



Idaho Rural Expansion Initiative Partner Memorandum of Understanding Full Service Community School Grant Program

Background

United Way of Treasure Valley, on behalf of the Idaho Coalition for Community Schools, is the recipient of a five-year Full-Service Community Schools (FSCS) State Scaling Grant for Idaho Rural Scaling Full-Service Community Schools under Federal Award Identifying Number S2151230074, also referred to as the Rural Expansion Initiative (“Initiative”). The Initiative is designed to improve the coordination, integration, accessibility, and effectiveness of services for children and families across rural schools, through implementation of the Community School Strategy.

Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlines the commitment of Initiative partners to work together to plan, develop, coordinate, provide, and evaluate the implementation of the Initiative and scale Community Schools throughout Idaho. This MOU sets for the terms and understandings between the following Initiative partners:

Organizations: Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health, Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children, Idaho Children’s Trust Fund, Idaho Department of Education, Idaho Nonprofit Center, Idaho Out of School Network, and United Way of Treasure Valley.

Local Education Agencies: American Falls School District, Caldwell School District, Cascade School District, Coeur d’Alene School District, Emmett School District, Garden Valley School District, Genesee Joint School District, Homedale School District, Jefferson School District, Jerome School District, Kamiah School District, Marsing Joint School District, Middleton School District, Moscow School District, Mountain Home School District, Minidoka School District, Nampa School District, Notus School District, Parma School District, Salmon River School District, Soda Springs School District, Teton School District, Wendell School District, and Wilder School District.

The following agreement outlines the commitments, responsibilities, roles, and services provided by each partner:

Commitment to Four Pillars and Pipeline Services

Rural Expansion Initiative Partners understand that the Community School Strategy is best implemented when each aspect of the Four Pillars is integrated. All partners agree to provide and/or support pipeline services that align with the Four Pillars of Community Schools. Partners will coordinate no less than three existing pipeline services and provide at least two additional pipeline services at designated school sites. Partners commit to the following pipeline services that fall under the Four Pillars as defined by the FSCS Federal Register:

1. **Pillar: Integrated Student Supports:** Provide in- and out- of-school support for students that address student well-being and out-of-school barriers to learning through partnerships with social and health service agencies coordinated by a Community School Coordinator.
 - Social, health, nutrition, and mental health services and supports
 - Juvenile crime prevention and rehabilitation programs
2. **Pillar: Expanded and Enriched Learning Time and Opportunities:** Provide enrichment activities, or learning opportunities, before or after school, during school, on weekends, and/or during summer to serve as additional academic and instructional support.
 - Early childhood education programs
 - Out-of-school time programs
 - Support for a child's education transitions
 - Activities that support post-secondary and workforce readiness
3. **Pillar: Family and Community Engagement:** Provide opportunities to bring parents, caregivers, and families of students, community members, and leaders into the school as partners in students' education to meaningfully involve parents and families in the Community School decision-making processes.
 - Family and community events
 - Engage and support families in and out of school
4. **Pillar: Collaborative Leadership and Practices:** Cultivate a culture of professional learning, collective trust, and shared responsibility for each Community School that is representative of the community it serves.

Unique Partner Responsibilities:

A. United Way of Treasure Valley

- Serve as fiscal agent, provide budget oversight and management.

- Oversee federal reporting and grant management.
- Employ a dedicated team to lead the implementation of best practices related to Community School Strategy and the Initiative.
- Facilitate and deliver technical assistance opportunities to schools, partners, and the broader community involved in the Initiative.
- Lead regular Rural Expansion Advisory Committee meetings with partners and schools to advise, guide, and support their work in implementing the Community School Strategy and the Initiative.
- Serve as a central point of contact and resource for Initiative partners and schools, providing guidance, feedback, and support as needed.
- Collaborate with an external evaluator to develop evaluation frameworks, data collection methods, and evaluation plans to measure the impact of the Initiative.
- Analyze evaluation findings to identify areas for improvement and make data-informed decisions to enhance Initiative outcomes.

