



COPS DIVISION IMPACT REPORT

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

A note from the COPS Administrator - Leahann Romero



As we move through the first quarter of 2026, we want to take a moment to reflect on the progress and accomplishments of the Community, Operations, and Program Services (COPS) Division during 2025. Looking back with the benefit of a full year's data and outcomes, it is clear that 2025 was marked by strong collaboration, innovation, and meaningful impact across Idaho.

Throughout the year, the COPS Division advanced its mission to empower communities, juveniles, and families through effective, community-based services. By working closely with all IDJC divisions, the Judiciary, county partners, education systems, law enforcement, providers, and community stakeholders, we strengthened a responsive continuum of care that is customer-focused, collaborative, evidence-based, and outcome-driven.

The achievements of 2025 were made possible by the dedication of our team and the steadfast support of our partners. Together, we delivered high-quality services aligned with shared goals and improved outcomes for Idaho's youth and families. Thank you for your commitment throughout 2025. As we continue forward in 2026, we look forward to building on this momentum and deepening our impact across the state.

COPS Project Manager - Danielle Chandler

In 2025, the Unit advanced statewide initiatives to improve consistency, collaboration, and service delivery. The COPS Project Manager led a team to enhance the Positive Peer Culture Project, standardizing policies, manuals, and training across IDJC's three correctional facilities. The Unit administered \$3.79 million in Millennium Income Fund resources to support assessment centers in FY 2025 and 2026, ensuring continuity of services and fiscal accountability. The Unit strengthened community collaboration through three Idaho Behavioral Health Council implementation teams and improved internal operations through enhanced communication, onboarding, and strategic planning. The Unit also analyzed standardized human trafficking screening for probation departments, confirming effective implementation and improved risk identification and early intervention.

Planning & Compliance - Marissa Evans

The Planning and Compliance Team advanced major juvenile justice initiatives, coordinated the 2025 Juvenile Justice Forum, and supported youth-focused programs including Rise Up, Step Forward, Idaho Youth Summit, Strong Minds Idaho, and Rising Voice Idaho Youth Council. The team supported the Idaho Juvenile Justice Commission, managed Assessment Center and Juvenile Justice Training grants, oversaw the Shelter Care Program, launched the Shared Horizons Council for the Interstate Compact, aided School Resource Officer training, and advanced a new diversion initiative with the Coalition for Juvenile Justice.

The team ensured statewide compliance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act and Idaho Administrative Procedures Act, providing education, technical assistance, monitoring, and data-driven insights through the upcoming Compliance Dashboard.

Chad Jacobs, Jolene Brooks, Matt Heuring, Sam Graefe



District Liaisons serve as IDJC’s frontline in local communities, managing \$7.3 million in Juvenile Corrections Act and Tobacco Tax funds across 44 counties to support probation, facilities, and youth programs, while driving prevention, diversion, and coordinated juvenile justice initiatives. In 2025, they completed 115 law enforcement site visits, assisted with probation and detention reviews, were actively involved with the State Advisory Group and Juvenile Justice Councils, organized trainings and events, improved onboarding and communication, launched statewide initiatives for high-risk youth, and streamlined coordination through newsletters, weekly discussions, and onboarding of two new liaisons.



\$7.3 Million Managed



115 LE Site Visits Completed



Streamlined Communication

85 Juvenile Justice Professionals Trained



Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) - Matt Heuring

IDJC has strengthened officer training in juvenile disciplines by enhancing defensive tactics training and combining juvenile detention and corrections officers into a single academy, ensuring timely, high-quality instruction from skilled trainers. The Department collaborates with the POST Academy and community subject-matter experts to update curriculum in line with best practices and to address the needs of a younger, more diverse workforce. Additionally, IDJC led a multi-agency workgroup to develop standardized Idaho Juvenile Human Trafficking screening and assessment tools in compliance with Senate Bill 1350, including live expert-led training sessions and online modules for ongoing education.

Behavioral Health Unit - Kari Portales

Haley Myers

The IDJC Behavioral Health Unit funds and coordinates community-based treatment and support for justice-involved youth in partnership with counties, tribes, courts, and state agencies, helping prevent commitment or recommitment through programs like SUDS and CBAS that demonstrate strong outcomes and fiscal responsibility. IDJC is the pass-through mechanism for funding to support clinician positions in 11 juvenile detention centers statewide. Clinicians do vital work for vulnerable youth in custody by completing screenings for mental health and substance use issues and providing crisis intervention. Clinicians also recommend community-based mental health services to youth coming out of detention and provide consultation to detention staff, probation, and judges. In collaboration with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Medicaid, and local providers, BHU continues expanding access to cost-effective, community-based care that improves long-term outcomes by keeping youth connected to their families and communities.

Substance Use Disorder Services (SUDS)

- Targeted Services: Substance use disorder treatment, commitment prevention
- Funds Used: \$2,537,254
- Youth Served: 766

Community-Based Alternative Services (CBAS)

- Targeted Services: Mental health and behavioral addiction treatment, commitment prevention
- Funds Used: \$643,022
- Youth Served: 433

Detention Clinician Passthrough Funds

- Targeted Services: Supports detention clinician positions in juvenile detention centers
- Funds Used: \$681,436
- Youth Served: 2193

Total Funds Utilized \$3,861,712

Total Youth Served 3,392

Over 98% of youth were not committed or recommitted to IDJC Custody

Interstate Compact - Anne Connor

Jen Baer

In December 2025, the Idaho Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ) State Council, *Shared Horizons*, held its inaugural meeting, focusing on compliance, rule updates, and member engagement. The Council reviewed ICJ rule amendments approved at the 2025 Annual Business Meeting, set to take effect April 1, 2026, and recommended forming a Rules Work Group. The Compliance Committee approved the 2026 Performance Measurement Assessment, which will evaluate states quarterly on three compliance standards via the Tableau Transfer of Supervision Dashboard, with an overview shared with County Administrators on January 29, 2026. In addition, IDJC has implemented internal ICJ deadlines to strengthen compliance, improve timeliness, and standardize professional case documentation. These deadlines establish clear workflow expectations, promote proactive case management and timely communication, and address compliance gaps caused by reliance on national timelines.

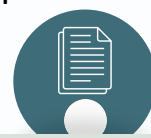
IDJC New Interstate Compact Deadline Goals



Improving Timelines



Enhancing Case Documentation



Standard UNITY Documentation



Improving Timelines

