

# Oregon IDA Initiative

The Power to Reach Financial Goals



Neighborhood  
Partnerships

Evaluation Report  
November 2024



# Letter from the Director



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Oct. 30, 2024

Dear Partners,

As we reflect on another impactful two years of the Oregon Individual Development Account (IDA) Initiative, I am filled with hope and pride for the collective journey we have taken. This initiative represents the best of what we can accomplish when we come together with a shared vision for economic justice by centering racial justice.

We find ourselves in times that are full of potential to rethink how we rebuild a more inclusive economy that works for all people regardless of the color of their skin or the size of their bank account. We understand that, for many, the path to financial stability is fraught with barriers. This initiative is not merely about savings; it represents our ambitious priorities in pursuing economic justice and racial equity. IDA is a powerful tool in this fight, empowering people to save, invest, and create generational wealth for their families. It's about breaking cycles of poverty that have been perpetuated for far too long and removing the barriers that stand between Oregonians and the opportunities they deserve.

Racial disparities in wealth and access are not new. They are deeply rooted in our history, reinforced by policies and practices that have too often left communities of color behind. However, the work of the IDA Initiative shows us tangible results of what is possible when we trust in the collective power of organizations committed to equity. Through savings programs, financial education, and a strong support network, we're empowering individuals and families to build lasting wealth. This will not only benefit them today but also secure a brighter financial future for their children and grandchildren.



The report is more than just numbers and data; it's a testament to the resilience of communities. This is about more than immediate relief—this is about long-term change. This is about creating a foundation for future generations to stand taller, dream bigger, and have the tools they need to thrive. We all share the responsibility to create a fairer, more just society. The work Neighborhood Partnerships is doing through the IDA Initiative is showing us a path forward. A path that is collaborative, rooted in community, and focused on dismantling the systemic barriers that too often hold people back.

As you read this report, know that it reflects our collective efforts to push for a future that is not just more equitable, but also one that is full of hope. This is the Oregon we're building together – one IDA, one family, one step at a time.

With respect and gratitude,



Andrea Bell,

Executive Director



# Executive Summary

Oregonians face serious headwinds to growing and maintaining their economic well-being. Wages have not kept up with rapidly rising costs of living, including housing costs, stretching budgets and threatening household stability. The history of racism in our state has left generations of Black and brown residents unfairly under-resourced and erodes public support for systems that would support the common good. The concentration of income and wealth among relatively few leaves too many residents without a cushion to fall back on in tough times or the ability to take advantage of opportunities when they arise. Amid these headwinds, our state and tribal governments, financial institutions, and nonprofit entities are all needed to work together to ensure the well-being of our communities.

Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) have a 20-year track record of helping Oregonians with lower incomes build assets and financial stability, as shown through the data in this report, rigorous research in the field, and local community support. IDAs combine financial education, matching cash on

savings deposits, and personalized support to achieve financial goals such as homeownership, small business development, and post-secondary education. These modest investments bring a host of benefits to Oregon households: a safety net when financial emergencies arise, the confidence to plan for the future, and a pathway for economic mobility.

Through its network of community-based providers, the Oregon IDA Initiative reaches residents in all corners of the state. IDAs are utilized by Oregonians facing a wide variety of barriers, including residents with extremely low incomes, households using housing assistance (such as Section 8), first-generation college students, youth who experienced foster care, survivors of domestic violence, veterans, people with disabilities, immigrants and English-language learners.

Efforts to make IDAs accessible to people facing severe barriers to wealth building have reduced administrative complexity while addressing emergent needs and increasing participants' success. Nearly all (92%) participants who exited the program in 2022

**“The main change I experienced because of the IDA program is going from being unsure of my path and my source of income, to ensuring that I could pursue my calling and make a life and a living for myself and my family.”**

\*The anonymous quotes in this report were obtained from responses to open-ended questions on participant feedback surveys. Respondents are informed their comments may be used in reports, but we do not use respondents' names in order to allow respondents the opportunity to offer feedback confidentially. More information about the data collection methods can be found in Appendix A.



IDA saver Tralice Lewis at her business, Callie's Custom Hat Wigs.



and 2023 completed financial education and utilized matching cash to pursue their financial goals. These 2,223 participants made savings deposits of \$5.3 million and secured \$15.5 million in matching cash toward their financial goals. More than half of the matching cash went to people of color, reflecting the Initiative's attention to building an equitable program. The Initiative strives to address the barriers exemplified in today's racial wealth disparities through its relationships with culturally responsive and culturally specific providers across the state.

The spectrum of asset goals available allows participants to determine the strategy that will best meet their needs. In addition to investments in a range of wealth building and financial stability goals, one in three program completers withdrew a portion of their matching cash for emergency savings purposes, thereby avoiding eviction or other financial hardship, or setting aside funds for the future.

One year after their asset investments, business owners invest in their operations, students are completing degrees with a minimum of student loan debt, vehicle purchase participants increase their earnings, and home buyers are making mortgage payments on time and free from rising rents. Participants demonstrate

improved financial capabilities related to their saving, spending, and credit, contributing to increased resilience.

Yet, the Oregon IDA Initiative faces serious obstacles to its continued success. While program providers offer asset-specific expertise and the ability to layer resources to meet a household's needs, rising costs mean that it takes more money per participant to bridge a down payment gap, meaningfully reduce a tuition bill, or provide robust start-up capital for a new small business. The current constraints in funding threaten the Initiative's ability to support significant and lasting improvements in participants' well-being and mean that fewer and fewer Oregonians can be served.

Oregon has a statewide network of community-based organizations with experience in reducing barriers to financial stability and wealth building. A constrained funding environment underutilizes this network and means that most of the local demand for IDAs goes unmet. It's in our state's interest to remove barriers to wealth building; IDAs are a research- and community-backed tool that increases the possibility that our residents, regardless of zip code or skin color, experience the freedom to pursue life goals and the dignity of increased financial stability.

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Author: Amy Stuczynski

# New Possibilities: Derek and Lisa Jacobson

With an IDA, Derek and Lisa Jacobson were able to purchase their first home, which then paved the way for them to start a thriving business serving the Central Coast.

Before meeting Derek in Bend in 2017, Lisa had raised two daughters alone, commenting, “It was always very hard.” Derek and Lisa had each struggled to pay bills and manage debt.

The couple wanted to buy a home, but at the time were unable to qualify for an affordable mortgage. In her research, Lisa found the IDA program at NeighborImpact. “We saw it as an opportunity to get to where we wanted to be,” states Derek. With the support of NeighborImpact’s financial coach, they learned to navigate the credit system and began using new strategies to manage their finances.

But in the wake of COVID shutdowns, home prices in Bend skyrocketed. In considering their purchasing power and the tradeoffs they would have to make, the

couple decided to move to an area they had always treasured, the Oregon Coast. A year after starting their IDA, they found a home to purchase in Otis, about 10 minutes inland from Lincoln City.

The experience changed the couple’s sense of what was possible for their future. In looking at their employment options, and with an increased sense of confidence and ability to take a chance, they decided to start their own business. They launched Pelican Garage Doors in 2021, providing installation and servicing throughout the Central Coast.

Demand for their services has been robust. Steady revenues have led them to rent a commercial space in Lincoln City, purchase a second and then third service van, and eventually hire two employees. In looking at the degree to which their financial lives have improved, Lisa states, “It all begins with this little program...It put us on a completely different, amazing path. We’re succeeding more than we’ve ever imagined that we would succeed.”



IDA savers Derek & Lisa Jacobson



# Introduction

## Access to Wealth for Oregonians with Lower Incomes

From our urban centers to our most rural communities, Oregonians need household savings and financial opportunities that contribute to a dignified life and hopeful future here. When pathways to lasting financial stability are open to all—Black, brown, and white—Oregonians can meet basic needs, pursue life goals, and bring vitality to our communities. The Oregon Individual Development Account (IDA) Initiative breaks down barriers faced by people with low incomes on the path to financial well-being.

IDAs offer a holistic and flexible approach that supports households with lower incomes along a spectrum of financial needs—from overcoming emergency challenges, to protecting employment and income, to investing in wealth-building assets. IDAs provide matching cash for asset building, information about financial systems, and community-based supports. Participants use IDA match to leverage their savings in support of their financial goals, with every \$1 of participant savings generally matched with \$5 from the IDA Initiative. These funds are a resource to invest in a first home, pursue post-secondary education, develop a business, or otherwise increase income and prevent

financial hardship through a stability-related goal (such as vehicle purchase or repair, emergency savings, and home repair). For 20 years, the coalition of partners that make up the IDA Initiative has advanced solutions coming from communities most impacted by an inequitable economy. The result is a community-affirmed program, centered in racial equity, that supports Oregonians to exercise greater self-determination and achieve financial goals that allow our communities to flourish.

This report starts by briefly exploring some of the causes of the wealth disparities we see in Oregon and the consequences all Oregonians face until we build an equitable economy where all thrive. It describes how Oregon's IDA Initiative creates pathways for opportunity, including the structures it has in place to promote equitable outcomes and respond to economic challenges brought on by lagging wages and a dysfunctional concentration of power and resources. It then presents data and findings demonstrating the IDA Initiative's reach and impacts in the two most recent years, from January 2022 through December 2023. The data show that even in the face of current economic headwinds, families and individuals with access to IDAs experienced improved financial capabilities and long-term stability. With investments in an Individual Development Account system, Oregon creates access, resources, and opportunities that widen the circle of prosperity in our communities.

“We were able to buy a house!  
What a tremendous gift and  
such a rewarding opportunity to  
stabilize our family!”



## Wealth Opens Possibilities

Communities and individuals define wealth in many ways: wealth can include sovereignty, health, purpose, and relationships.<sup>1</sup> While recognizing the strength of these life-affirming definitions, this report will focus on wealth as the financial assets that form a foundation of financial security, provide a financial buffer in the face of adversity, and enable economic mobility for current and coming generations. Access to these financial resources allows people opportunities such as pursuing post-secondary education with minimal debt, making a downpayment on a vehicle or first home, or growing a business. This creates a cycle of increased financial stability that predicts educational attainment, physical and mental health, and more widespread community economic security.<sup>2</sup>

## Wealth Disparities Are Caused by Injustice

The amount of wealth available to individuals and communities tells a story of how society is set up to build, support, and protect their financial health, or to extract from and deny it. History and data show that our laws and institutions funnel resources to a wealthy few at the expense of creating a public realm where all flourish. These actions have played out over generations to impact Oregonians today.

When looking at wealth creation in the US, we start by looking at access to land. Land ownership has been and remains the primary building block for wealth creation among white residents while dispossessing and excluding people of color. Beginning in the 1800s, the US government repeatedly established and broke treaties, which seized millions of acres of land from Native American tribes in Oregon, offering it exclusively to white settlers.<sup>3</sup> Native people were forcibly displaced from the land and communities they had been caring for, initially moved to reservations, where most land continues to be held in trust by the federal government, rather than controlled by Native peoples.<sup>4</sup>

Oregon's founding Constitution further prohibited Black and Asian people from voting, owning property, and making contracts, denying them their civil rights and access to wealth-building opportunities.

Policies that expanded the middle class in the twentieth century—Social Security, federally-insured mortgages, and education and business subsidies provided by the GI Bill or Small Business Administration—created often insurmountable barriers to mobility for people who are Black, Indigenous, Latine, Asian, or Pacific Islander, through explicit exclusion or biased implementation.<sup>5</sup> Meanwhile, these resources jump-started the ability of many white families to grow wealth that could be passed on to the next generation in a variety of ways, like helping pay for post-secondary education, a first car, making



IDA saver Tayts Lindsey Scott (left), speaking at IDA Day 2023

“Having an IDA made a massive difference in my college experience as a first-generation college student and now graduate. My IDA savings helped me sleep at night knowing in case of emergency, there was a safety net for me.”

a down payment on a first home, or passing on an inheritance.<sup>6</sup> As a result, the median wealth of white families more than quadrupled since 1960.<sup>7</sup> For every dollar of wealth held by the typical White family in 2022, the typical Black household held 16 cents, and the typical Hispanic household held 21 cents.<sup>8</sup> The typical Native American family held 8 cents of wealth for every dollar of wealth held by the typical White family in 2000, the most recent estimate available.<sup>9</sup>

## Wealth Disparities Continue to be Reinforced Today

Historical exclusion and theft set up unjust differences in wealth across racial lines that continue to be perpetuated by our systems today. Leading up to the 2008 financial crisis, subprime mortgages were heavily marketed to Black and Latine homeowners, most of whom qualified for better loan terms. As a corporate culture of profit-seeking continued unchecked, the mortgage market crashed, resulting in 5.6 million foreclosed homes among homeowners of all races, \$19.2 trillion in lost household wealth, and eight million lost jobs.<sup>10</sup> In the fallout from that crisis, we saw how racial division distorts our society’s understanding of the causes of wealth inequality and how to fix it—impacting our beliefs about deservedness, and placing responsibility on individuals at the bottom of the income ladder rather than the ultra-wealthy whose resources have disproportionately grown in the last 50 years.<sup>11</sup>

Anti-Black sentiment underwrites the continuation of extractive and dehumanizing policies in policing, education, employment, and financial services, which deeply harm Black Oregonians and negatively hold back people of all races by constraining economic growth, limiting potential, and eroding our moral compass.<sup>12</sup> Oregon residents who are Black, Indigenous, or people of color (BIPOC) continue to face the impacts of an inequitable and unjust economic system that erodes financial stability.<sup>13</sup> Financial institutions continue to disproportionately deny mortgages or business loans to BIPOC applicants for reasons not explained by income, credit, or other expected factors.<sup>14</sup> Employers in well-paying fields are less likely to hire BIPOC workers than white workers, and these differences cannot be explained by education, age, marital status, or location.<sup>15</sup> And Oregon’s tax code, which offers significant tax benefits to those with higher incomes and more assets, results in BIPOC Oregonians paying a higher proportion of their incomes to taxes.<sup>16</sup>

Understanding how wealth inequities originated and continue to be reinforced shows us that whole segments of our communities face intentionally created structural barriers to providing for themselves, their families, and their communities. In addition to promoting financial stability for all its residents, an Oregon with more widespread prosperity would generate an estimated \$4 billion per year in additional economic growth.<sup>17</sup> Whether Black, brown, or white, Oregon residents face a myriad of financial challenges born from policies and practices with inequitable impacts.





