visitation during the five-month celebration.

As of writing this report, results from the campaign are still being analyzed, however, park officials noted an uptick in visitation to the park throughout the celebration.

“Idaho Tourism has been a fantastic partner in promoting the Craters of the Moon National Monument Centennial and has been vital to its success,” Wade Vagias, Superintendent of Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve said. “Idaho Tourism provided resources and support for advertising and an earned media campaign to increase public awareness of the centennial and visitation to the park. We simply could not have done that without their assistance. This partnership is a great example of state and federal agencies working together to ensure that preserving Idaho’s special places brings benefits to the state’s economy.”

IDAHO REGIONAL TRAVEL AND CONVENTION GRANT

Using funds collected from Idaho’s 2% lodging tax, the Idaho Travel Council distributes the Idaho Regional Travel and Convention Grant to nonprofit, incorporated organizations with a primary focus on tourism marketing within the state’s seven travel regions.

Funds may also be given to multi-regional associations promoting lodging and restaurants, outfitters and guides, RV parks and campgrounds and ski areas. Preference is given to programs focusing on promoting overnight stays.



FY2024 IDAHO REGIONAL TRAVEL AND CONVENTION GRANTS

APPLICANT	AMOUNT AWARDED	REGION
North Idaho Tourism Alliance (NITA)	\$234,000	Region I
Coeur d'Alene Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB)	\$1,260,500	Region I
Post Falls Chamber of Commerce	\$124,305	Region I
Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce	\$235,600	Region I
Visit Lewis Clark Valley	\$165,000	Region II
North Central Idaho Travel Assoc. (NCITA)	\$71,122	Region II
Moscow Chamber of Commerce	\$165,000	Region II
Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce DBA Visit Boise	\$1,680,000	Region III
Nampa Chamber of Commerce	\$162,000	Region III
McCall Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau	\$480,000	Region III
Southwest Idaho Travel Assoc. (SWITA)	\$1,078,000	Region III
Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce	\$480,165	Region IV
Southeast Idaho High Country Tourism	\$232,785	Region V
Greater Pocatello Convention and Visitors Bureau	\$254,400	Region V
Bear Lake Valley Convention and Visitor Bureau	\$60,967	Region V
Yellowstone Teton Territory (YTT)	\$1,728,840	Region VI
Hailey Chamber of Commerce Inc.	\$215,000	Region VII
Lemhi County Economic Development Assoc. (LCEDA)	\$41,000	Region VII
Stanley-Sawtooth Chamber of Commerce	\$162,103	Region VII
Challis Chamber of Commerce	\$25,000	Region VII
Sun Valley Marketing Alliance Inc.	\$450,000	Region VII
Idaho Ski Areas Assoc. (ISAA)	\$252,709	Multi-region
Idaho Outfitters and Guides Assoc. (IOGA)	\$213,775	Multi-region
Idaho Lodging and Restaurant Assoc. (ILRA)	\$91,360	Multi-region
TOTAL	\$9,863,631	

ADDITIONAL UPDATES OPPORTUNITY FUND

The intent of the Idaho Opportunity Fund is to assist in securing commitments for the retention and expansion of existing businesses and recruitment of new businesses.

Monies in the Idaho Opportunity Fund may be allocated to local governments for any lawful purpose consistent with the intent of this act, which purposes shall include:

- Construction of or improvements to new or existing water, sewer, gas or electric utility systems for new or existing buildings to be used for industrial or commercial operations
- Flood zone or environmental hazard mitigation
- Construction, upgrade or renovation of other infrastructure related items including, but not limited to, railroads, broadband, parking lots, roads or other public costs that are directly related to specific job creation or expansion projects

In FY2024, the department was not appropriated any additional dollars for the Idaho Opportunity Fund.

In FY2024, the department did not award any Idaho Opportunity Fund projects. However, the department disbursed \$250,000 for a previously committed project for a new business relocating to the Treasure Valley for sewer and water extensions, road work to the site and to create access to the main road arteries. This Idaho project is expected to create over 500 jobs, each at a median annual wage of over \$50,000, and about \$180 million in capital expenditures.

Since inception, the Idaho Opportunity fund has created an estimated 5,198 jobs and provided \$12.87 billion in capital expenditures.

IDAHO GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURIAL MISSION (IGEM) PROGRAM

The Idaho Global Entrepreneurial Mission (IGEM) grant program was signed into law in 2012. The program ran for dozen years, with 43 successful projects and nearly \$11 million in investments. The IGEM program concluded via Senate Bill no. 1271 on June 30, 2024, after the Governor and Legislature approved legislation that the mission of the program had been accomplished.

We are proud of these efforts, as they helped spark collaboration between educational institutions and entrepreneurship in key industries across Idaho.

PRIVATE ACTIVITY BOND (PAB)

Private activity bonds or PAB's are tax-free bonds to finance manufacturing, processing, production and assembly. In calendar year 2024, the total bond allocation was \$378,230,000.

The Idaho Housing and Finance Association (IHFA) Single Family bond supports IHFA's mortgage program which helps home buyers earning no more than 115% of area median income. Tax exempt bonds allow IHFA to offer mortgage rates between 1%-1.5% below market rates.

The IHFA Multi-Family bond allocation supports three low-income multi-family housing projects. PAB support is required for these projects to access the 4% federal low-income housing tax credit. Projects in this category will use a mix of taxable and tax-free financing.

Finally, the bonds issued for Micron and Suntado will be used to construct on-site wastewater treatment facilities for manufacturing facilities.

2024 PRIVATE ACTIVITY BOND (PAB) ALLOCATION

RECIPIENT	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Idaho Housing and Finance Association	Single family housing mortgages	\$263,230,000
Idaho Housing and Finance Association	Low income rental housing	\$24,000,000
Idaho Housing and Finance Association	Micron wastewater treatment	\$70,000,000
Mini Cassia Development Authority	Suntado Dairy wastewater treatment	\$21,000,000
TOTAL/AVERAGE		\$378,230,000



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