

# Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership



2006 Annual Report

Helping People. Changing Lives.

# Board of Directors

Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership  
Board of Directors  
2006

## **Class “A”** - Public Officials

Janice McGeachin	Legislative Representative
Lee Staker	Bonneville Co. Commissioner
Roger Muir	Madison Co. Commissioner
Shawn Larsen	Mayor, City of Rexburg
Chandra Evans	City of Idaho Falls

## **Class “B”** - Participant Representatives

Michael Hinman	Idaho Legal Aid
Hugo Arias	Hola, Inc.
Debbie Horton	Regional Council of Christian Ministries
Lorraine Hiltbrand	District VII Health
Jennifer Hoopes	EICAP Head Start

## **Class “C”** - Community Organizations

Otto Higbee	Mackay Senior Citizens, Inc.
Paul Hepworth	Charter Mortgage Co—Idaho Falls
Lewis Blurton	Falls Southern Baptist Church
Robert Pearson	Rotary Club of Idaho Falls
Seeley Magnani	Catholic Charities of Idaho

### Officers for 2006

President—Shawn Larsen  
Vice President—Hugo Arias  
Secretary—Debbie Horton  
Treasurer—Paul Hepworth  
Assistant Secretary—Lois Perry  
Assistant Treasurer—Jay Doman

## Letter from the Board President

As President of the Board of Directors for Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership (EICAP), it is with great pleasure **that I present EICAP's Annual Report, an overview of** accomplishments achieved during the past year and goals for the future.

After reviewing the report, I believe you will agree that EICAP is making great strides in fulfilling the promise of Community Action, which is:

**“Community Action changes people’s lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.”**

As members of the Board, we recognize that the achievements we have been able to accomplish this past year would not have been possible without the dedicated employees, volunteers, and the community partners of EICAP. The Board of Directors is looking forward to the coming year and continuing to work with the staff on the Pathways to Excellence initiative to build the capacity of EICAP through learning and continuous improvement.

Again, to the staff of EICAP, thank you for your service to others and your willingness to implement the strategic plan that has been adopted.

Sincerely,



Shawn Larsen

# Letter from the Executive Director

As Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership moves into its 39th year of service, it is good to think back on the 38th year and look at the people we have helped and the lives we have changed.

**Even though the staff may be tired of hearing it, “Change is Good.” This past year a** number of ways that EICAP responds to poverty and the low income has changed. We are doing a better job of keeping track of our clients and the services we provide for them as well as what services they need. We are doing a better job of letting people know who we are and what we do in their communities. We have completed and are living by a Strategic Plan that outlines the goals and objectives for the agency as we look to the future.

EICAP has reached a number of milestones this past year.

- **Completed it's 100th Mutual Self Help home.**
- Completed a new Head Start Center in Rexburg.
- Purchased a Head Start Center in Blackfoot.
- Completed a refinance of Aspen Park Apartments, resulting in interest savings.
- Established an Employee Council to give input to the Leadership Team.
- **Finished a major revision of the organization's By-Laws.**
- Completed the first Symposium on Poverty in Salmon and Idaho Falls.

All of these accomplishments and many more are made possible because of the dedication of the Board of Directors, the Staff and Volunteers of Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership.

We have one more major item to finish, The Pathways to Excellence review. Once that is submitted to the Community Action Partnership and we receive the results of the peer review, EICAP will begin the process of applying for the Community Action Award for Excellence. We already know that EICAP is an Excellent organization, but we want the region, the state and the nation to know as well. With the continued support of the Board, Staff and Volunteers, I know that we will continue our “Change” into “Excellence”.

Sincerely,



Russell K. Spain, CCAP  
Executive Director

# Mission Statement

Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership is an agency helping to empower all people in our communities to achieve maximum self-sufficiency.

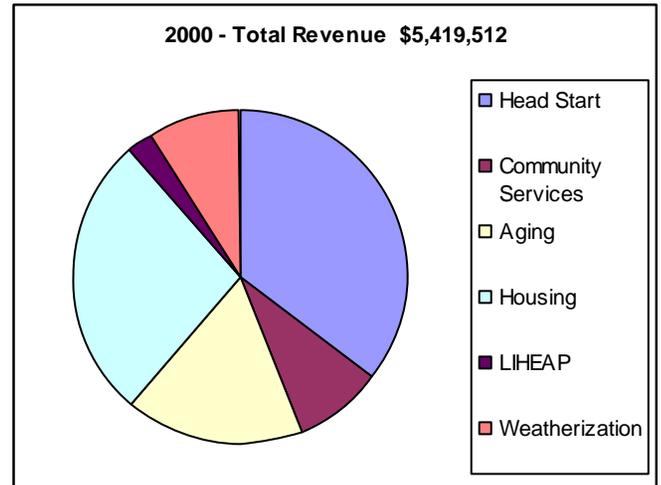
## EICAP Vision

Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership is widely recognized by the public as an organization **that makes a difference in peoples' lives.** EICAP creates opportunities for all people to reach their highest level of independence and self-sufficiency. EICAP Board of Directors, staff and volunteers work together to expand our role and impact in the community by responding to local needs.