IDA saver Ximena Morales, owner of Huitzil

## Wealth Disparities Leave Oregonians Struggling with Current Costs of Living

The concentration of resources among the relatively few means that many Oregonians are struggling with today's financial challenges. Over the last 40 years, the income of typical Oregonians has stagnated while the costs of living have risen dramatically, making it harder for households to balance their monthly budgets.<sup>18</sup> In 2022, half of Oregon renters spent 30 percent or more of their income on rent, with the number of households severely cost-burdened reaching all-time highs.<sup>19</sup> And in the years following the expiration of federal stimulus payments and the advance child tax credit, credit card debt and non-bank credit use have increased.<sup>20</sup>

This leaves many Oregonians with limited means to prepare for economic downturns.<sup>21</sup> Employees report that a need for savings in case of an emergency expense is their top financial stressor.<sup>22</sup> Among households with incomes under \$50,000, 43 percent have no money set aside for emergencies.<sup>23</sup>



Structures to support saving are also inadequate. People with low incomes need products that allow ready access to their modest resources, such as low balance requirements and allowances for frequent contributions and withdrawals, which banks are not incentivized to offer.<sup>24</sup> Among adults with incomes less than \$25,000, 23 percent do not have a bank account.<sup>25</sup>

Policies that build the savings and assets of Oregon's lowest-income households will help residents meet basic needs, reduce insecurity, and support employment. Our state, financial institutions, and nonprofit entities are all needed to construct an equitable economy that raises Oregonians' incomes, increases housing affordability, offers safe financial products, and advances a just tax system. A fair and equitable economy will build more stable and vibrant communities, bringing dignity and resiliency to our residents.



# The Research and Community Base for IDAs

With its community-based relationships and focus on equity-centered outcomes, the IDA Initiative responds to the needs of Oregon residents impacted by unjust systems. Through the combination of strategies embedded in IDAs—matching cash, education on navigating financial systems, connections to resources, and support towards financial stability and asset-building goals—IDAs can break down barriers and make wealth-building opportunities more widely available. In Oregon, IDAs are a community-

affirmed solution that increases access to financial stability, repeatedly supported as a solution by local organizations, including those coming from BIPOC communities.<sup>26</sup>

Institutional research finds that IDAs are effective in building assets for long-term financial health. IDAs have a track record of significantly increasing participant rates of homeownership, business ownership, and post-secondary education enrollment.<sup>27</sup> With these assets come demonstrated increases in employment, income, and wealth.<sup>28</sup> These assets also have stabilizing impacts on entire communities—building civic engagement, generating wealth that stays in the community, and improving population health.<sup>29</sup>

## IDAs Improve Financial Health

Rigorous research suggests that in addition to building assets, IDAs improve financial health overall: IDA participation reduces material hardship, defined as an inability to pay for housing, utilities, or medical care. Participants reduce their use of wealth-stripping nonbank check cashing services and high-cost, alternative credit products. IDAs increase household savings and readiness for financial emergencies, reducing setbacks that carry higher long-term personal and community costs.<sup>30</sup> Further, matched savings accounts show the potential to mitigate racial disparities in savings.<sup>31</sup>

This IDA research is bolstered by studies that find that families at all income levels experience better financial health and community resilience when they have



IDA saver Tabitha Jones, owner of Collective Textures

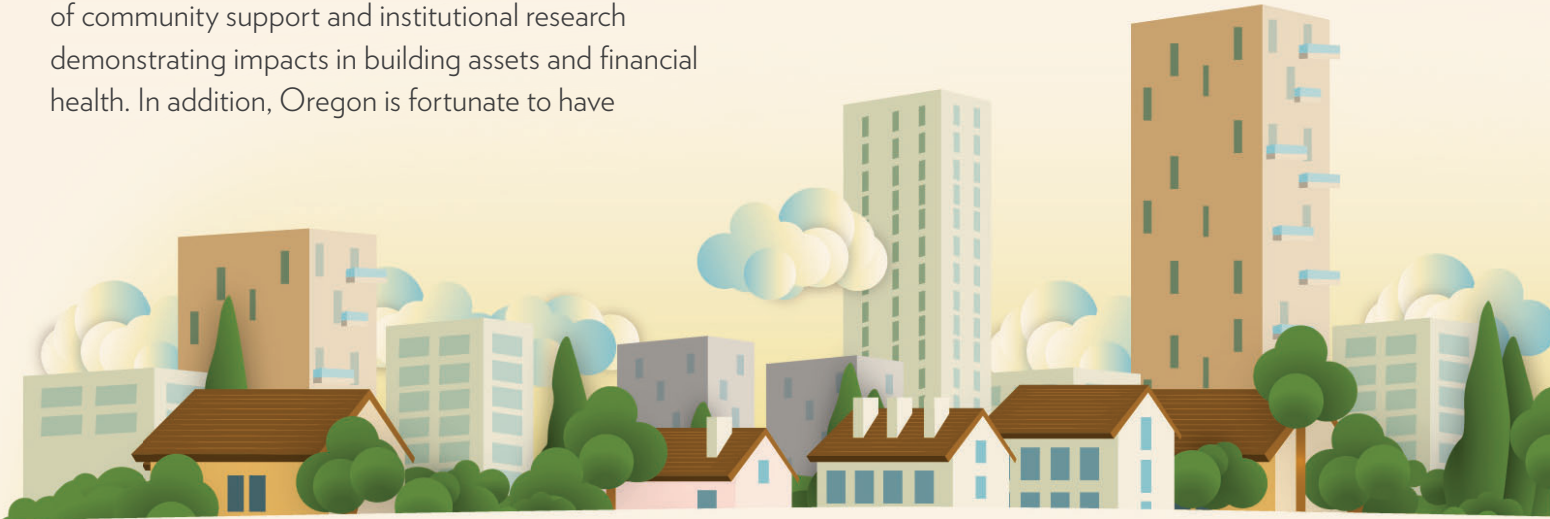


IDA saver Jelani Greenidge, also known as the DJ G\*Natural

household savings.<sup>32</sup> Families with as little as \$250 in savings are less likely to be evicted, delay paying bills, or turn to high-cost credit alternatives such as payday loans.<sup>33</sup> The importance of emergency savings was affirmed during the COVID-19 recession: families who had emergency savings before the pandemic were much better able to maintain their financial health than those who did not.<sup>34</sup>

The power of IDAs is underscored by this combination of community support and institutional research demonstrating impacts in building assets and financial health. In addition, Oregon is fortunate to have

decades of experience in the practical implementation of this tool, allowing it to build on what works and respond to community interests. Building savings and assets through IDAs leaves Oregon's residents better prepared to address the challenges of today and tomorrow.





# How Oregon's IDA Initiative Creates Pathways for Opportunity

On behalf of Oregon's Housing and Community Services Department (OHCS), the statewide nonprofit Neighborhood Partnerships (NP) administers the Oregon IDA Initiative. In partnership with OHCS, NP manages funds, supports program development among the IDA providers, and evaluates outcomes. The IDA Initiative operates through a network of community-based organizations from all corners of the state, that offer integrated services that address state priorities and local needs, making IDAs accessible to individuals and families pursuing financial goals. With financial education, matching cash, and a

spectrum of available asset goals, participants utilize IDAs to increase the power of their own savings towards their financial stability and well-being.

Since 2002, the Initiative has been funded through individual and business contributions which qualify for Oregon IDA Tax Credits. The Oregon Legislature allocated supplementary general funds to the Initiative in 2020, 2021 and 2024 to address extraordinary pandemic economic needs, respond to barriers to marketing tax credits, and support sustained asset building in our state.



IDA saver Lamaya Jarrell, owner of Many Stages, with Cecelia Lente, IDA Coordinator at Native American Youth and Family Center

## Structures to Promote Racial Equity

Through convenings, workgroups, and coalition building, Neighborhood Partnerships (NP) works with communities across the state to develop human-centered and emergent solutions to immediate financial needs while addressing the systemic drivers of economic well-being. As the administrator of the Oregon IDA Initiative, NP works in alignment with Oregon Housing and Community Services' Statewide Housing Plan, with its priority to advance equity and racial justice.<sup>35</sup> NP and IDA partner organizations work together to make IDAs accessible and responsive to communities stripped of financial resources and excluded from the benefits of our economic system. Feedback from participant-provided survey responses, along with the local, community-based experience of partner IDA providers, guides the IDA Initiative as it continually works to make IDAs more impactful.

The IDA Initiative is committed to continuously developing cultural responsiveness and advancing equitable program design so that participants can access and benefit from IDAs regardless of the color of their skin. NP provides training to program coordinators, financial educators, and administrators to build knowledge and skills to support the self-determination of communities most impacted by economic injustice. IDA grantee partner organizations set annual goals for their IDA programs and report their progress quarterly. Utilizing data disaggregated by race, Initiative partners can measure the impacts of their efforts and focus on equitable outcomes.

“I am living the American dream. We used the money toward our first home purchase. My teenage daughters have never lived in a house. We lived from apartment to apartment all over Portland. We now have peace and quiet. I couldn't do any of this on my own. The education, encouragement, guidance, resources, and community that NAYA provides is invaluable.”



# Partner Organizations and Community-Based Service Providers

IDA providers work alongside Oregon households to address financial barriers, overcome emergency challenges, protect employment and income, and invest in wealth-building assets. They offer community-based support, information about financial systems, and matching cash to individuals and families pursuing financial goals. NP directly funded twelve partner organizations in 2022 and 2023 for IDA provision<sup>a</sup>:

- CASA of Oregon
- DevNW
- Habitat for Humanity of Oregon
- Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO)
- Mercy Corps Northwest
- Micro Enterprise Services of Oregon (MESO)
- The Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA)
- NeighborImpact
- NeighborWorks Umpqua
- Portland Housing Center
- Project Youth+ (formerly College Dreams)
- Warm Springs Community Action Team (WSCAT)

These lead partner organizations work with additional local nonprofits or educational institutions in their geographic or program-related focus area, in some cases further disseminating funding to provide IDAs. This creates a network of more than 60 providers serving rural and urban communities across the state.<sup>b</sup>

IDAs are a financial resource for qualifying Oregonians that strengthen the integrated services provided by community-based organizations, making those services more successful in supporting participants' stability and self-determination.<sup>36</sup> The types of organizations that offer IDAs include college outreach programs, Community Development Financial Institutions, community action agencies, housing authorities, community development corporations, and homeownership centers. Each brings specialized approaches and layered resources, aligned with state priorities and adapted for their local community.

<sup>a</sup> Habitat for Humanity of Oregon became a new FO in 2022 and received its first match award in 2023. Mercy Corps Northwest, as part of its organization-wide decision to close all client services in the Pacific Northwest, ended IDA service provision in early 2024.

<sup>b</sup> A complete list of the provider organizations can be found at [oregonidainitiative.org](https://oregonidainitiative.org).

Among the Initiative’s providers are a dozen culturally specific organizations. Culturally specific organizations provide uniquely tailored services that are implemented by and for the cultural communities they serve.<sup>37</sup> They demonstrate first-hand knowledge of the impact of racism or discrimination on the community, center a culturally connected approach to financial wellness, recognize the strengths within participants, and emphasize community-driven, systemic solutions.<sup>38</sup> Working through culturally specific organizations invested in specific BIPOC communities enables the Oregon IDA Initiative to be accessible to many different communities across the state.



IDA saver Anthony Lam  
in front of his business,  
Professional Auto Body & Paint

## Program Components Tailored to Current Economic Conditions

Working with one of the Initiative's providers, an IDA participant engages in learning about financial systems, determines a savings plan, and chooses the financial goal that will best meet their needs. The unique combination of information, access, resources, and choice work together to address common barriers faced by households living with low incomes. These components respond to the ways individuals experience economic challenges and support households as they build assets.

In recent years financial education curricula have improved, and there have been increases in match rates, annual match limits, and asset investment options. As described below, these program shifts have been associated with significant increases in the number of participants who complete their IDA with matching cash, while maintaining access to assets for households living on very low incomes.