B. Local Education Agencies:

- Employ a full-time Community School Coordinator at designated school site(s) to support high-quality implementation of the Community Schools Strategy. District assumes responsibility for employee following all district policies.
- Participate in technical assistance and professional development provided by Initiative partners.
- Develop a local advisory council that will assist in providing the designated school site(s) with direction and guidance on the quality and implementation of the Community Schools strategy.
- Lead a comprehensive asset and needs assessment that includes students, school staff, families, community members and partners.
- Commit to coordinate three or more existing pipeline services and provide a minimum of two additional services at designated school site(s) as articulated in an Annual Action Plan.

C. Idaho Department of Education:

- Assist Initiative in developing knowledgeable and effective methodology for Community School efforts by providing relevant and timely data for use in required FSCS reporting and external evaluation of the Initiative.

- Provide family and community engagement professional development to Community Schools, partners, and community members through annual family and community engagement conference.
- Supply one representative to the Idaho Coalition for Community Schools to sit on the ***Rural Expansion Advisory Committee*** to ensure a consistent line of communication between the lead partner agency, schools, and other partners.

D. Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health:

- Assist Community Schools to identify and collaborate for the provision of health-related services for students and families in need.
- Assist Community Schools in partnerships to create, expand, or improve access to quality childcare and early education opportunities.
- Supply one representative to the Idaho Coalition for Community Schools to sit on the ***Rural Expansion Advisory Committee*** to ensure a consistent line of communication between the lead partner agency, schools, and other partners.

E. Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children

- Share knowledge and resources related to high-quality early learning programs, curriculum development, and assessment strategies.
- Support the expansion and access to early childhood education in Community Schools, including transition to kindergarten programming.
- Offer professional development opportunities, workshops, and training sessions related to early childhood education and developmentally appropriate interventions to support educators and staff working in Community Schools.
- Foster collaboration among early childhood education providers, community organizations, and schools to support the holistic development of young children in Community Schools.
- Promote family engagement and strengthen the partnership between families, schools, and community organizations through the provision of resources and strategies that support families in their role as their child's first and most important teacher in Community Schools.
- Supply one representative to the Idaho Coalition for Community Schools to sit on the ***Rural Expansion Advisory Committee*** to ensure a consistent line of communication between the lead partner agency, schools, and other partners.

F. Idaho Children's Trust Fund

- Share expertise and resources on evidence-based strategies for preventing abuse and neglect, particularly focusing on young children.
- Collaborate with schools, partners, and community organizations to integrate child abuse prevention and social-emotional learning initiatives and practices within the Community Schools Strategy.
- Provide training and technical assistance to grantee programs to enhance their capacity to support child development, family engagement, and abuse prevention within Community Schools.
- Supply one representative to the Idaho Coalition for Community Schools to sit on the *Rural Expansion Advisory Committee* to ensure a consistent line of communication between the lead partner agency, schools, and other partners.

G. Idaho Nonprofit Center

- Provide technical assistance to support the strengthening of nonprofits and Community Schools through strategies for collaborative leadership and governance structures.
- Assist in capacity building and training for development and fundraising through diverse revenue streams and advocacy for Initiative partners.
- Supply one representative to the Idaho Coalition for Community Schools to sit on the *Rural Expansion Advisory Committee* to ensure a consistent line of communication between the lead partner agency, schools, and other partners.

H. Idaho Out-of-School Network

- Provide support and technical assistance to Community Schools in developing and implementing high-quality out-of-school time education programs, summer learning, and care programs.
- Collaborate with Community Schools and community organizations to support out-of-school time efforts and meet the specific needs of their community.
- Facilitate training and professional development opportunities for program staff and volunteers, focusing on social-emotional learning, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), 21st-century skills, and health and wellness education.

- Supply one representative to the Idaho Coalition for Community Schools to sit on the ***Rural Expansion Advisory Committee*** to ensure a consistent line of communication between the lead partner agency, schools, and other partners.

Roles and Responsibilities of all Initiative Partners:

- Collaborate with all partners to meet project objectives and contribute to the sustainability plan of FSCS and the Initiative.
- Collaborate with the evaluation team by providing relevant and timely data and information to further the continuous improvement of FSCS and the Initiative.

A. Performance Measures

- All parties agree to adhere to specific performance measures established by the 2023 FSCS Notice of Funding Opportunity that align with the objectives of the Initiative.

