

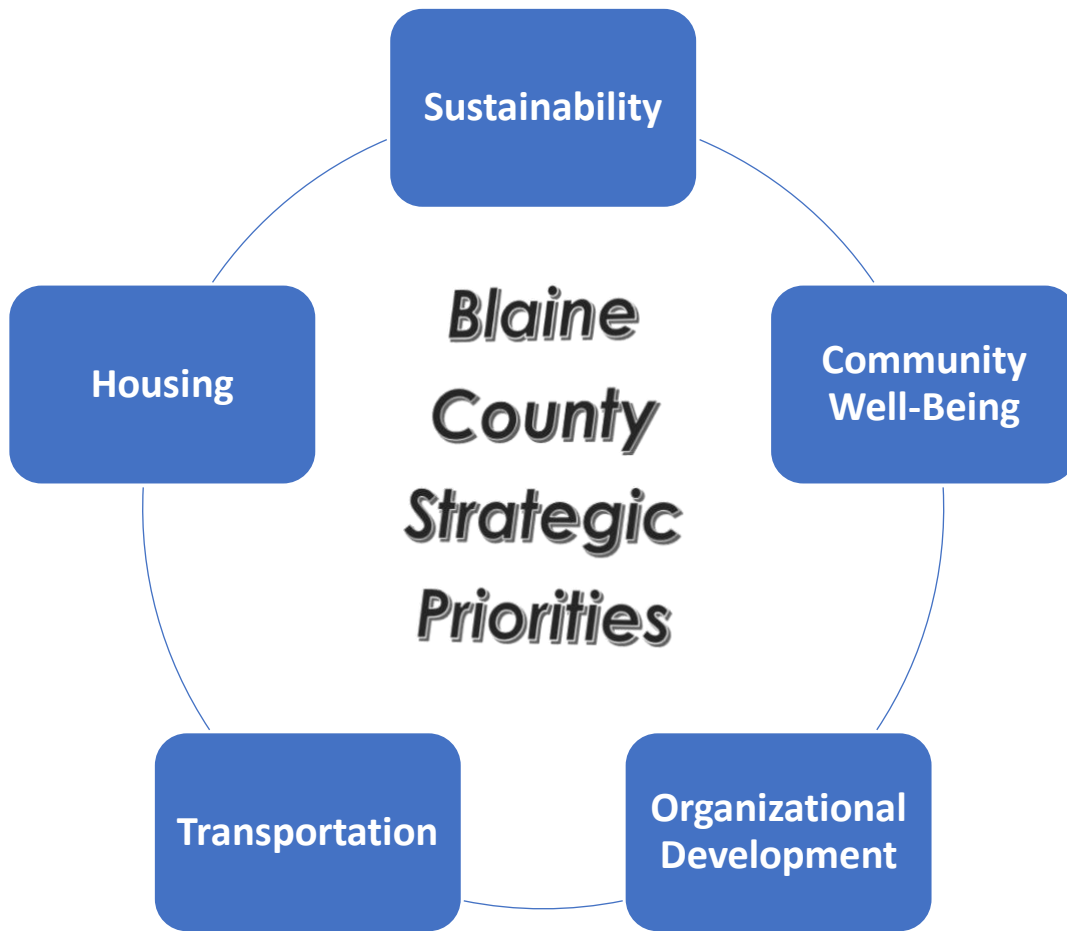


Blaine County
Fiscal Year 2024
External Organizations Budget Request

Prepared by:
Blaine County Administrator's Office
May 1, 2023

FY24 Strategic Priorities

Each budget request for FY24 should directly correlate to at least one of the FY24 Strategic Priorities. All funding requests and approvals will be weighed against how they align with the Strategic Priorities.



General Information

Organization: Blaine County Charitable Fund

Budget Contact Person: Mary Fauth

Organization Profile

Organization Mission

Creating stable and resilient communities in Blaine County. Through equitable access to resources, BCCF envisions a community where all people can maintain stability in times of crisis, and where shared resources and knowledge helps to ensure all can thrive.

Operational Description

Blaine County Charitable Fund (BCCF) makes grants to citizens in Blaine County regardless of citizenship status who lack other resources to obtain financial assistance focused mostly (but not exclusively) on housing, utilities, transportation, and health care in times of unanticipated crisis. BCCF's objectives are to provide quality assistance programs that bring stability to households, provide equitable access to resources, and strengthen client's ability to move through and past crisis.