### Information about Financial Systems

Through individual support, asset-specific learning opportunities, and general financial education courses, IDA participants manage obstacles, make informed decisions, identify money management strategies that work for their households, and increase their understanding of how economic systems impact their individual and community financial well-being. To promote high-quality educational opportunities, NP convenes regular trainings for financial educators and maintains a repository of resources and aligned curricula,

including culturally-specific curricula that speak to participants' lived experiences.

IDA provider organizations offer individual support tailored to participants' situations. Staff guide participants as they navigate complex financial systems and make connections with mainstream financial services. Participants build relationships with financial institutions; break down barriers to banking and credit; and access business loans, mortgages, auto loans, Oregon College Savings Plan accounts, and retirement accounts.

Asset-specific courses and coaching prepare IDA participants to make informed decisions and plan for long-term sustainability as they invest in their asset goal. Training and coaching relate directly to the asset that a participant is saving toward. For example, a home purchase saver may learn about the homebuying process, while working to build their credit and reduce their debt-to-income ratio. A microenterprise saver may receive support developing their business plan, while learning how to track profit and loss and how to file their taxes.

To ensure that IDA participants leave the program with an increased general knowledge of financial systems and money management strategies, all participants complete a financial education component before utilizing their IDA matching cash. Initiative financial education is guided by the Oregon IDA Financial Education Standards which outline 12 core concepts of personal finance, such as how to manage a monthly spending and savings plan, understand a credit report, and manage debt.<sup>39</sup>

Integrated with these concepts is information to support economic literacy, defined as the identification and evaluation of economic legacies as they relate to personal finance, wealth, the economy, and political systems. Initiative financial education engages participants in considering how economic systems, past and present, impact their individual and community financial well-being. A better understanding of the economic system and policy choices that perpetuate inequities can help participants navigate barriers and understand the systemic changes that are needed to build long-term financial stability for generations to come.

“The IDA helped me purchase my current car which has helped so much as it is incredibly reliable. I also utilized an IDA for emergency savings which helped me feel confident to get out of an unhealthy situation when I needed it.”

## Matching Cash: A Resource to Build Wealth

Once enrolled, IDA participants open a designated savings account and work with their provider to determine a savings plan that works for them. Participants make deposits into their accounts over a period from three months to five or more years. When ready to make their IDA purchase, their deposits are matched by the program. The matching cash extends the reach of participants’ dollars and provides a meaningful boost toward their goals.

As costs of living increase, Oregonians have reported an increased level of difficulty paying bills and an increase in household debt.<sup>40</sup> Current conditions mean that many participants have less available to set aside for savings and they are left to manage the

reduced purchasing power of an IDA. Programs have responded by increasing rates at which they match participant deposits, up to the statutory maximum of \$5 for every \$1 saved. A 2021 statutory increase in the allowable annual match limit—from \$3000 to \$6000—acknowledges the increased costs of living and expedites participants’ progress toward the financial stability that assets can bring. With the combination of savings and matching cash, participants are better able to leverage the financial resources needed to invest in the financial assets that lead to higher educational attainment, stable employment, earnings from a business, or principal in a home.<sup>41</sup>

“The money has been great to have the initial funds to start the business but the business coaching I received was also very helpful. I think that was the key part of the program, to come out of it with a plan for the business and more knowledge of how to start and run it.”



## Self-determined Goal and Spectrum of Assets

Households have savings needs that are immediate, short- and long-term.<sup>42</sup> In 2021, the Oregon Legislature broadened IDAs’ mission beyond long-term asset building, by specifying in the authorizing statute that the Initiative’s purpose is to promote the overall financial stability and resilience of Oregon households with low incomes. While initially focused on homeownership, post-secondary education, and business ownership, IDAs now offer a spectrum of assets to meet basic needs, avoid harmful debt, increase income, and build and preserve assets.

The available financial goals fall into roughly three groups (see Figure 1). Participants without an existing cushion to navigate financial disruptions may find useful tools among the stabilization group of assets. From a more financially stable position, “bridging” assets can promote and protect employment and income, making future wealth building possible. For participants with a base level of stability and income, wealth-building assets let participants invest in longer-term prosperity for themselves, their communities, and the next generations. Providing a spectrum of IDA financial goals offers pathways for people in a variety of financial situations to grow their stability and build long-term financial well-being.

IDA participants determine which of the multiple strategies available are most useful for furthering their own goals.<sup>43</sup> When savers need a longer timeline to reach their goal, integrations with mainstream financial products can meet savers’ needs. For example, participants who have completed their home purchase savings goal but who are not yet ready to buy can deposit their savings and matching cash into a First-Time Home Buyer Savings Account. Similarly, savers can access interest-bearing Oregon College Savings Plan accounts to allow their savings to grow. These strategies preserve the savers’ efforts and allow participants to take control and responsibility for their funds.




With information, matching cash, and a spectrum of asset goals, IDAs are designed to offer choice and adapt to the current economic conditions. Working with community-based service providers exercising culturally responsive practices, IDAs bring tailored services aligned with state goals and adapted for the local community. Oregon’s communities will be stronger when we allow all residents—regardless of race or zip code—the agency and resources to make choices that can improve their quality of life.

Figure 1: **Spectrum of asset goals provides more on-ramps to financial well-being**

### Wealth building:

- Home Purchase 
- Home Repair 
- Microenterprise 
- Retirement 

### Bridging:

- Education 
- Microenterprise 
- Vehicle 

### Stabilization:

- Debt Repayment 
- Emergency Savings 
- Rental 
- Assistive Technology 

# Sustaining a Community-based Business Across Generations:

## Anthony Lam and Nancy Le

Anthony Lam grew up tinkering in his parents' auto body shop. His father had established the shop on Cully Boulevard in 1997 and operated it for twenty years. As Lam grew older, he began contributing to the family business, and went on to earn a certificate in Auto Collision Repair Technology at Portland Community College. Upon his parents' retirement in 2018, Anthony Lam and his partner, Nancy Le, took the big step to purchase Professional Auto Body & Paint from Lam's parents.

Lam and Le, both graduates of McDaniel High School, want the business to thrive not only to secure their family legacy but also to support the local community to which they belong. They serve on the Cully Boulevard Alliance Steering Committee, which works with residents, business owners, nonprofits and culturally specific organizations to promote the economic stability of the neighborhood. By working as a coalition, the Alliance is able to advocate and share resources to sustain the neighborhood in a way that is inclusive and works for its residents.

Through their involvement in the community they learned about NAYA's microenterprise program and the IDA. As big box chain body shops moved into the neighborhood, Lam and Le were looking for ways to be more competitive and noticeable in the neighborhood. While the business was running steadily, they didn't have operating funds to address any extra costs.

With the availability of match funds, they were able to set goals and prioritize those that would maximize their investment. They installed a carport—freeing up crucial work space—and invested in technology that would improve their efficiency and the security of the shop, without taking on debt. As they completed their

IDA in the summer of 2020, Le notes that NAYA's microenterprise program was quick to share additional information and resources to help them stay open during the COVID stay-at-home orders. Importantly, the infrastructure they had invested in with their IDA funds had improved what Le calls the "foundation" of their business operations. They were thus in a stronger position to weather COVID restrictions, supply chain challenges, and staffing shortages.

"Definitely we feel the business is more comfortable, more competitive," states Le. "We have everything when the customer comes in, I can provide full service just like our competitor down the street. It has made us stronger," she explains. While it remains difficult to forecast the business environment, Lam and Le remain hopeful knowing that they have a strong foundation and community support. They take pride in being the second generation to successfully manage their family-owned and operated business.



IDA savers Nancy Le and Anthony Lam, owners of Professional Auto Body & Paint.

# Reach: Communities Served

Through its statewide network of providers, the Oregon IDA Initiative makes IDAs accessible to Oregon residents who have been excluded from opportunities to build lasting financial stability. With a careful eye on the data about who it is serving, the IDA Initiative works to reach communities that are most negatively impacted by a lack of affordable housing, low wages, unfair employment practices, and an unjust tax system. Enrollment data demonstrate those efforts: IDAs have strong representation among Oregon’s BIPOC communities; among households living on

extremely limited incomes; among under-resourced households such as first-generation college students and families utilizing public housing assistance; and in both rural and urban regions of the state.

More than 1,950 Oregon residents opened an IDA in 2022 or 2023. In addition, many households were put on waiting lists or told to apply at a later date, because the need for IDAs exceeds the state funds available through tax credit sales and general fund allocations.



IDA savers and staff speaking at IDA Day 2023 (left to right/ Tisha White, Ashley Parret, Chris Odom, randy c. corradine (Neighborhood Partnerships staff), Cynthia Cruz Sanchez, Tayts Lindsey Scott, Lorri O’Neill).

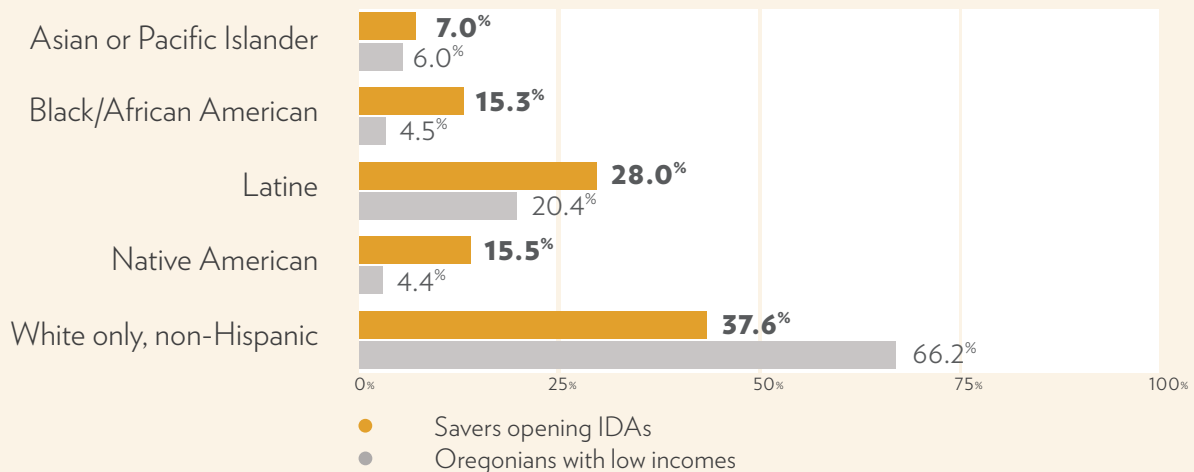
# Oregon's BIPOC Communities

Oregon continues to see racial disparities in homeownership, college degree attainment, household net worth, and household income.<sup>44</sup> For the IDA Initiative, addressing racial disparities in financial stability and the opportunities that wealth brings begins with ensuring that participants from communities of color can access IDAs at rates that are greater than their proportion of Oregonians with low incomes. The most recent enrollment data suggest that the IDA Initiative has built solid connections with BIPOC communities, supporting more racially equitable access to resources.

- Among 1,954 participants enrolled in 2022 and 2023, 137 (7.0%) were Asian or Pacific Islander, 300 (15.3%) were Black or African American, 547 (28.0%) were Hispanic or Latine, 304 (15.5%) were

- Native American, and 736 (37.6%) were White alone, non-Hispanic.
- Figure 2 illustrates the race and ethnicity of IDA participants enrolled, compared to the race and ethnicity of all Oregonians with low incomes. Asian or Pacific Islander, Black, Latine, and Native American participants are enrolled at rates that are greater than their proportion of Oregonians with low incomes.
- Enrollments of savers from BIPOC communities have increased over the last 5 years (see Appendix B, Table 1).
- Figure 8 (see page 31) shows the impact of these efforts by illustrating the proportion of matching cash that is distributed to BIPOC participants.

**Figure 2: Participants from Oregon’s communities of color are enrolled at rates that promote racial equity in access to resources**



Source: IDA Administrative Data, account openings in 2022 and 2023 (n=1,954), and 2018-2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.



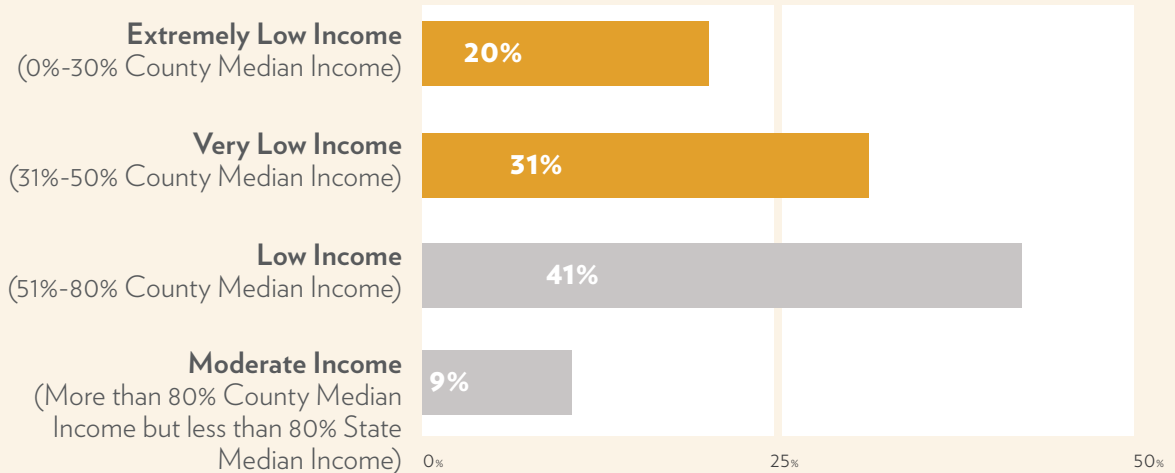
# Households with Low Incomes

Most IDA participants have incomes that are far below the eligibility thresholds.