# Administration

In 2000, Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership, then EISSA, administered over five million dollars in grants and contracts. In 2006, EICAP has administered nearly two million dollars more than six years ago. Please compare the pie charts from 2000 and 2006 to see that the distribution of revenue is very nearly the same. The prime goal of the administration is to make sure that the staff has the resources needed to accomplish their mission and that of the agency.

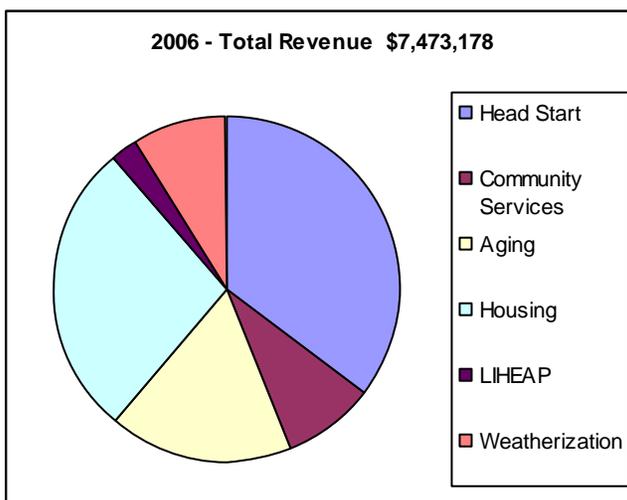
**As the saying goes, "if an organization is not growing, it is dying." EICAP continues to grow** and as we do, the challenge of meeting grantors standards and maintaining our accountability becomes more difficult. With the experience of the organization and the staff, those challenges will be met.



In 2007 and 2008, EICAP will be applying for additional grants from the US Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Idaho Housing and Finance Administration, HUD and others to fund and begin construction of a Migrant Farm Worker Housing complex in Roberts.

We will hire a grant writer and development director to seek funding from sources never approached by EICAP in the past. In addition, that person will help the organization to grow in its ability to fulfill our mission and vision.

The Administration for EICAP has lofty goals of where we need to be in the future years. With the help of the Board, Staff and the community, these goals can and will be attained.



# EICAP Values

Empowerment: EICAP believes in empowering our customers with the skills, means, and opportunities to achieve maximum independence and self-sufficiency. We will design services and processes that empower people to take responsibility for their lives.

Opportunity: EICAP believes in the personal development of our customers. Everyone can move to a better place in life; EICAP creates and provides options for success.

Respect: EICAP values the dignity of all human beings and seeks to treat all with kindness and respect.

Working Together: EICAP Board of Directors sets the mission, vision, and goals for the organization and works with the staff and **the community to accomplish the partnership's mission.**

Continuous Learning: EICAP believes a well-trained organization is best able to serve our customers. We continuously work on the personal and professional growth of Board, staff, volunteers and customers.

Accountability: EICAP believes in operating fiscally responsible and compliant programs focused on outcomes.

Integrity: EICAP Board and Staff believe that integrity means living by the values we hold. We ask to be shown where our actions conflict with these values.

# Head Start

Our testing shows that many Head Start children enter the program below the national average in literacy and math scores. In 2006, children enrolled in the EICAP Head Start program showed significant gains in vocabulary, early writing and early math skills.

