

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



**Idaho
Out-of-School
Network**

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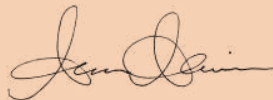


DEAR OST COMMUNITY,

ION helps build a strong out-of-school community. We keep the interests of individual programs and families at the forefront, tailoring our resources and training to reflect the current needs.

As we build together to help Idaho's youth thrive, grow, and connect, amazing things happen. This past year, we worked directly with youth leaders to host the first annual *Teen Leadership Meet-up* which provided ION with invaluable perspectives of the field through their eyes. We also strengthened relationships with industry partners through the *TMC Works* project; STEM Ambassadors toured businesses, showcasing the great potential in the emerging Idaho STEM workforce. ION also expanded our support for Full Service Community Schools, helping to grow more afterschool programming statewide.

In this changing landscape, our team at ION is dedicated to aggregating stories of success, empowering our leaders and Champions to share their communities' unique narratives, and to continue to support, celebrate and grow quality experiences for Idaho's youth and families. The power of our unified voice in 2025 advocating for funding, demonstrated the strength we have built working together and proves that we can make a difference!



Anna Almerico
Senior Program Director



Our Partners

ION is supported by the Charles MOTT Foundation, United Way of the Treasure Valley, Blue Cross of Idaho, Idaho Workforce Development Council, Idaho Department of Education, Afterschool Alliance and STEM Next.



MEET THE ION TEAM

What do you love about this work?



Anna Almerico
Senior Program Director

"I am inspired by the afterschool community that shows up for youth. Seeing the ION team, programs we work with and youth across Idaho advocate on the power of OST makes me feel proud to work in this field."



Amy Post
TMC Labs Program Manager

"I love seeing an afterschool educator get excited about bringing a STEM activity to the kids they work with."



Natalia DiGiosia
Strategy and Operations Manager

"I love seeing people connect at an ION event, especially when a story about a program is shared that really hits another person."



Raine Simplot
OST Specialist

"I find it uplifting to work with people dedicating themselves to positive change"



Paul Verhage
AmeriCorp Member

"The best part of my service is getting to be in the classroom with students"



Emma Claire James
Policy and Data Intern

"I am moved by the support that Idaho programs give to so many kids and families. I am grateful that ION makes it possible to advocate for them in a meaningful way"



Tina Gosselin
Project Coordinator

"I absolutely love seeing the programming & meeting the people responsible for all our statewide programs. It is inspiring!"

OVERVIEW OF ION



The Idaho Out-of-School Network is a program under Jannus, a 501(c)(3) organization.



Our Mission

The Idaho Out-of-School Network's (ION) mission is to build, advocate for, and lead a strong out-of-school (OST) community. ION provides tools and resources to increase access to quality youth programs in Idaho.

Our Vision

Every Idaho child has an opportunity to learn and thrive through participation in a high quality out-of-school program.



Steering Committee Members

- Jennifer Redford - CHAIR - Idaho Commission for Libraries
- Natasha Tienhaara - VICE CHAIR - University of Idaho 4-H
- Andrew Fletcher - Treasure Valley YMCA
- Aubrie Hunt - Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
- Christiana Feliciano - Idaho Business for Education
- Darnisha Orcutt - Jannus, Inc
- Felice Otero - United Way of Eastern Idaho
- Garrett Lamm - City of Boise
- Jane Zink - Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children
- Joy Hansen - Lake Pend Oreille School District
- Megan Gambs - BSU Institute for Inclusion and Transformative Scholarship
- Sendy Martinez- University of Idaho Extension
- Sheena Strickler - Idaho State Department of Education
- Sunshine Shepherd - Idaho National Laboratory
- Trisha Mick - Idaho STEM Ecosystem

OUT-OF-SCHOOL PROGRAMS SUPPORTED



In 2025 ION strengthened partnership with the Idaho Coalition of Community Schools and focused technical assistance to brand new and long established OST programs.

With funding from Treasure Valley United Way through the Rural Expansion Initiative Grant, we designed two funding cycles which supported the buildout of afterschool programs within community schools.

As a result, this funding supported 42 schools across 19 school districts in sustaining and growing out-of-school time programming, resulting in: 27 existing OST programs sustained or expanded and 54 new OST programs launched.



764 Registered in ION's Learning Academy
81 OST programs within Community Schools had access to ION Technical Assistance



\$243,788 - 2024-2025

\$965,000 - 2025-2026

Full-Service Community Schools funds awarded to community schools to support expanded out-of-school time programs

570 + 127
programs partners

Registered in the
ION Program Directory



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACCESSED



ION expanded professional development for out-of-school providers, aligning PD with the 4 Pillars of Community Schools and the **Idaho Building Blocks for Quality OST Time**.

In winter, we hosted our annual **Behavior Management Institute** in Boise, where returning programs and new frontline staff built behavior plans.

In spring, we partnered with the Idaho School Boards Association to deliver our **Recharge Workshop and Roundtables** in Marsing, Boise, Idaho Falls, Twin Falls, Cascade, and Moscow.



In fall, we hosted the **Power Up Summit** in Boise and held the first **Teen Leadership Meet-Up**, giving youth leaders the opportunity to share feedback and strengthen youth voice in OST programs.

6 Regional reports summarizing OST assets & priorities

165 People attended Recharge

55 Teens at Teen Leadership Meet-up

2 Keynote presenters

161

Attendees at Power Up Summit

11

Sessions at Summit

5

Member panel of statewide policy experts



52

Providers attended 3 days of Behavior Management Institute

“Each year our team attends we’ve taken something from the training to implement in our programming. During the trainings, we developed our behavior acronym, behavior matrix, and our behavior escalation plan. We look forward to attending next year to see what else we can implement in programming!”

Hannah Zwak - Idaho Botanical Gardens

POLICY AND ADVOCACY WINS



The ION team and our partners who believe in afterschool celebrated several policy wins in 2025.

When the **21st Century Community Learning Centers grant** was withheld in July, ION joined a coalition to highlight the positive impact of OST on Idaho youth and families. This effort supported the release of funds, with Idaho programs regaining access to programming.



A key part of uplifting afterschool was earned media. In 2025, ION published in statewide media outlets including SLATE, Idaho Press Tribune, and Idaho Education News.





At the end of 2025, ION acted again when the **Full-Service Community Schools** grant awarded to Treasure Valley United Way was canceled. Through coordinated messaging, we shared stories demonstrating how community schools and OST programs support students and families across Idaho. Idaho successfully appealed the decision, becoming the **only state among 19** to have its grant reinstated.




ION also continued to strengthen advocacy statewide by supporting programs during **Lights On Afterschool** (Idaho's largest celebration of OST) and by **recognizing 7 leaders** through the Afterschool Champions awards at the Power Up Summit.

Finally, ION celebrated the win of the **1.5 million in state Millenium Funds** for afterschool, secured by the Idaho Department of Education. This advocacy win highlights the power of collaboration when partners across Idaho come together to share data, stories, and a shared commitment to supporting youth and families. ION looks forward to continuing this work in 2026.



THANK YOU!

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 Idaho Out-of-School Network
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See the digital
Annual Report