- Among participants who enrolled in 2022 and 2023, 20% are living on incomes considered “extremely low income”, 31% are living on “very low” incomes, 41% are living on “low” incomes, and 9% have “moderate” incomes (see Figure 3, which includes additional definitions).
- 90% of participants have household incomes below \$63,000.



**Figure 3: Half of participants are living on extremely low or very low household incomes**



Source: IDA Administrative Data, account openings in 2022 and 2023 (n=1,954), and HUD-estimated median household income by county and household size.

Note: Income eligibility is based on the saver’s household size and county of residence. It must be less than 80% of the county’s Area Median Income, 80% of Oregon’s Area Median Income, or 200% of the federal poverty threshold, whichever is greater. In most Oregon counties, a family of four would be eligible if their income was no more than \$76,950 in 2023 (80% of the State Median Income).

## Other Under-resourced Communities

IDAs reach excluded and under-resourced communities in Oregon:

- Women: 68% are women.
- First generation students: Among those who open an education IDA, two-thirds (65%) do not have a parent with any college experience.
- Youth: 21% are between ages 12 and 24.
- Families utilizing public assistance: Among home purchase savers, one in four (26%) reported utilizing public housing assistance at the time of their IDA enrollment.
- IDAs also serve youth who experienced foster care, survivors of domestic violence, veterans, people with disabilities, immigrants and English-language learners.

“I was able to finish my degree debt-free! Without the IDA I would have been too overwhelmed with the cost of school and would not have finished. Now I have a master's which will allow me to teach across the state. The IDA has opened so many doors. I can fully support myself and be a contributor to my community.”

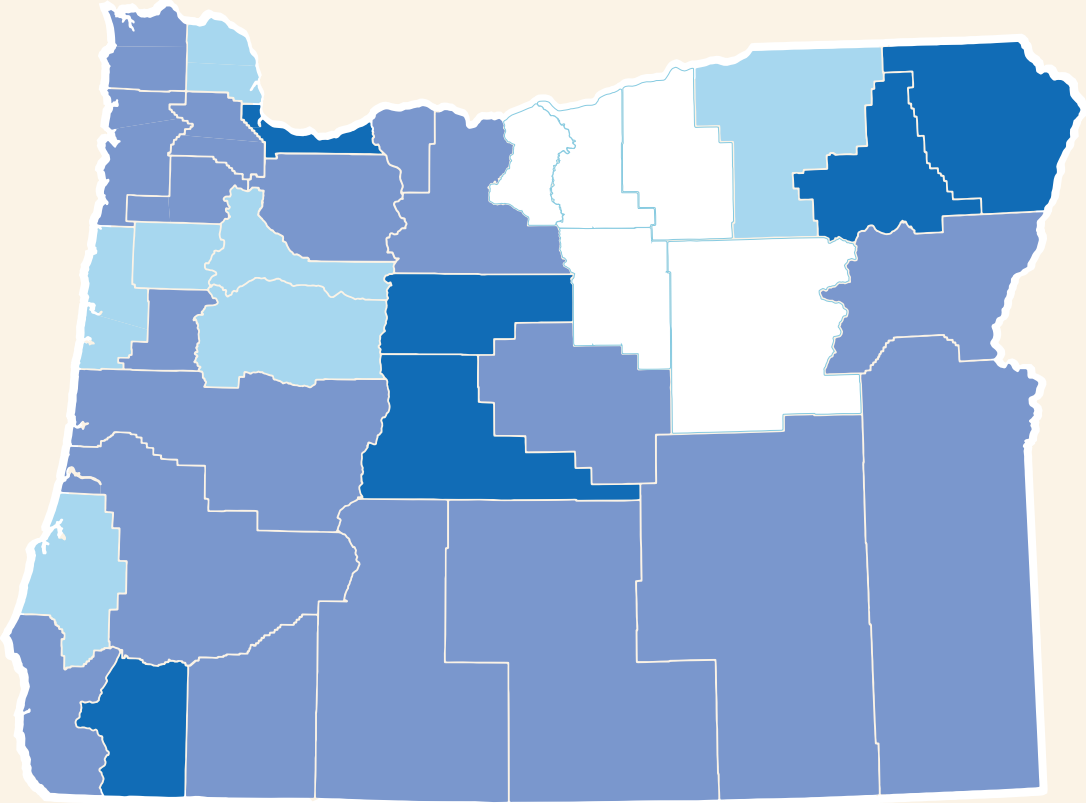


“It was incredibly valuable as a woman starting a small business to feel the support of a community and to have resources. It encouraged me to stay on my path and do what I love.”

# Urban and Rural Households

With its network of providers, Oregon residents in all parts of the state—rural and urban—participate in the IDA Initiative (see Figure 4). IDAs were opened by residents in 31 of Oregon’s 36 counties over the last three years.

Figure 4: IDA participants come from all regions of Oregon



- 30 or more IDAs per 10,000 residents living on low incomes
- 15-30 IDAs per 10,000 residents living on low incomes
- Less than 15 IDAs per 10,000 residents living on low incomes
- 0 IDAs opened in the last 3 years

Source: IDA Administrative Data, account openings in 2021 through 2023 (n=2,820), and 2018-2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

# Completing College with Confidence: Cynthia Cruz Sanchez

Systemic factors, such as inequitable access to methods for financing college education, contribute to racial disparities in degree attainment. But given that adults with college degrees earn significantly more over their lifetime, it is critical that we join together across racial differences to build equitable pathways to reaching postsecondary education goals.

When college costs outstrip student resources, they may not even consider enrolling. “Without seeing a viable way to pay, people lose motivation to even think about pursuing post-secondary education,” notes Cynthia Cruz Sanchez, a recent IDA graduate.

Cynthia grew up in Corvallis and developed an interest in math and science. She enrolled at Oregon

State University and supported her first-year costs through scholarships, her life savings, and several side jobs including dog sitting and helping in her mom’s cleaning business. Yet after her first year, she was uncertain how she would be able to continue to pay her way through college. As she was not a US citizen, loans were unavailable. Her parents had limited financial means, and not having been to college themselves, were unsure how to support Cynthia in her journey.

Cynthia was fortunate to have a friend who saw her seeking to find resources and was able to share her own experience with an IDA. Cynthia looked into it and found an IDA provider, Maps Community Foundation. But due to the chronic shortage in program funding she was put on a waiting list.

After several months, Cynthia was authorized to open her IDA. Her IDA coordinator at Maps helped her set up automatic transfers into her IDA account, where she saved monthly for about 2 years. Cynthia graduated in December 2022 with a double bachelor’s in chemical engineering and mathematics. With the help of the IDA, she was able to complete her studies and to do so without student loan debt.

“Even as an early and prior saver, the IDA program was instrumental in making it possible to help pay my way through college,” states Cynthia. “The program both benefits saving-savvy people (with low economic means) and non-previous savers too. I don’t think I’ll ever encounter another opportunity in my life that will provide as big of a return on investment!”



IDA saver Cynthia Cruz Sanchez



# Impact: Measurable Outcomes

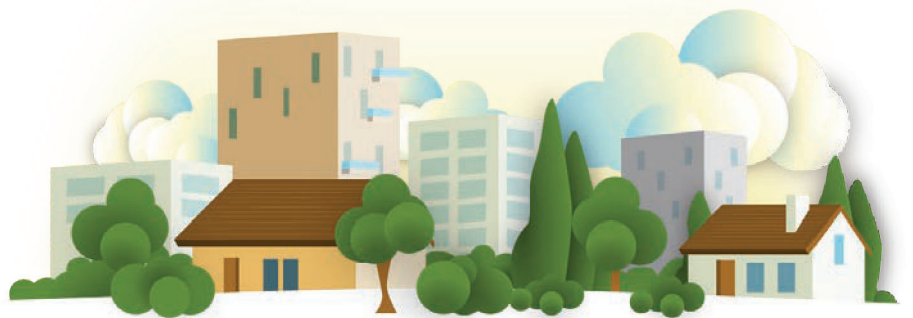
As shown in the previous pages, Oregon IDA Initiative's robust partnerships and outreach enrolls members of Oregon communities that have long been under-resourced and now face the greatest harmful consequences of rising costs of living, low wages, and an unjust tax system. The following data show the outcomes of these efforts. In particular:

**Leveraging the Power of Savings:** The IDA Initiative is successful in supporting the financial stability and asset investments of Oregonians with low incomes. Participants invest in the full array of allowable financial stability and asset goals. The Initiative supports the financial goals of BIPOC savers at rates that support greater racial equity in financial stability, assets, and wealth.

**Long-Term Benefits of Asset Investments:** After closing their IDA, completers experience continued benefits from their asset purchase. Microenterprise savers continue to develop their emerging small businesses. Education savers are earning degrees and working in their fields of study. Vehicle savers, living primarily outside of the Portland Metro region, experience increased employment and income. Home purchase savers are keeping up with their mortgage payments and have funds set aside for emergencies.

**Improved Financial Capability:** Savers make improvements in their savings, spending, and credit, and demonstrate financial capability at levels that exceed national rates.

These data suggest that the Oregon IDA Initiative plays an important role in supporting the financial needs of Oregonians with lower incomes and creating opportunities for long-term financial stability. It has demonstrated its ability to support inclusive, resilient, and thriving communities in all corners of the state.

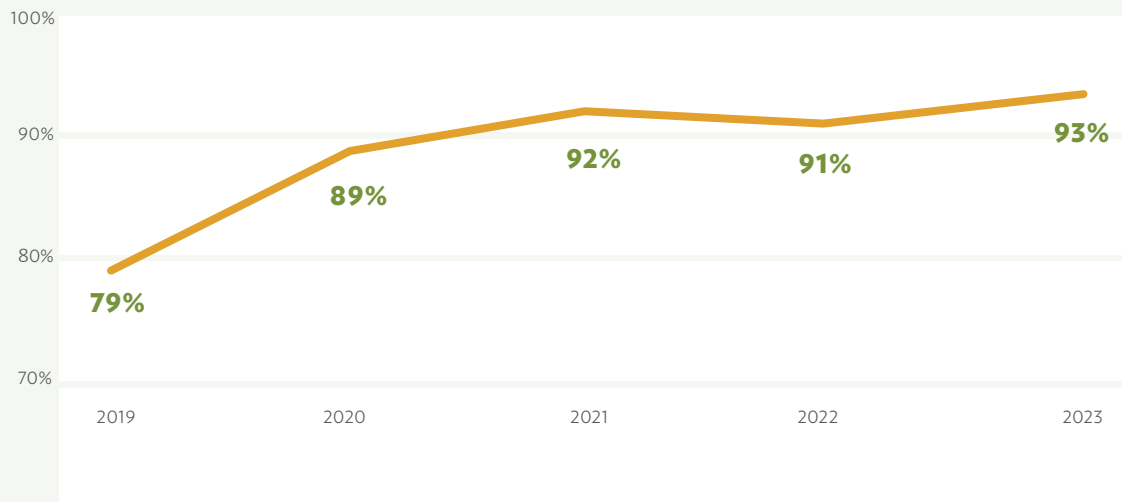


# Leveraging the Power of Savings

The IDA Initiative has a high rate of success in meeting participants' needs and supporting participants' self-determined financial next steps. The rate at which participants complete their IDAs and receive matching cash has grown since 2019 and remains high (see Figure 5). Program shifts implemented in recent years (as described earlier) have contributed to the high matched completion rate. The additional flexibility, increased financial resources, and increased range of asset choices have supported participants to reach their goals or address financial needs.

- IDAs were completed by, and match funds were distributed to, 92% of participants who exited in 2022 or 2023 (1,063 of 1,166 participants in 2022; 1,160 of 1,251 participants in 2023).
- A total of \$15.5 million in match funds was distributed to participants who exited in 2022 or 2023.
- The average IDA completer deposited \$2,395 into their IDA over the course of 32 months and earned \$6,960 in match funds towards their financial goal.

**Figure 5: Nearly all participants successfully complete their IDA**



Source: IDA Administrative Data, participants who exited in 2019 through 2023 (n=5,360).

## Financial Goals Realized

Oregon households used IDAs to accomplish a variety of goals that open pathways to financial stability and asset building. The spectrum of assets available allows participants to identify the financial goal that would best address their next steps toward financial well-being.

“We had less anxiety about working to achieve our financial goals and this resulted in having a better quality of life in general.”