## Dads Make a Difference

Less than half of Head Start children live with both their father and mother. The more fathers were involved in their **child's Head Start experience the more**

frequent positive social behavior was evident. **Children don't have to live with their father for this impact to be felt.**

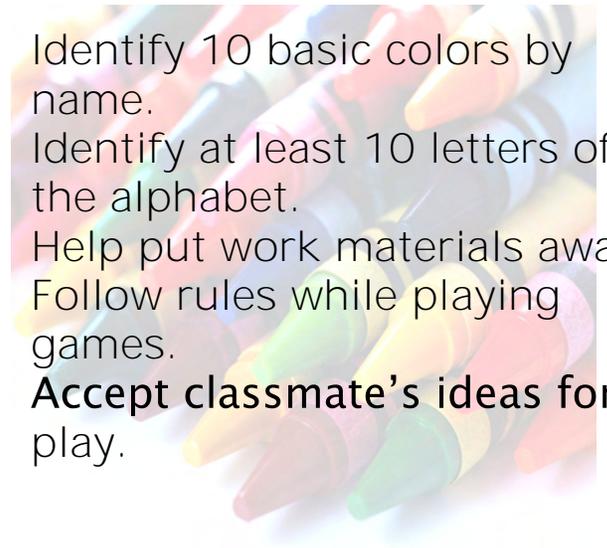


Head Start families spend time with their children doing different educational activities on a regular basis. Doing errands, reading to children, telling stories, and playing games are all daily activities done by parents. Going to church, visiting the library or family **“field trips” to the community** are all educational skills and lead to less aggressive behavior.



## What Head Start Children can do

- Identify 10 basic colors by name.
- Identify at least 10 letters of the alphabet.
- Help put work materials away.
- Follow rules while playing games.
- **Accept classmate's ideas for play.**



## Staffing

Quality staff also makes the difference for the children in the classroom. In classrooms where teachers have more education, children make larger gains in cognitive skills, social skills, and language acquisition. Quality staff are also key to healthy emotional development and mental health. Teachers who are happy and energetic have happy and energetic classrooms.



# Area VI Agency on Aging

The Area VI Agency on Aging (AAA) serves the seniors of Eastern Idaho. The AAA provides a wide variety of services to meet the needs of seniors and their families to maintain their right to remain independent within their communities.

- Aging conducted or participated in 64 presentations reaching about 1500 individuals.
- Offered Information and Assistance to persons about programs for seniors over 1900 times, and to grandparents raising grandchildren over 1200 times.
- EICAP offered outreach to over 7000 area seniors.
- Aging provided almost 8000 transportation boardings to those in need.
- Aging provided 320 hours of free legal assistance for seniors through a partnership with Idaho Legal Aid.
- Provided over 2,000 hours of support group services to caregivers including grandparents raising grandchildren.
- Provided over 1400 hours of case management services to Caregivers as well as individuals who are over 60
- Provided over 12,000 hours of homemaker services to seniors in need of in home assistance



- Provided over 1000 hours of respite care to caregivers, providing them with the assurance their loved ones were being cared for in their absence.
- Assisted in providing 68,942 meals at 16 area senior centers.
- Assisted in providing 79,709 home delivered meals to those seniors who are

homebound

- Received 362 reports to Adult Protection for investigation of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of vulnerable adults.
- Substantiated 102 cases with 44 referrals to law enforcement for resolution.
- Assisted with 12 guardianships.
- 73 Cases where the risk to the victim was reduced or eliminated.

# Weatherization

The Weatherization Assistance Program is the **agency's core program for delivering energy efficiency services** to low-income households. The program reduces energy costs for low income households by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes, while ensuring their health and safety. The program provides energy efficiency services to more than 175 homes every year. These services reduce the average annual energy costs by \$218 per household.

The program prioritizes services to the elderly, people with disabilities, and families with children. These low income households are often on fixed incomes or rely on income assistance programs and are most vulnerable to volatile changes in energy markets. High energy users or households with high energy burden may also receive priority.

Weatherization alleviates the heavy energy burden on low income households and helps them become self sufficient, it revitalizes communities by spurring economic growth and reducing environmental impacts. For every \$1 invested, Weatherization returns \$2.79 in energy and non energy related benefits.

By reducing energy consumption in low income homes, Weatherization reduces the export of local energy dollars and keeps more money in the community. It improves energy affordability, making housing more affordable. This reduces cases of homelessness and frequent forced mobility, and lowers demand for public assistance. It also decreases electricity generation and resulting pollution. This improves local air quality and reduces adverse health effects, particularly asthma. Weatherization measures reduce carbon dioxide emissions by one metric ton per weatherized home, or one third the average emissions of an automobile. Nationwide it directly supports almost 12,000 jobs, and reduces demand for imported oil. It decreases the national energy consumption by the equivalent of 18 million barrels of oil annually.

Energy consumption in America has almost tripled since 1950 from 34.6 quadrillion BTUs to 97.4 quadrillion per year and household energy use comprises 22% of the total energy consumption. Americans spend \$156 billion each year on home energy. Low income households pay a disproportionate share of this energy bill.