BCCF currently operates three core services:

- Emergency Rent Assistance - Provide up to three months of emergency rental assistance during the year based on previous 30-days of income. The 2nd and 3rd requests include budgeting and goal setting to either increase income and/or decrease expenses.
- First/Last/Deposit Assistance – When new housing is secured, provide move in assistance based on previous 30-days of income and ability to maintain housing thereafter.
- Rapid Relief Program - Address other unanticipated emergency needs such as, but is not limited to, expenses related to their health, ability to work, or keep a safe living environment. BCCF provides emergency transitional housing with short-term hotel/motel stays primarily focused on the most vulnerable households.

Through BCCF's bilingual case management services the organization assists families in navigating other assistance programs including, but limited to, Idaho Housing and Finance Association's Housing Preservation Program (Emergency Rental Assistance) and Housing Choice Voucher Program.

Staffing: Blaine County Charitable Fund is a small organization, with only three staff members. As such, all members of the BCCF team are closely involved in the details and daily operations of the program.

Program Oversight: Program oversight is provided by Mary Fauth, Executive Director and Co-founder. Mary has helped to develop and administer all of BCCF’s programming, since co-founding the organization in 2020.

Family Care Coordination: The first point of contact for those applying for rental assistance or hotel/motel vouchers is the BCCF Family Care team: Elizabeth Sandoval and Maira Conlago. Elizabeth and Maira work to connect individuals in need with appropriate program resources. They also ensure compliance with program rules by reviewing application materials and engaging directly with applicants. Elizabeth Sandoval is the Bilingual Family Care Specialist. She brings 7 years of customer service and bilingual communication skills to this role. She joined BCCF in 2022. Elizabeth has an Associate of Applied Science in Accounting/Bookkeeping. Maira Conlago is the Bilingual Family Care Manager. Maira recently joined Blaine County Charitable Fund after serving as Bilingual Victim Advocate for the Advocates for Domestic Violence for 10 years.

Partnerships and Collaborations: BCCF works closely with partner organizations in the community to identify individuals in need and reach the target population. Efforts include:

- **Hunger Coalition/St. Luke’s Center for Community Health/Blaine County Housing Authority:** Started in the winter 2022/23 as a response to coordinate efforts of our exploding homeless population, caseworkers from each organization meet weekly to coordinate services for households. Led under the guidance of the Blaine County Housing Authority with a focus on housing placement & counseling, a monthly cross agency case workers collaboration continues with additional agencies such as the Advocates, Men’s Second Chance Living, and ARCH
- To reach target populations experiencing instability BCCF staff attends food distribution at the Hunger Coalition twice a month to reach individuals who already are experiencing food insecurity.
- BCCF receives direct referrals from all of the above-mentioned agencies, plus social workers from the Blaine County School District and St. Luke’s Hospital, Men’s Second Chance Living, Advocates for Survivors of Domestic Violence, Crisis Hotline and local Churches.
- BCCF participates in the quarterly St. Luke’s Center for Community Health hosted Interagency meeting.

Organizational Structure



FY23 Fiscal Year Review

FY23 Performance Metrics

Metric 1: Financial assistance reaches the intended recipients including households living at or below Blaine County's poverty level.

2022 Outcome: 176 households received \$240,616 in financial assistance. 93% were low income with 36% being extremely low income. Additionally, \$257,000 of Idaho Housing & Finance's Emergency Rental Assistance funds was secured on behalf of Blaine County residents.

2021 Outcome: 170 households received \$190,870 in financial assistance. 95% were low income, with 30% being extremely low income.

Metric 2: Financial assistance addresses the most critical needs of recipients.

2022 Outcome: 72% of the total financial assistance awarded or secured went to rental or move in assistance, 22% to emergency transitional housing, 8% to other rapid relief needs such as utilities, transportation or medical expenses.

2021 Outcome: 64% of the total financial assistance awarded went to rental assistance, 15% to utilities, 13% to transportation, and 10% to critical medical expenses.

Metric 3: Financial intervention, combined with case management, provides stability and well-being for households experiencing crisis.

2022 Outcome: BCCF provided 3000 hours of case management time, an average of 17 hours per household. 95% of households that responded to a survey regarding their housing stability stated they were able to avoid eviction thanks to BCCF's financial assistance intervention.

2021 Outcome: Working primarily virtually, case management time was not tracked this year. 100% of households that responded to a survey regarding their housing stability stated they were able to avoid eviction thanks to BCCF's financial assistance intervention.

FY23 Fiscal Year Highlights

FY23 Budget Request: \$30,000 ARPA funds for Emergency Rent & Utility Assistance

- Emergency rent and utility assistance grants were awarded during the months of January – April, 2023 to 36 households.
- An average of \$871/household was provided emergency rent and utility assistance.
- The COVID focused ARPA funds were utilized at a time when the Idaho Housing & Finance's Emergency Rental Assistance Program was closed and before the Idaho Legislature approved additional funds that became available in May.