- In 2022 and 2023, IDA participants used matching cash to support a microenterprise (21% of match funds distributed), pursue a reduced-debt post-secondary education (17%), secure reliable transportation by purchasing a vehicle (16%), and purchase a first home (15%). (See Figure 6).
- IDA savers leveraged match for emergency savings (13% of matching cash distributed) to address shortfalls in income, take care of unexpected expenses, or establish a fund for future needs.
- IDA savers accessed tax-advantaged First-time Home Buyer Savings accounts and Oregon College Savings Plan accounts (9% of matching cash distributed) that provide additional time and greater flexibility to reach goals in the face of challenging economic pressures on incomes and costs of living.
- In addition, some IDA providers are equipped to offer IDAs for home repair, assistive technology, costs associated with rental housing, retirement savings, and debt repayment (accounting for 9% of matching cash distributed).



**Figure 6: IDA participants invest in their next steps to build financial stability and assets**

- Microenterprise, \$3.3M (21%)
- Education, \$2.6M (17%)
- Vehicle, \$2.5M (16%)
- Home Purchase, \$2.3M (15%)
- Emergency Savings, \$2.0M (13%)
- First-time Home Buyer Savings Account or Oregon College Savings Plan Account, \$1.4M (9%)
- Other Assets: Home Repair, Assistive Technology, Rent, Retirement, Debt Repayment, \$3.3M (9%)

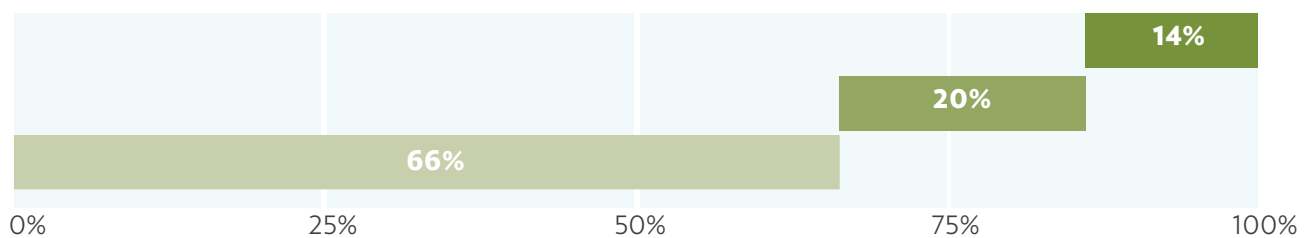
Source: IDA Administrative Data, match funds distributed to participants who completed an IDA in 2022 and 2023 (\$15.5 million total).

## Emergency Savings Stabilize in Difficult Times and Support Preparation for the Future

IDA participants make deposits into savings accounts that are set aside for a specific goal. The saver's deposits have always been available to the participant when unexpected financial needs arise. Beginning in late 2020, participants can use their own deposits plus matching funds they have earned as emergency savings. By utilizing matched emergency savings, participants can address a pressing financial hardship or establish an emergency fund for the future.

- Of participants who completed their IDA in 2022 and 2023, 749 (34%) utilized matched emergency savings (see Figure 7). On average, these participants withdrew \$2,650 in match funds for emergency savings purposes.
- More than half of these completers (440 or 59%) also made an asset purchase.

**Figure 7: IDA completers utilize matched emergency savings alone or in combination with another asset goal**



- Withdrew match funds for a non-emergency asset or financial stability goal
- Withdrew match funds for both emergency savings and an asset
- Withdrew match funds for emergency savings only

Source: IDA Administrative Data, participants who completed an IDA in 2022 and 2023 (n=2,223).

“Knowing that we could still access the money we put in, in case of an emergency, made it less stressful to set that money aside.”



## Matching Cash Invested in BIPOC Communities

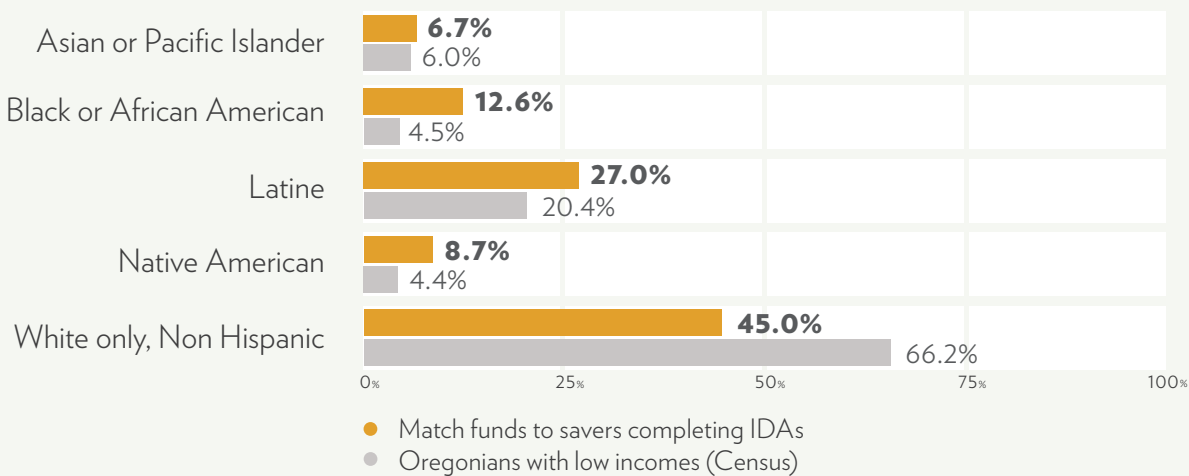
Enrollment data show that the IDA Initiative has the relationships and structures to enroll people of color at rates that support more equitable access to assets (see Figure 2). Focusing on equitable impact requires examining the degree to which financial resources, in the form of matching cash, are invested in participants from BIPOC communities. The most recent data shows that IDA match funds are distributed to Asian or Pacific Islander, Black, Latine, and Native American participants at rates that are greater than their proportions of Oregonians with low incomes, which is necessary to support greater racial equity in financial stability, assets and wealth, benefiting Oregonians of all races.

- Among the \$15.5 million in matching cash that was distributed to participants who completed an IDA in 2022 and 2023, more than half went to BIPOC participants. A total of \$1.0 million (6.7%)

went to participants who are Asian or Pacific Islander, \$1.9 million (12.6%) went to participants who are Black or African American, \$4.2 million (27.0%) went to participants who are Hispanic or Latine, \$1.4 million (8.7%) went to participants who are Native American, and \$7.0 million (45.0%) went to participants who are White alone, non-Hispanic.

- Figure 8 illustrates the percent of matching cash distributed to participants who completed an IDA by race and ethnicity, compared to the race and ethnicity of all Oregonians with low incomes. IDA matching cash is distributed to participants from Asian or Pacific Islander, Black, Latine, and Native American communities at rates that are greater than their proportion of Oregonians with low incomes, which would be minimally necessary to advance racial equity in financial stability and asset building.

**Figure 8: IDA matching cash is distributed to people of color at rates that can support greater racial equity in financial stability and asset building**



Source: IDA Administrative Data, match funds distributed to participants who completed an IDA in 2022 and 2023 (\$15.5 million total), and 2018-2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates).

# Long-Term Benefits of Asset Investments

IDA savers experience long-term improvements to their financial health after making their asset investments. Against a backdrop of rising costs of living, persistent racial disparities, and income inequality, IDA savers experienced continuity and stability related to their asset investments. IDA savers sustained their businesses, completed college degrees with less debt, increased earnings, and found homes to depend on.

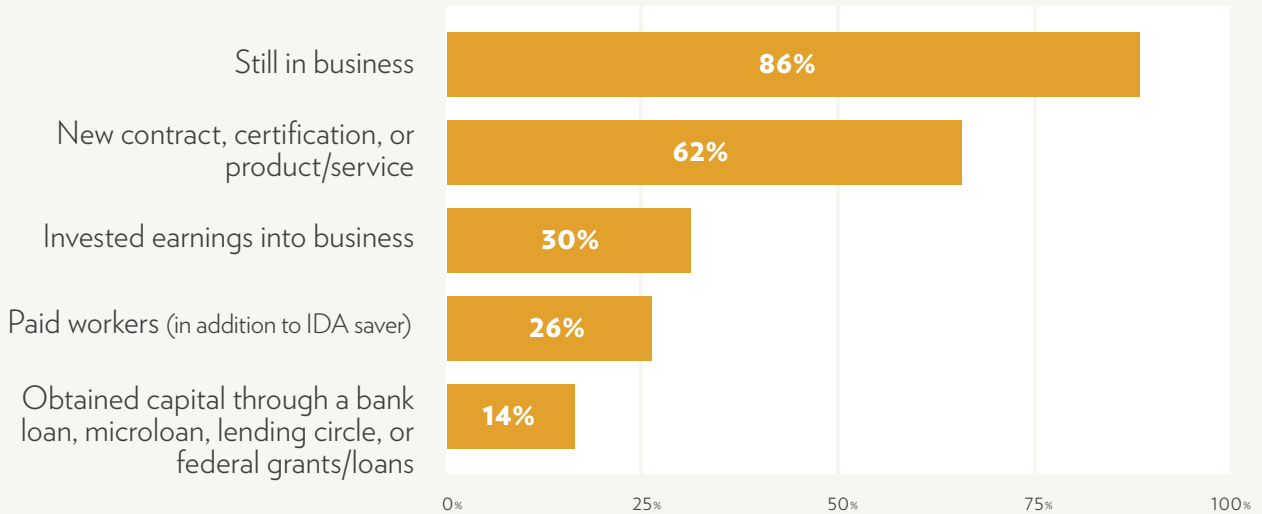
## Microenterprise Growth

Small businesses bring vibrance to our communities, create income and jobs, and offer business owners increased control over their working conditions. IDA participants state that their IDA experience improved their understanding of business operations and finance, giving them increased skills, resources, and confidence to make business decisions.

- When surveyed one year after completing their IDA, 86% of microenterprise participants were still operating their businesses.
- IDA participants are taking a variety of steps to scale their business, as further shown in Figure 9. Of IDA microenterprise completers surveyed in 2022 and 2023, 62% earned a new contract or certification or launched a new product or service in the previous year.
- Three in ten IDA participants (30%) invested business earnings back into the business.
- More than one-quarter (26%) had paid workers, creating jobs for family and community members.
- One in seven microenterprise IDA participants (14%) surveyed in 2022 and 2023 obtained capital through a bank loan, microloan, lending circle, or federal grant or loan. After a period of increased lending during the pandemic (for example, Paycheck Protection Program loans), capital availability to IDA participants appears to have returned to pre-pandemic levels, which can constrain the growth of these businesses.

“The most significant change was having the option to be able to buy a tool enabling me to bid for a job that I would not have even been able to bid on without IDA funds.”

**Figure 9: IDA microenterprise savers continue to scale their business, one year after program exit**



Source: 2022 and 2023 Survey of Microenterprise Completers at One Year Follow Up (n=145 IDA Completers).



IDA saver Josie Stanfield, owner of Witchcrafting with Josie

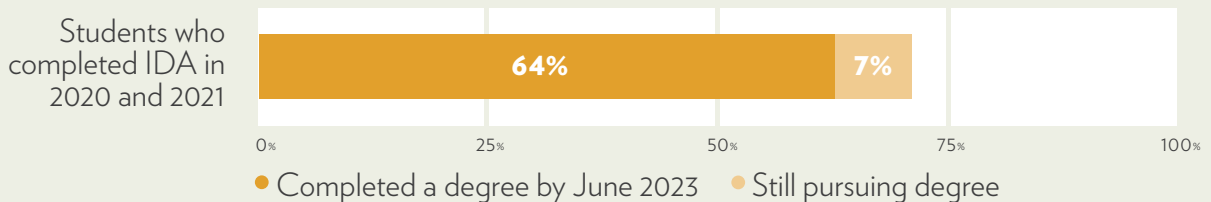
## Education Savers Finishing Degrees and Minimizing Debt

Students who utilized IDA matching funds are completing their degrees. They gain employment in their fields of study. Savers speak to the financial burden that has been eased by their ability to avoid student loan debt, which impacts their ability to not only complete a degree but also to pursue other financial goals such as homeownership.

- Among education savers who completed their IDA in 2020 or 2021, 64% earned a degree by October 2023, and 7% were still enrolled (see Figure 10). The remaining 29% had not earned a degree and did not have a school term enrollment that was more than two years after completing their IDA—though it is not uncommon for students to step away for one or more terms and re-enroll later.

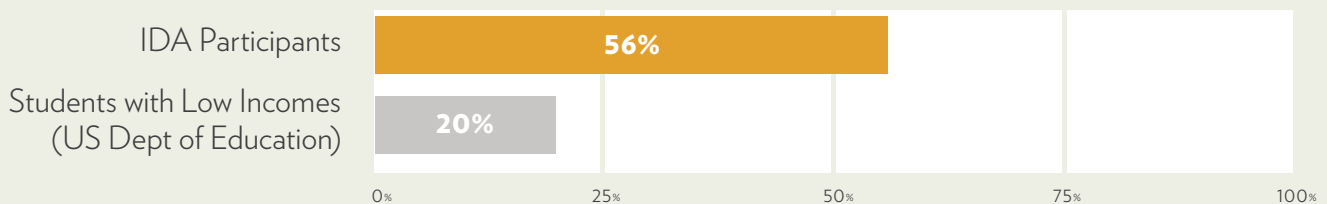
- When surveyed one year after closing their IDA, 88% of those who completed a degree were employed in their field of study—jobs the saver generally would not have qualified for without the degree or credential they pursued with their IDA.
- Among those who had completed their degrees, 56% had no student loan debt. For context, the percentage of students nationally from families with low incomes who complete degrees without student loan debt is 20%.<sup>45</sup> Meanwhile, the Oregon Financial Wellness Scorecard reports that student loan debt in Oregon is increasing and is the sixth highest in nation.