Low income households typically spend 14% of their total annual income on energy, compared with 3.5% for other households. The average expenditure in low income households is nearly \$1,267 annually. Low income families must often cut back on other necessities, such as groceries or medicine, to pay their energy bills. Sixty five percent of the low income households we served last year have an annual income under \$15,000, two thirds have an annual income under \$8,000, and 23% have an annual income under \$2,000. Professionally trained weatherization crews use computerized energy audits and blower doors to determine the most cost effective measures appropriate for each home. Typical measures may include installing insulation; sealing ducts; tuning and repair of heating and cooling systems; mitigating air infiltration; and reducing electric base load consumption.

Weatherization crews also perform health and safety tests that may include, testing heating units and appliances for combustion safety, carbon monoxide, and gas leaks; assessing moisture damage; replacing unsafe heating and cooling systems; repair or replacement of water heaters; window and door replacement; storm windows; and installing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

In 2006 the weatherization program worked on and completed 214 homes with an average cost of \$2,823 dollars per home. This amounted to 643 people receiving weatherization assistance. Of the 643 people, 115 were disabled, and 280 were children. The weatherization program spent \$604,165 total dollars on the 214 homes completed. Of the \$604,165 dollars spent utility companies contributed \$197,878 dollars and landlords invested \$6,034 in their rental units.



*Weatherization  
Works*

# Community Services

Total funding that passed through EICAP for the services provided by the Community Services Division during 2006 included almost \$975,000. This does not include the \$1,402,494 that went directly to heating vendors for the participants of the LIHEAP program. The programs operating during 2006 included, LIHEAP, LIHEAP Crisis, Lend-a-Hand, The Haven Shelter, The Salmon Community Services Office, Nutrition Program, Medical Contingency Fund, Project Help, Project Warmth, Homeless to Homeowners Program, FEMA/Katrina Relief Program, EFSP, Lemhi/Custer Breast Cancer Relief and Custer County Cancer Cares and Good Neighbor Fund.



With that funding, a total 11,542 individuals in 4,391 households were assisted with one or more of the referenced programs. 1,646 were children under five years old and 1,684 were 55 years or older. Almost 2,000 had graduated high school and had some post secondary schooling; while 561 of those were 2 or 4 year college graduates. And unfortunately, more than 3,000 had no health insurance. 1,047 of the 4,391 households were single parent households (93% female head of household). 3,756 households (85%) were at or below 125% of poverty (a family of four (4) has an annual income of less than \$25,000).

## Haven Shelter

Haven staff became certified to teach MRT (Morals Reconciliation Therapy). MRT is an objective, systematic treatment system designed to enhance ego, social, moral, and positive behavioral growth in a progressive, step by step fashion. MRT has 12 to 16 steps, depending on the treatment population. MRT seeks to move clients from hedonistic (pleasure vs. pain) reasoning levels to levels where concern for social rules and others becomes important. Research on MRT has shown that as clients pass steps, moral reasoning increases in adult drug and alcohol offenders and juvenile offenders. We plan to provide the therapy to women in our communities, not just those residing at the Haven Shelter. You can go to: <http://www.ccimrt.com/> for more information about the therapy.

## Salmon Office

Salmon staff wrote and received full funding for a 2-year grant to provide Family Development services to participants that are over-income for CSBG programs. It will provide an additional \$42,000 over the next two years to the support of the Salmon Community Services office. The Steele Reese Foundation wrote to Salmon staff “**We commend you** for your efforts to provide such vital service to low-income residents of Salmon and the surrounding communities, and we are glad that the **foundation is in a position to help.**”



## Emergency Services

The Emergency Services Program helps thousands of people each year with numerous funding sources: Lend-a-Hand, Project Warmth, Project Help, LIHEAP, LIHEAP Crisis, Emergency Food and Shelter Program. Staff is required to research extensively each case to ensure that the funding request is legitimate and necessary. This allows for fair distribution of limited funds. During the 2005-06 LIHEAP season, April Winter's staff won an Accuracy Award for data entered into the statewide database 3 of the 5 months the program operated.