FY23 Budget Request: \$49,000 ARPA funds for displaced J&J residents

- Funds were used to rehabilitate, relocate, and provide long term housing stability for families displaced by the redevelopment of the J&J/Blue Haven Trailer Park.
- Nine families consisting of 41 individuals received assistance with bringing their personally owned trailers up to code to enable them to move to a temporary winter storage location at the Meadows RV Park.
- Working in collaboration with the Blaine County Housing Authority, owners of the J&J & the Meadows Trailer Parks, BCCF met weekly from February of 2022 through October 2022 to insure the personal property of these displaced residents would receive temporary and eventually permanent housing when the infrastructure at the Meadows is complete in the Summer of 2023.

FY23 Budget Request: \$50,000 Emergency Hotel Assistance

- Financial assistance with emergency stays at local hotels were issued to families experiencing homelessness. Families provided proof of work and paid 30% of their income towards the hotel stay. BCCF assisted with remaining costs. A total of \$213,000 in emergency transitional housing assistance was expended in the winter of 2022/23.
- In total the emergency transitional housing & shelter program served 158 individuals: 99 adults/59 children, 55 households (35 w/children). The average length of stay (hotel + shelter + assisted transitional housing) was 71 nights, the longest stay 163 nights.
- In collaboration with the City of Ketchum, St. Luke’s Center for Community Health, the Hunger Coalition and area churches, a shelter was erected at an underutilized Hailey building for the months of January-March, when securing hotel rooms became problematic. Over 100 volunteers helped to staff the shelter from 4 p.m. at night until 10 a.m. the next morning.

FY23 Other Highlights

- BCCF expanded staff from 1.5 to 2.5 FTE by adding two bilingual Family Care Coordinators.
- BCCF opened new offices, offering five days a week of in person services.
- BCCF participated in a collaboration with local partners including Hunger Coalition, St. Luke’s Center for Community Health, the City of Ketchum, and Blaine County to provide emergency shelter.

FY24 Fiscal Year Budget Request Highlights

Requested Resources and Associated Costs

- Program delivery costs
 - \$30,000
 - This represents 27% of BCCF’s total program delivery time (4% of BCCF total operational budget)
 - Supports Community Well-being + Housing

The delivery of emergency financial assistance by bilingual staff supports the **County's Strategic Priority of well-being**. It creates stability and equitable access to resources. Giving residents of Blaine County a resource to maintain their housing, especially in times of rising rents and not enough rental inventory, is an important investment by the County.

Research demonstrates that the displacement and disruption arising from the eviction process leads to: job loss, poor performance in school for children, physical and mental health issues, emergency housing costs, increased administrative burden for courts, negative impacts on credit scores and the ability to re-rent, and the deterioration of communities when people must move away from their support systems.

Through a partnership with BCCF, Blaine County stands to save on the down the line costs that these negative effects caused by housing displacement. The costs that would be avoided and the benefits that would be enjoyed by Blaine County include, but are not limited to:

- Education/juvenile/welfare costs associated with homeless children;
- Negative impacts of eviction on tenants' credit score, ability to re-rent, and the potential loss of a subsidized housing voucher;
- Costs of providing public benefits when jobs are lost due to eviction;
- Costs associated with homelessness, such as additional law enforcement;
- Costs of family and community instability;
- Preservation of financial and personal assets.

Additionally, avoiding evictions also supports the **County's Strategic Priority of housing** by helping to preserve the existing supply of affordable housing. By allowing tenants to remain in their homes and preventing the units from being converted to market-rate rentals or sold to private owners.

Through a partnership with the County, BCCF's program delivery services will support our performance metrics by:

- Financial assistance will reach the intended recipients through BCCF's ability to staff their Hailey based offices and phone lines five days a week and continue to provide outreach at locations such as the Hunger Coalition and other community events that represent the diverse community of Blaine County.
- Financial assistance addresses the most critical needs of recipients and creates stable households through BCCF's family care coordinators providing quick and helpful turnaround of all applicants seeking assistance. The turnaround time is often within a week so that applicant's urgent needs can be met in an effectively timely fashion unlike other similar government assistance programs.

FY24 Fiscal Year Anticipated Highlights

FY24 Anticipated Projects, Performance and Highlights

- BCCF will assist at least 180 households with either their directly funded financial assistance programs or by helping them to secure additional resources they qualify for.
- BCCF will provide at least 3000 hours of in person case management time to those households.
- BCCF will help an anticipated 80% of qualifying applicants with financial intervention that enabled them to avoid eviction or receiving an eviction judgement on their record.