

# 2009 Idaho Kids Count Academy

Introduction: Linda Jensen

**KIDS COUNT** is a national network funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to:

- Collect, analyze and communicate data to tell stories about how children are faring in the US, and what they need to succeed
- Educate the public about children's issues to build public and political will to drive policy change
- Motivate and mobilize policy change through public debate and forums

# Small Faces in a BIG Recession Research Initiative

- Economic Recovery Act and how Stimulus funds can be accessed and used to help vulnerable children
- Measuring the impact of the recession on children
- Developing and piloting a community recovery process

# Data Trends for Idaho Prior to the Recession

- The annual growth rate of 3% in Idaho children is 3 times the growth rate of the nation
- 16% of Idaho children lived in poverty in up from 14% in 2000
- 42% of Idaho children lived in low-income households up from 36% in 2000
- 13% of Idaho children were medically uninsured up from 11.4% in 2006

The 2009 Fund for Child Well-Being Index Report projects that virtually all the progress made in family economic well-being since 1957 will be wiped out.

# Family Economics

- The percentage of children poverty is expected to peak at 21% in 2010
- Approximately 27% of children will have at least one parent not working full-time year-round
- Median incomes are expected to decline approximately 6% from 2007 values

# Child Health

- Increased mobility of low-income families that lose their housing and move or become homeless will have severe negative impacts on child social, emotional and physical health
- Children's overall health is expected to decline due to obesity as recession drives parents to rely more on low-cost fast food
- The total number of children with health insurance is expected to remain at just under 90% in 2010 because of increased government health insurance availability

# Child Safety and Engagement

- The connection that children have to their communities is likely to be negatively impacted by the decline in pre-k education participation and after school programs
- Child safety and behavior will worsen due to higher rates of violent crime where youth are both victims and perpetrators
- Children of color will fare worse because they are generally more susceptible to the consequences of economic fluctuation

# Community Voice

- What is your response the data?
- What are highest priority community issues?
- Cost-neutral community strategies for immediate relief
- Short-term state level policies to improve safety net for children in the short-term
- Most important long term investment