# Housing & Property Management

Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership's Housing Management Department currently manages eight properties, owned by EICAP, with a total of 120 units of Senior Housing and 196 units of family housing:

- Aspen Park Apartments, Idaho Falls
- Lost River Senior Housing Phase I, Arco
- Lost River Senior Housing Phase II, Arco
- Camas Street Apartments, Blackfoot
- Riverside Senior Housing, Idaho Falls
- South Fremont Senior Housing, St. Anthony
- Teton View Senior Housing, Idaho Falls
- Twin Pines Manor, Rexburg



The year 2006 was business as usual at Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership's Housing Department. The demand for affordable housing stays strong. EICAP properties experienced few vacancies during the past year. Normally vacancies are filled as quickly as they can be made "rent ready".



The only major project during the year was completion of an extensive rehab at Riverside Senior Housing which included new decks and stair railings. The first major rehab since construction in 1978.



# Idaho's First Self-Help Housing Grantee Celebrates 100th Home

Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership (EICAP) formerly EISSA, is celebrating the completion of their 100th Mutual Self-Help Housing home. Nearly 100 people attended a Homeownership Month event to celebrate with EICAP and the homeowners.

During the celebration Mike Field, USDA Idaho State Director gave thanks and praise to EICAP, the families who have participated and all of the partners who have made it possible to achieve this milestone. Field presented EICAP with a plaque

commemorating the completion of their **100th home and said to the families, "The completion of these homes and the equity you have built with all of your hard work not only adds to your financial future it adds to the economic base of your community."** In addition to tracking the number of homes and families who have been assisted over **the years, Ron Holt, EICAP's Construction Supervisor** has been counting the number of children who have moved in since the **agency's first home was built in 1997.**

According to Holt, EICAP has seen 242 children move into Self-Help homes in their nine-county service area. Since the homes have been completed and the families have **grown, Holt figures "the number is now probably more than 700 children."**

When EICAP began building Self-Help homes in Eastern Idaho almost 10 years ago they had only two staff members, Dixie Campbell, Housing Director and Ron Holt. Today, Campbell and Holt have been joined by Tammy Golder, Loan Packager/Group Worker and Robert Howe, Construction Foreman.

Together they have assisted families to build homes in Rexburg, Rigby, Sugar City, Shelley, Roberts, and Teton, Bonneville, Bingham and Jefferson Counties.



*Standing, facing camera: Shawn Larsen, Board President; Dixie Campbell, Housing Director; Tammy Golder, Loan Packager/Group Worker*

Their commitment to the program, affordable housing, the communities and the families is evident in every building group. Holt recently took a Spanish speaking course to ensure they could serve all families.

**Self-Help Housing hasn't been without** challenges in Idaho. The families and the grantees do not have the same funding opportunities that are available in other states. Idaho has an Affordable Housing Trust Fund which has never been funded. Idaho has HUD Down Payment Assistance Programs but state administrative guidelines have made them unattainable. Idaho has Community Development Block Grant funding but it not designed for affordable housing.

In spite of these challenges, Idaho families continue to build homes and the program is growing. Idaho now has four Self-Help administrative grantees who have collaboratively built over 215 homes and more than 30 are currently under construction throughout the state.

*Article written by: Angela Sisco, Rural Community Assistance Corporation Printed in Pacific Mountain Network News - September 2006*

# 2005 EICAP Awards

## Woody Summers Award Employee of the Year

Nadene Kelso

Nadene makes it a pleasure to walk into the office everyday – she greets everyone with a smile and a sweet remark. Nadene is someone who does so much for everyone without praise or acknowledgement. She silently helps anyone who asks without complaint. She genuinely cares about people. She tries to help keep us all getting along when the office

**gets really hectic and noisy at times. “I feel that Nadene is an unsung hero who downplays all that she does.”**



## Beverly Branson Award Volunteer of the Year

Jim and Pat  
Little

Anytime the Salmon EICAP office expresses a need, Jim and Pat fill the need if they



are able. Jim and Pat are also known as the Salmon Office Guardian Angels. They have given a tremendous amount of their time as well as heart and soul to the Salmon and Challis communities through **their volunteer efforts. “I don’t know what we would have done without them.”**

## Oval Caskey Community Partnership Award Business/Community of the Year Salmon Eagles FOE #2316

The Eagles organization in Salmon has donated \$2000 to the Salmon Head Start. They have also constructed a computer station in the classroom, providing a much safer environment for the children. When they understood there was a need to extend the Head Start playground, they found someone to donate the chain link, support poles and labor. They extended the playground space by about 400 square feet,

the children now have more running and activity **space. “I would like the Eagles to know how they have enriched the children’s lives with their support.”** Even though our community of Salmon is small it has some very large hearts willing to support our children.





## **The Promise of Community Action**

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live.

We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.