B. Consequences of Non-Compliance

- Failure to meet the responsibilities outlined in this MOU may result in consequences to be determined by the Rural Expansion Advisory Committee, which may include renegotiation of roles, mediation, or, in extreme circumstances, termination of partnership.

C. Sustainability Commitment

- All partners are committed to sustaining the FSCS project beyond two years after the term of the grant -- demonstrating the long-term commitment to sustain the project beyond the initial investment in Federal funds.

D. Provisions for Additional Parties

- If deemed beneficial for the Initiative, additional parties may be added to this agreement. Any new partners will be required to adhere to the conditions of this MOU.

E. Ownership of Intellectual Property

- All intellectual property created in connection with the Initiative will be jointly owned by all partners, unless otherwise agreed upon in writing. Each party shall

have the non-exclusive right to use such intellectual property for non-commercial purposes.

Rural Expansion Advisory Committee:

- **Roles & Responsibilities:**

- Provide strategic guidance and oversight for the implementation of the Full Service Community Schools grant and the Rural Expansion Initiative at the state level.
- Collaborate with the Idaho Coalition for Community Schools and other partners to ensure effective coordination and alignment of efforts.
- Contribute expertise, knowledge, and experience in relevant areas, relating to the growth and development of the Community Schools Strategy.
- Provide feedback and input on the development and refinement of state-wide scaling, programmatic goals, strategies, and evaluation metrics.
- Foster collaboration and partnerships that enhance the capacity and effectiveness of Community Schools across the state by sharing relevant resources, contacts, and opportunities.
- Communicate updates, progress, challenges, and successes related to the Initiative within their organizations, schools, and communities.
- Support data sharing and reporting requirements by providing relevant data and information from their organizations as requested.
- Collaborate with the evaluation team to analyze data, interpret findings, and make recommendations for program improvement.

- **Meetings**

- All major administrative decisions concerning policy and personnel of the Initiative program shall be brought to the Rural Expansion Advisory Committee. The Rural Expansion Advisory Committee consists of representatives from partners listed in this agreement. Decisions will be reached by group consensus whenever possible and appropriate. The Rural Expansion Advisory Committee will meet monthly, or as needed, on key decisions and issues related to successful Initiative implementation.

Duration

- The agreement is for a period of one year and will be renewed annually. The agreement shall become effective upon signature by the authorized officials and will remain in effect until modified or terminated by any one of the partners by mutual consent.

Procedures for Modification and Termination

- The MOU may be modified, revised, extended, or renewed by mutual written consent of all parties, by the issuance of a written amendment, signed and dated by all parties.
- Any party of the MOU may terminate their participation in this MOU by giving sixty days written notice of intent to terminate to each of the partners. In such case, termination by one or more of the parties to this MOU does not alter the terms or obligations of the other parties to this MOU.

Dispute Resolution

- All parties agree to engage in good faith efforts to resolve any dispute that arises under this MOU through direct discussions and negotiation. If a dispute cannot be resolved in this manner, the parties may mutually agree to engage in mediation or another agreed-upon method of alternative dispute resolution.

Confidentiality Agreement

- All parties agree to keep confidential all non-public information regarding the Initiative that is designated as confidential or that reasonably should be considered confidential. Parties agree not to disclose any such confidential information to third parties without the prior written consent of the disclosing party.

Budgetary Expectations

- United Way of Treasure Valley will oversee fiscal management of the Initiative, including budget planning. Funding details will be outlined annually in Subrecipient Agreements with partner organizations and Local Education Agencies, specifying terms and conditions for any associated funding.

Severance Clause

- If any part of this agreement becomes unenforceable or illegal, then the agreement will continue in force, but the offending provision(s) shall be severed from the agreement and will have no effect on the remaining services agreed to and associated performance.

Signatures

The undersigned hereby acknowledge and agree to be bound by all the terms and conditions set forth in the MOU, which shall become effective upon execution of this agreement by electronic signatures below.

Dr. N. ShaleneFrench
Dr. N. ShaleneFrench (Feb 20, 2025 17:57 MST)

Signature
Dr. N. ShaleneFrench

Name
Caldwell School District 132

Agency/School District

Feb 20, 2025

Date
Superintendent

Title