Idaho Center for Fiscal Policy Fact Sheet

What does \$100 million buy in Idaho?



April 2018

Idahoans pride themselves on being fiscally responsible, giving everyone a fair shot, and lending a helping hand when their neighbor is facing a hard time. Each of these contribute to broadly shared opportunity and an economy that is strong and sustainable for Idaho's future. However, ensuring that our tax dollars are being used to meet these goals requires understanding the impact of budget changes, which can be difficult to wrap your head around. Despite how often words like million and billion are used in important conversations, research shows that the human brain struggles to comprehend numbers higher than 1 million. This fact sheet summarizes what \$100 million means to public services in Idaho over the course of a year.² So what could \$100 million provide for our residents?



\$100 million could fund 13 Idaho State Veterans Homes like the one in Pocatello, giving capacity to provide over 900 **veterans** with medical and supportive care for a year.



\$100 million could fund the **Idaho Suicide Prevention Hotline** and operate 66 new Behavioral Health Crisis Centers like the one in Idaho Falls for a year.



\$100 million could help provide more than **25,900** low-wage working parents with subsidized child care for a year so they can keep working.



\$100 million could provide health coverage to more than 42,600 children for a year.



\$100 million could pay **1,835 Idaho** State Police Troopers their average wage for a year.



\$100 million could help replace more than **66** deteriorating **bridges** like the Maggie Creek Bridge in Idaho County.



\$100 million could fully fund the Weiser School District and pay average salaries to 1,858 additional **K-12 teachers** in other parts of the state for a year.

¹ Landy, D., Silbert, N., & Goldin, A. (2013). Estimating large numbers. Cognitive science, 37(5), 775-799.
2 Most government services have several sources of funding. This factsheet displays the cost of services listed, which include local, state, and/or federal funding. All icons are sourced from www.flaticon.com.