**Figure 10: Post-secondary students are persisting and graduating**



Source: IDA Administrative Dataset and National Student Clearinghouse (n=503 IDA Completers with records in the Nation Student Clearinghouse database).

**Figure 11: More than half of degree-completing IDA participants have zero student loan debt**



Source: 2022 and 2023 Survey of Education Completers at One Year Follow Up (n=120 Degree Completers)



# The Value of a Vehicle:

## Dawn Starkey

Transportation is the second largest expense in the monthly household budgets of people living on lower incomes. More than 4 in 10 respondents to a FINRA survey reported their lives are limited because they cannot afford adequate transportation.<sup>46</sup> For many of the lowest paid Oregonians across the state, access to work, education, or health care requires a vehicle.

Dawn Starkey learned about the IDA through a co-worker who had saved for a car purchase. “Being a single person, coming from a family that doesn’t have a big safety net to help me,” as Dawn describes, she was interested in the opportunity to grow her savings and applied for the program at NeighborWorks Umpqua. Dawn was living in a studio apartment in Gold Hill, a thirty-minute drive from her job in Medford, often over icy roads in the winter. Her vehicle at the time was 15 years old.

Dawn found the asset-specific education she accessed through NeighborWorks Umpqua to be beneficial towards making an informed decision. She recalls researching different vehicle makes and models, checking prices, maintenance costs, tires, and fuel efficiency. Consulting with a mechanic, she developed her understanding of how much money she would need to set aside for initial repairs on a used car.

Through the process, she came to terms with what would work in her budget. “It was beneficial to see the numbers and the facts and the reality, even though at one time I had another dream in mind,” she states.

“This program pushed me to be responsible for going after a dream and taking the necessary steps to see it through to completion,” Dawn continues. She notes that the ability to spread out her deposits into her IDA over time helped her to achieve an affordable savings goal. Even when an unexpected surgery resulted in a large out-of-pocket expense, she was able to stay on track with monthly deposits that were reasonable for her. After saving for three years, in December 2022, Dawn purchased a 2015 Honda Civic through a family-owned dealership.

“I have more of an asset now to my finances,” Dawn states. Owning a more reliable vehicle has allowed Dawn to expand the geographic circle of where she can look for employment. Dawn explains, “I have a solid car. I can apply to jobs in Ashland and up to the Grants Pass region without hesitation. No way would I risk that daily travel before!” With a wider range of options available to her, Dawn states, “The match funds put me in a different situation.”



IDA saver Dawn Starkey

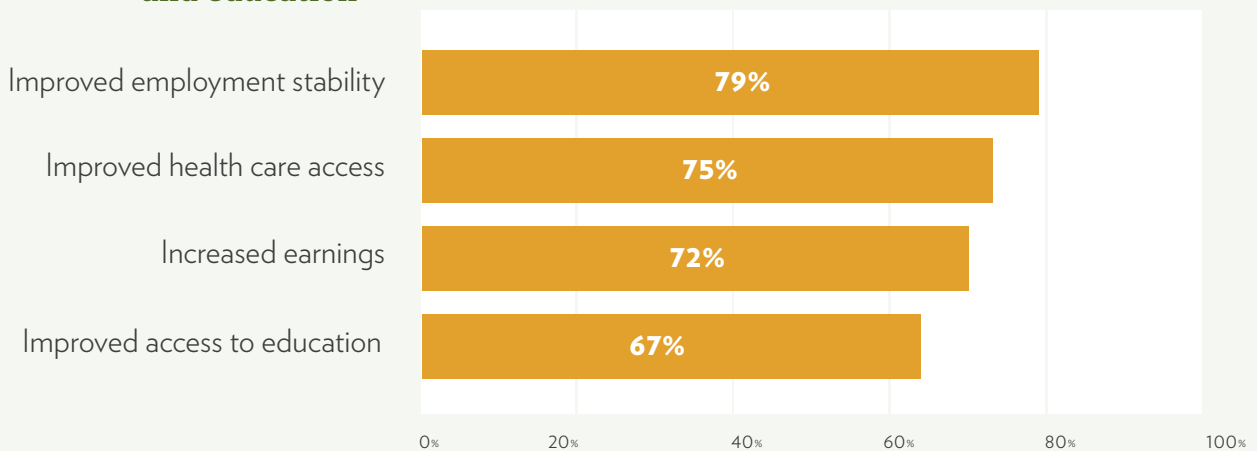
## Vehicles Improving Participants' Employment and Earnings

People living on low incomes frequently note that the high costs of transportation impede their savings, their employment prospects, and their life opportunities.<sup>47</sup> Both auto prices and interest rates climbed in the years after the COVID pandemic, with the average car loan reaching nearly \$24,000 at the end of 2022.<sup>48</sup> By using an IDA to save for and finance a vehicle, IDA participants can avoid unsustainable auto debt while improving their access to employment, health care and education.

“It changed my life. Because of having an IDA I was able to purchase a reliable car. Shortly after buying my car I got a job that I would not have been able to get if I didn't have that car.”

- Consistent with other research,<sup>49</sup> Oregon IDA participants surveyed one year after purchasing vehicles reported improvements in their ability to maintain employment and increase earnings. Participants also reported improved access to health care and education (see Figure 12).
- Most IDA participants who purchase vehicles reside in rural areas of the state. About 8 in 10 vehicle purchases (78%) were by participants living outside of the tri-county Portland region, where travel distances and less dense public transit options make car-free living particularly difficult.

**Figure 12: Vehicle savers experience improved access to income, health care, and education**



Source: 2022 and 2023 Survey of Vehicle Completers at One Year Follow Up (n=119).

## First-time Home Buyers Keeping Pace with Mortgages

For most Oregonians, homeownership represents a way to build wealth and stability. But over the past several years, prospective home buyers in Oregon have found themselves in increasingly challenging market conditions. In the beginning of 2022, mortgage rates climbed quickly, and since September 2022, they averaged between 6% and 7.8%.<sup>50</sup> Meanwhile, the median sale price of a home in Oregon topped \$528,000 in May 2022.<sup>51</sup> Within these challenging conditions, 297 IDA participants purchased a home in 2022 and 2023, and 131 invested in a First-time Home Buyer Savings Account.

“We felt more relaxed about the home buying process. Knowing that we had the support and education of the process. It helped us have some savings left in our account after buying to keep for emergencies.”

- When surveyed one year after their first year of ownership, 92% of IDA home buyers had made all their mortgage payments in full and on time in the previous twelve months (see Figure 13). While this is short of a goal where 100% pay on time in their first year, IDA home buyers' on-time payment rates outperformed respondents with moderate incomes in the National Financial Capability Study.<sup>52</sup>
- One year after completing their IDA, 72% of homebuyers have at least \$400 in savings set aside for future income or expense shocks, illustrating their preparedness to manage future emergencies or home maintenance needs.
- While most homebuyers are keeping up with their mortgage payments, 77% of home buyers are considered cost burdened (defined as paying more than 30% of their income to housing). This is consistent with analysis of Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data showing that more than 70 percent of new low- to moderate-income borrowers are cost burdened.<sup>53</sup> This suggests that increased down payment assistance through IDAs and other measures would support new homeowners in entering into a more sustainable situation.

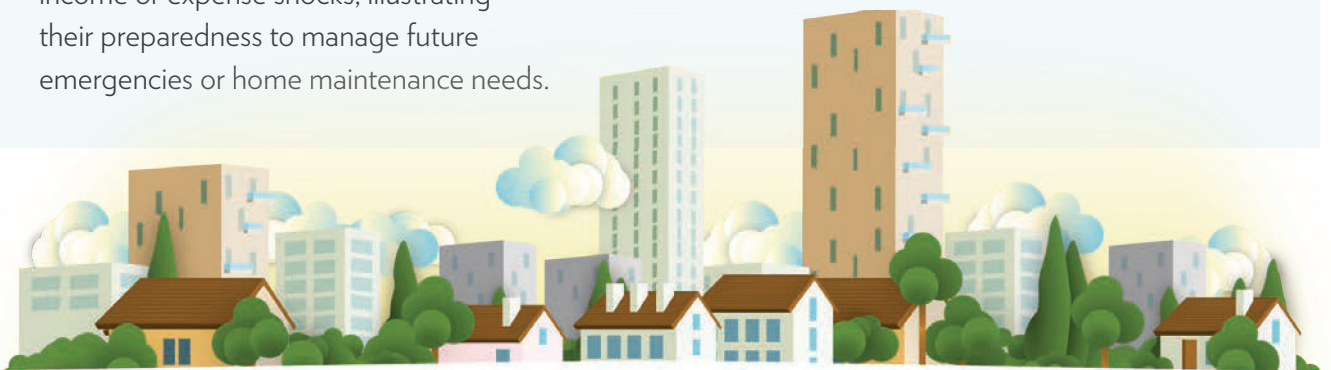
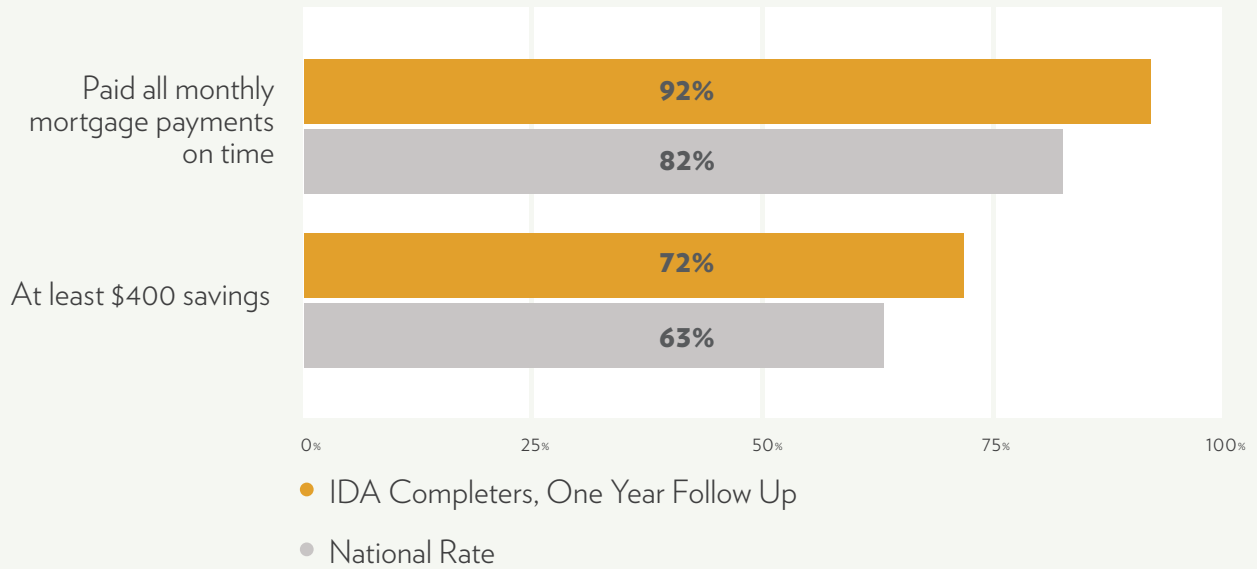


Figure 13: Most home buyers are keeping up with their mortgages and have savings



Source: 2022 and 2023 Survey of Homeownership Completers at One Year Follow Up n=184); FINRA Investor Education Foundation (2022); Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (May 2024).



IDA saver Lorri O'Neill with her daughter at their new home



# Financial Capabilities

Oregonians with low incomes face many factors that erode financial stability. Costs in nearly every realm, from housing to health care to education, outstrip income growth. Public infrastructure and services, such as transportation and child care, are under-resourced and unable to meet the public's needs. And financial institutions continue to fail to serve customers with fewer financial resources. Given our history of state laws and institutions that denied wealth-building opportunities to BIPOC residents and racially discriminatory practices that persist today, these factors impact BIPOC residents even more severely.

Facing these challenges, Oregon residents work to stabilize their financial lives. Financial capability is the capacity, based on knowledge, skills, and access, to manage financial resources effectively. While not a substitute for raising Oregonians' income, improving housing affordability, advancing a just tax system, and building more accessible financial systems, research has found that families with savings and financial capability will be more financially resilient than those without.<sup>54</sup>

After completing their IDA, most survey respondents write about the lasting positive changes their IDA experience has brought to their financial habits and understanding. IDA completers

increase their use of automatic saving and are better able to balance expenses with income, compared to those just opening an IDA. Using standardized measures of financial health, survey results show that IDA savers see improvements to their savings and credit that hold in the year following their IDA completion. IDA completers perform on these measures at rates that exceed national rates, leaving them better positioned to weather future financial challenges.

