



Catholic Charities of Idaho

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ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF BOISE

Housing

Given our Christian mission, Catholic Charities of Idaho and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise represent the voice of the most vulnerable in Idaho. Our legislative priorities are in the areas of affordable housing, food/nutritional security, equitable and affordable healthcare, economic security, and immigration reform.

About Affordable Housing

The recent economic downturn has led to rapidly increasing unemployment rates. Many families are experiencing financial difficulties and are being forced to foreclose on their homes, default on loans, and find alternative housing. The housing crisis is affecting families across the economic spectrum, but escalating housing expenses are especially troublesome for low-income families who must cut already tight budgets and make difficult choices between the purchase of adequate health care, food, and housing. Too often, the sacrifice made is a direct threat to the family's health and livelihood.

One area of chief concern is the vulnerability of families living in manufactured housing communities. Over the last two decades, an alarming number of manufactured housing residents across the state lost their homes due to park closures and loss of rental land. Idaho law states that if landlords sell a park, they are only required to give a short notice to homeowners/renters for relocation, while the law does not require any relocation expenses to be paid to displaced tenants. The costs of relocating a manufactured home can range anywhere from \$5,000 to \$15,000; an amount that few manufactured home residents can afford.

Affordable Housing Statistics

- Over the last year, foreclosure rates in Idaho increased by 239%. Idaho's foreclosure rate ranks 6th in the nation with one in every 241 housing units undergoing a foreclosure filing.
- Almost half of all Idaho renters spend 30% or more of their household income on rent and utilities.
- Manufactured homes in Idaho make up 10% of all housing units.
- Half of all the manufactured housing residents in Boise are seniors, most are female, and half have a chronic medical condition.
- In the Boise area, one in four manufactured home owners rent space in a park that is listed for sale or is scheduled for redevelopment.
- Idaho law states that if landlords sell a park, they are only required to give 180 days notice to homeowners for relocation and only 30 days notice to renters for relocation.
- In Boise, the wait list for Section 8 housing (federally subsidized housing) is about a 5 year wait; there are over 4,000 families on the list.

Catholic Social Teaching

The Church's teaching on the dignity of the human person and the value of the family directly relates to safe, decent and affordable housing. Every individual and every family has a right to necessary life resources including adequate shelter. It is the responsibility of society to ensure that the right each citizen has to safe, decent and affordable housing is preserved and defended at every level on the housing continuum from homeless shelters to inexpensive housing development.

About Catholic Charities of Idaho

The mission of Catholic Charities of Idaho is to advance the dignity of individuals, families, and communities by strengthening families, advocating justice, and engaging the community to serve the common good. These three principles guide the work of Catholic Charities of Idaho throughout the state of Idaho. Catholic Charities of Idaho offers services to all people regardless of religion, age, gender, disability, race/ethnicity, income, or background.

About the Catholic Diocese of Boise

United with our Bishop and in communion with the Universal Church, we the People of God in Idaho are called to build up the Kingdom of God by: proclaiming the presence of God in word and sacrament; calling each other to conversion and to joyful sharing of the Good News by word and deed; nurturing and supporting vital faith communities; being a prophetic voice which affirms the good values of society and challenges what is destructive; discovering, celebrating and integrating the gifts of each individual, community and culture; recognizing and responding to those in need.

For a list of resources used in this publication, please contact:

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