## Saving Automatically

Using automatic deposit can promote regular saving for long-term stability. It is facilitated when income is relatively constant from month to month, which is increasingly rare for today's workforce.<sup>55</sup>

- At the time of program entry, 48% of participants were using automatic saving, compared to 65% of program completers who were using automatic saving at the time of program exit. One year after IDA completion, 55% of savers were using automatic deposit (see Figure 14).

“I was able to save up and have a 6-month cushion. I learned a ton about loan payments and credit cards, as well as reading and understanding my credit score.”



## Balancing Expenses with Income

Being able to manage expenses in relation to one's earnings is a necessary precursor to not only saving but also paying bills on time, thus avoiding late fees.

- Sixty-three percent (63%) of savers who were just opening their IDA were balancing their expenses with their income, compared to 70% of IDA completers. One year after their IDA completion, 60% of program completers are balancing their expenses with their income (see Figure 14).
- This is the first time since the IDA began collecting this data that rates of balancing expenses with income among participants one year after completion have been roughly the same as rates among participants entering the program and is likely related to the climbing costs of living. Over the period covered in this report, the Consumer Price Index increased 10 percent.<sup>56</sup>
- The Federal Reserve found that just 48% of Americans spent less than their income in the previous month. Among those with fewer financial resources (that is, whose family incomes were between \$25,000 and \$50,000), just 36% spent less than their income (see Figure 15).<sup>57</sup>



IDA saver Tanya Golden, owner of Golden Tradition Saffron LLC

## Building or Maintaining Good Credit

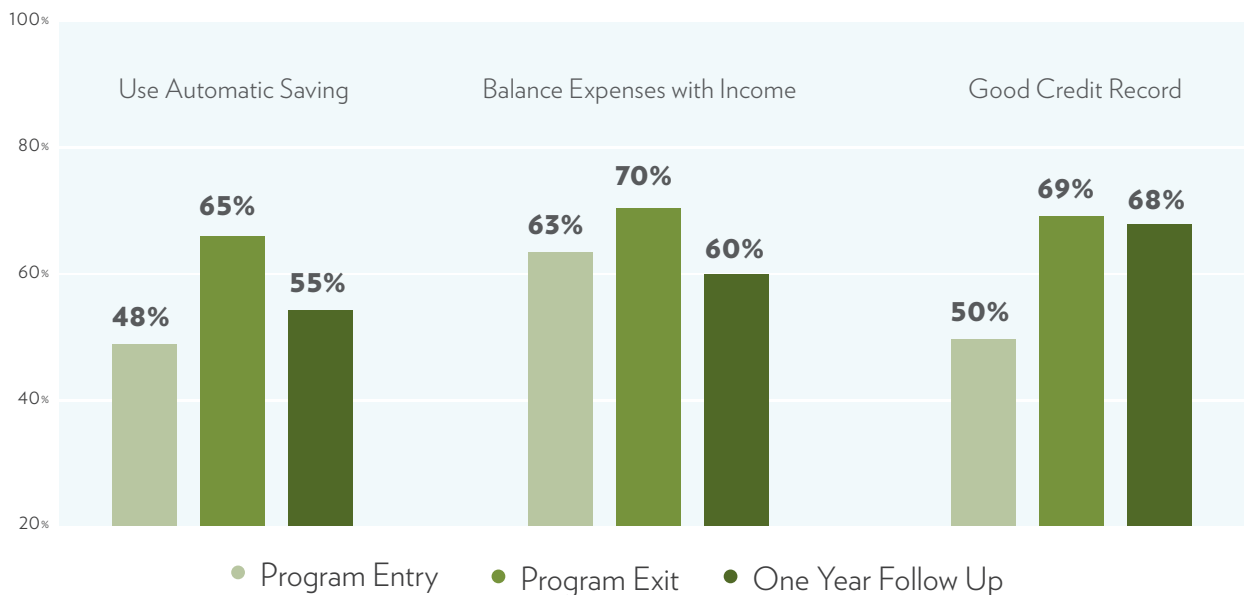
Credit records impact the flexibility households may have in overcoming financial obstacles. By building and maintaining a good credit record, households attain lower interest rates, making big purchases such as a home or car more affordable and thus more financially sustainable.

- Half (50%) of savers who were just opening their IDA stated they had a good or excellent credit record, compared to 69% of IDA completers. One year after their IDA completion, 68% of program completers stated they had a good or excellent credit record (see Figure 14).
- For context, credit analytics company VantageScore says that 64% of Americans have a good or excellent credit score (see Figure 15).<sup>58</sup>

“Getting our delinquent accounts under control and learning to work together as a couple to reach our goal of home ownership has significantly impacted our marriage.”

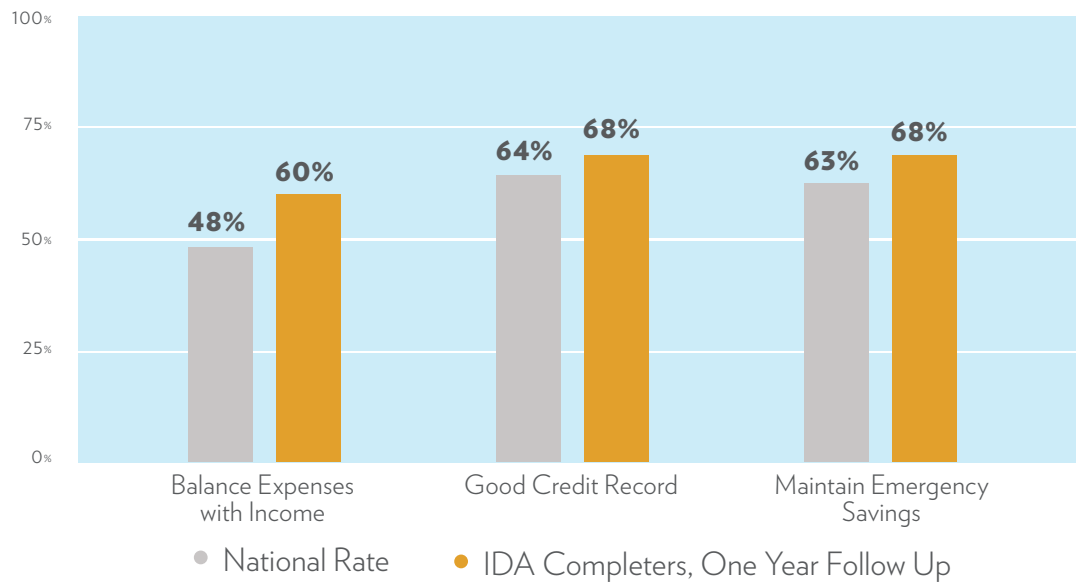


Figure 14: IDA completers improve in standardized measures of financial capabilities



Source: IDA Administrative Dataset and 2022 and 2023 Survey of Completers at One Year Follow Up (n=1,914 at Program Entry, n=1,619 at Program Exit, and n=805 at One Year Follow Up).

**Figure 15: One year after completing their IDA, participants' financial capabilities exceed national rates**



Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System: Report on the Economic Well-Being of US Households in 2023 (May 2024), Report on the Economic Well-Being of US Households in 2021 (May 2022), Credit Gauge (February 2024), 2022 and 2022-2023 Survey of Completers at One Year Follow Up (n=805).

## Maintaining Emergency Savings After IDA Participation

Households that have emergency savings are in a better position to manage unexpected expenses or financial setbacks without facing hardship.<sup>59</sup> While all participants can access a portion of their IDA in an emergency, this measure looks at participants' savings one year after completing their IDA.

**“I have more money in my savings for the longest time than I ever have.”**

- One year after exiting the IDA program, nearly 7 out of 10 (68%) of IDA completers have \$400 or more available in savings to help in a financial emergency (see Figure 15).
- A 2023 Federal Reserve survey found that among adults at all income levels, 63% could cover a \$400 unexpected expense using cash, savings, or a credit card paid off at the next statement.<sup>60</sup> These rates drop among low- to moderate-income households: a Commonwealth analysis of the Federal Reserve's survey found that only 42% of low- to moderate-income (LMI) households could cover a \$400 expense, for example.<sup>61</sup>

# Barriers to Program Success

A combination of administrative and survey data demonstrates that IDAs create homeowners, business owners, and college graduates; build financial resources; and increase financial stability. IDAs provide a significant opportunity for people with lower incomes to access the financial assets they need. Survey data also surfaces challenges that participants face related to the constrained level of funding the program has received.

## Faster Cash Infusions Would Support Longer-Term Success

Participants and providers point to the need to expedite the process by which participants who are ready can qualify for the maximum matching cash available. Currently, savers can earn up to \$6,000 in matching cash per year, up to a maximum of \$20,000 in their IDA. As costs of living increase, this puts many participants in a position of waiting for more than a year so that they can access \$12,000 or more in matching cash. This waiting period can put participants at a disadvantage.

“Homeownership was the most significant change; however, that was really made possible by the encouragement and guidance of my IDA counselor.”

Without sufficient resources, businesses falter because they are undercapitalized, students contend with debt, and first-time homebuyers are priced out of the market. Research shows that when people can access lump sums of cash, they experience fewer financial hardships, create businesses, set aside funds for short- and long-term purposes, catch up on bills or pay down debt.<sup>62</sup> Being able to invest more heavily into their asset on their own timelines would place IDA participants on a trajectory that would better support long-term success over their lifespan.

## Support for Community-Based Services

Many survey respondents point to the role that their IDA provider played in the financial shifts they made. IDA providers serve as an important source of support and information. Skilled IDA provider staff can provide individualized coaching and connect participants to a range of community resources. This requires that community-based organizations have readily available financial resources to hire, train, and retain staff, and ensure those staff are fairly compensated. An under-supported system of community-based services creates confusion and delays for participants and undermines efforts to build communities where all can experience financial stability.

# Conclusion

While we work to build a system for financial stability that is available to all, the IDA Initiative works to address the challenges experienced by Oregon households today.

IDAs bring together the powerful combination of financial education, community-based support, and matching cash to support households to achieve self-determined financial goals. Recognizing that our communities will be more vibrant when prosperity is more widely shared, the Oregon IDA Initiative builds a more equitable program through supporting culturally responsive and culturally specific providers; disaggregating data to understand program strengths and weaknesses; and regular goal setting, training, and reporting.

IDAs reach households living on low- to moderate incomes in urban and rural communities across the state. Participants invest in a wide array of allowable financial stability and asset goals. A total of \$15.5 million in matching cash was distributed to participants who completed an IDA in 2022 and 2023, 55% of which was distributed to Asian or Pacific Islander, Black, Latine, and Native American participants.

One year after their asset investment, microenterprise savers continue to invest in their businesses, students are completing degrees with a minimum of student loan debt, vehicle participants increase their earnings,

and home buyers are making their mortgage payments on time and free from rising rents. Using standardized measures of financial health, savers report improvements in their saving, spending, and credit, and demonstrate financial capabilities at levels that exceed national rates.

Shifts in the economy made more visible since the pandemic have reduced the potency of IDA as people continue to swim in an economy that rewards profit-seeking over attending to our basic human needs. Modifying the restrictive annual match limits currently in statute would recognize the current costs of living and allow participants who are ready to reach their goals faster. Participants' experiences also point to the need for continued financial support for community-based organizations that provide locally-based support and specialized financial education.

With their increased financial capabilities and modest assets, IDA participants see improvements in their financial well-being, build a foundation for continued economic mobility, and realize a new level of stability to fall back on when challenges arise. Our community and our economy are stronger when we remove barriers to financial stability and wealth building. IDAs help build an Oregon where all—rural and urban; Black, brown, and white—thrive.

**“I feel more financially in control of my life and have the information I need to build my personal wealth. I feel empowered.”**



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# Appendix A:

## Evaluation Methods

The Oregon Individual Development Account (IDA) Initiative has participated in evaluation since at least 2008, with Neighborhood Partnerships managing an internal evaluation process since 2015. The primary purposes of its evaluation efforts have been to understand who is being served and the extent to which IDA participants are achieving intended outcomes.

The evaluation uses a mixed methods design to address its research questions. This approach was

chosen because of its potential to expand the comprehensiveness of the evaluation findings, enhance the validity of evaluation findings (by comparing information from different methods of data collection), and take into account a broader range of perspectives, including that of program participants.

Figure 16 illustrates the research questions this evaluation is trying to answer; the evidence gathered to address each question; and the methods and sources utilized to collect that evidence.

Figure 16: **Impact Evaluation Plan**

Research Questions	Key Criteria and Information	Methods and Sources
<b>Who is the Oregon IDA Initiative reaching?</b>	Participants' race, ethnicity, income level, place of residence.	Administrative data (Outcome Tracker database)
<b>To what extent are participants able to maintain or expand upon their asset ownership after completing an IDA?</b>	For home purchase savers, the rate of missed or late mortgage payments in the first year of ownership. For education savers, the rate of staying in school or earning a degree credential in the first and second year after completing an IDA. For microenterprise savers, the rate that savers are still in business, one year after completing an IDA. The rate at which microenterprise savers are supporting paid workers, or have accessed additional business capital, one year after completing an IDA..	Administrative data (National Student Clearinghouse), Participant Surveys and Interviews
<b>To what extent are participants becoming more financially resilient through their participation in an IDA?</b>	Participants' habits around savings, banking, spending; level of emergency savings; credit health. Participants' sense of self-efficacy and financial resiliency.	Administrative data (Outcome Tracker database), Participant Surveys and Interviews, Financial Capability Scale
<b>What are the barriers to completing an IDA?</b>	Participants' life challenges and implications for their program participation. Participants' challenges in meeting program rules, especially around timelines, deposits, and the purchase process. How participants and program staff address the challenges.	Participant Surveys and Interviews

Outcome Tracker is the IDA Initiative's client management system. It contains information about participants' demographics and status at enrollment; account deposits, withdrawals, match funds earned; asset purchases; and status at program exit. This data allows for the tabulation and analysis of the distribution of IDA participants across the state, and the demographics of participants at time of program entry such as income, race, ethnicity, language, and ability. Outcome Tracker data also allows for a calculation of the average and total amount deposited into savings and match funds earned, and the rate of program completion. On a quarterly basis, partner organizations review the data in Outcome Tracker for completeness and accuracy and make efforts to obtain complete or corrected data.

The National Student Clearinghouse was accessed to understand the graduation rates of IDA savers after they exit the program. The Clearinghouse collects data from 98% of currently enrolled post-secondary students in the US, and on nearly 94% of all degrees awarded in the US. Of the 564 education savers who completed their IDA in 2021 and 2022, 88% were found in the National Student Clearinghouse. The remaining 12% were not found due to: a mismatch in the saver's name spelling or birthdate; because the saver enrolled in an institution that does not share records with the Clearinghouse (for example, cosmetology schools, massage training schools); or in some cases because

the saver purchased materials or training to prepare for post-secondary education, but never enrolled in a post-secondary institution.

The Participant Feedback Surveys are administered by Neighborhood Partnerships via email. IDA savers are asked to complete surveys shortly after exiting the program and again one year later. Participants are offered \$15 as an incentive to return the surveys. This data provides information on participants' satisfaction with the program, financial capabilities, and continued asset ownership. The anonymous quotes in this report were obtained from responses to open-ended questions on the surveys. While survey respondents are informed their quotes may be used in reports, quotes are used anonymously because the participant feedback surveys do not seek permission to include survey respondents' names.

Data in this report are from the following surveys: For the 2022 and 2023 surveys administered shortly after exit, 1,001 program completers responded (46% response rate). For the 2022 and 2023 surveys administered one year after exit, 805 completers responded (36% response rate).

Survey respondents are diverse and reside in 29 counties. The demographic characteristics of survey respondents are generally representative of all IDA savers in terms of their asset goals, race, and ethnicity.





While the Initiative has evaluated changes in participants' financial capabilities for many years, in 2017 it adopted a standardized, validated evaluation tool: the Financial Capability Scale, developed by J. Michael Collins and Collin O'Rourke at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Financial Security. This tool helps hold the Initiative to a higher benchmark grounded in research on the most important indicators of financial stability.

Program providers ask IDA participants to complete the scale around the time of their IDA application and again at the time of IDA closing; this information is entered into Outcome Tracker so that providers can readily access it. The one-year follow-up participant feedback survey gathers Financial Capability Scale information over the longer term. The report narrative compares the financial capabilities of three groups of savers: those who opened an IDA in 2022 and 2023, those who successfully completed an IDA in 2022 and 2023, and those who had successfully completed an IDA in 2021 and 2022 (and responded to a one-year follow-up survey in 2022 and 2023). Use of the Data

Tables in Appendix B allows the financial capabilities of program completers in one year to be compared with their capabilities at the time of the follow-up survey the following year, more directly looking at change over time.

Neighborhood Partnerships' evaluation staff conducted semi-structured interviews with a limited number of IDA savers to gather more in-depth information about savers' experiences and outcomes. Most of the interview candidates were self-nominated by indicating an interest in an interview via the Participant Feedback Surveys. When granted permission to do so, interview participants' names are included in this report in quotes or stories.

All survey and interview participants were informed of the purpose of the evaluation, that their participation was voluntary, and how their information would be shared. Interview protocols were developed based on the key criteria that were identified in consultation with program administrators, staff, and savers. Survey and interview protocols are available upon request.



IDA saver Chris Odom (right), speaking at IDA Day 2023

# Appendix B:

## Data Tables

Sample sizes for specific measures may vary because of missing values.

Table 1. Participant Demographics

Year of Enrollment	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
<b>Number of Participants Enrolled<sup>1</sup></b>	1516	1062	863	890	1064	5398
<b>Race and Ethnicity</b> (alone or in combination with another race/ethnicity, unless otherwise noted)						
Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	5.7%	4.8%	5.0%	7.0%	7.0%	5.9%
Black or African American	13.1%	11.6%	12.5%	15.3%	15.4%	13.5%
Hispanic or Latine	25.7%	26.2%	27.8%	27.3%	28.5%	26.9%
Native American	8.8%	7.7%	11.8%	11.7%	18.7%	11.5%
Some Other Race alone	1.8%	3.7%	1.5%	0.7%	0.3%	1.7%
White alone, non-Hispanic	46.6%	47.2%	43.7%	40.9%	34.9%	43.0%
Unknown	1.0%	0.8%	1.0%	4.2%	3.4%	1.8%
<b>Income Level</b>						
Extremely low (0-30% Area Median Income)	22.7%	21.4%	24%	22.5%	18.7%	21.9%
Very low (31-50% Area Median Income)	27.6%	28%	27.6%	29.4%	31.6%	28.7%
Low (51-80% Area Median Income (AMI))	42.2%	40.2%	38.5%	40.7%	40.5%	40.6%
Moderate (> 80% AMI but < 200% poverty level)	7.5%	10.1%	9.5%	7.6%	9.1%	8.8%
<b>Gender</b>						
Woman	66.6%	66.6%	65.7%	69.1%	67.4%	67.0%
Man	31.9%	30.9%	28.5%	27.3%	28.2%	29.7%
Some other gender	0.5%	0.6%	1.0%	3.4%	3.7%	1.7%
<b>Age</b>						
12-24	25.4%	21.4%	21.3%	19.3%	22.5%	22.4%
25-44	54.1%	58.2%	53.3%	58.7%	53.1%	55.3%
45-64	17.2%	17.8%	20.8%	19.0%	21.6%	19.1%
65 and older	3.0%	2.6%	4.5%	2.9%	2.8%	3.1%

**Table 1. Participant Demographics (Cont.)**

<b>First Generation Students</b> (among education savers)						
Number of education savers	381	224	174	167	186	1132
No parent with college experience	58.7%	56.6%	51.8%	63.4%	68.3%	59.8%
<b>Use Public Housing Assistance</b> (among home purchase savers)						
Number of home purchase savers	427	317	235	301	324	1604
Use Section 8 or live in public housing	21.3%	20.4%	27.7%	26.2%	26.9%	24.1%
<b>State Region<sup>2</sup></b>						
Coast	11.4%	9.0%	11.4%	8.4%	14.2%	11.0%
Portland Metro	49.6%	52.8%	43.7%	47.2%	39.8%	46.8%
Mid-Valley	7.8%	7.8%	9.9%	8.4%	7.6%	8.2%
Central	17.0%	15.3%	19.7%	17.3%	17.4%	17.2%
East	14.3%	15%	15.3%	18.8%	20.9%	16.7%

Source: IDA Administrative Dataset

<sup>1</sup> Many factors influence rates of enrollment. In 2019, partner organizations worked to fully allocate any remaining match funds from previous years to new participants, contributing to an increase in enrollments that year. The federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act went into effect in 2019, decreasing the value of the Oregon IDA Tax Credit to donors. As a result, the Oregon IDA Tax Credit provided \$12 million less in tax credit revenue in the four-year period between 2019 and 2022 than it was able to raise in the four-year period prior to 2019. As the completion rate increases (the rate at which participants complete their IDA with match funds, as opposed to exiting prematurely without qualifying for match funds), fewer enrollments occur as a result of match funds being made available from those exits. In addition, in 2021 the legislature increased the allowable annual match limit per participant from \$3,000 to \$6,000. This increase mitigates the impacts of rising costs of living and expedites participants' progress. Yet without increased resources, this change further constrains the number of families that can be meaningfully served.

<sup>2</sup> Regions are defined by the applicant's county of residence. Counties are grouped into regions with relatively similar geography and racial diversity. Coast region includes Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, Lincoln, Coos, Curry, Douglas and Josephine counties. Portland Metro includes Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties. Mid-Valley includes Marion, Polk, and Yamhill counties. Central includes Benton, Lane, Linn, and Deschutes counties. East includes Jackson, Klamath, Lake, Harney, Malheur, Jefferson, Crook, Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Wheeler, Morrow, Umatilla, Grant, Wallowa, Union, and Baker counties.



**Table 2. Program Outcomes at Exit**

“Program completers” are participants who completed program requirements and received match toward the asset(s) of their choice. Non-completers did not complete program requirements or left before receiving match for some other reason.

Match disbursed represents all match disbursed to savers who completed in that year (although savers may withdraw match over time).

Participants may withdraw funds for multiple categories. Therefore, the number (N) of completers in each asset category will add up to more than the total program completers in a given year.

<b>Year of IDA Completion</b>		<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Program Completers</b>	N	1025	969	1143	1063	1160	5360
	% of exits	76.9%	86.8%	91.9%	91.2%	92.7%	87.7%
Average account duration (in months)		32	31	31	33	31	32
Average total deposits		\$2,502	\$2,629	\$2,397	\$2,604	\$2,203	\$2,458
Average match earned		\$5,912	\$6,664	\$6,282	\$6,790	\$7,124	\$6,563
Total Matching funds disbursed		\$6.0M	\$6.5M	\$7.2M	\$7.2M	\$8.2M	\$35.1M
Completers: Microenterprise	N	242	181	199	254	192	1068
	Match Disbursed	\$1.4M	\$1.2M	\$1.2M	\$1.8M	\$1.5M	\$7.1M
Completers: Education	N	329	247	332	241	230	1379
	Match Disbursed	\$1.9M	\$1.6M	\$1.8M	\$1.3M	\$1.3M	\$7.8M
Completers: Vehicle	N	58	167	171	164	198	758
	Match Disbursed	\$0.3M	\$1.1M	\$1.2M	\$1.1M	\$1.4M	\$5.1M
Completers: Home Purchase	N	266	269	273	160	145	1113
	Match Disbursed	\$1.6M	\$1.7M	\$1.5M	\$1.2M	\$1.1M	\$7.1M
Completers: Emergency Savings	N	n/a	36	229	283	466	1014
	Match Disbursed <sup>3</sup>		\$0.1M	\$0.5M	\$0.7M	\$1.2M	\$2.6M
Completers: First-time Home Buyers Savings Account or Oregon College Savings Plan Account	N	n/a	n/a	52	86	84	222
	Match Disbursed			\$0.4M	\$0.6M	\$0.8M	\$1.8M
Completers: Home Repair	N	50	43	51	39	52	235
	Match Disbursed	\$0.3M	\$0.3M	\$0.4M	\$0.3M	\$0.4M	\$1.6M
Completers: Other Assets: Assistive Technology, Debt Repayment, Rent, Retirement	N	80	61	38	39	91	309
	Match Disbursed	\$0.5M	\$0.4M	\$0.2M	\$0.2M	\$0.5M	\$1.8M
<b>Program Non-Completers</b>	N	308	148	101	103	91	751
	% of exits	23.1%	13.2%	8.1%	8.8%	7.3%	12.3%
Average account duration (in months)		24	22	29	34	37	28
Average total deposits		\$1,410	\$1,260	\$1,520	\$1,450	\$1,540	\$1,410

Source: IDA Administrative Dataset

<sup>3</sup> While 1 in 3 completers in 2022 and 2023 utilized matched emergency savings, more than half of these completers also withdrew match in another asset category. The average match withdrawn for emergency savings is \$2,650, whereas the average match withdrawn among all other categories is \$7,600.

**Table 3. Match Disbursed to Program Completers by Race and Ethnicity**

Race is alone or in combination with another race/ethnicity, unless otherwise noted.

<b>Year of IDA Completion</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Total</b>
Matching funds disbursed	\$6.0 M	\$6.5M	\$7.2M	\$7.2M	\$8.3M	\$35.2M
Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	5.5%	4.4%	4.5%	6.0%	7.3%	5.6%
Black or African American	9.0%	12.1%	9.4%	11.0%	13.9%	11.2%
Hispanic or Latine	23.7%	22.5%	25.7%	25.9%	28.0%	25.3%
Native American	5.9%	5.8%	7.0%	7.3%	10.0%	7.4%
White alone, non-Hispanic	56.0%	53.0%	51.0%	48.2%	42.2%	49.5%

**Table 4. Degrees Earned by Education Completers**

<b>Year of IDA Completion</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Education Completers matched with National Student Clearinghouse records</b>	288	286	220	283	213	1290
Obtained degree by October 2023 <sup>4</sup>	66%	63%	67%	63%	47%	

Source: National Student Clearinghouse.

<sup>4</sup> Degree completion rate in 2022 is expected to be lower, compared to the other years, because a shorter amount of time has elapsed since the saver's IDA closed. See Methodology for additional notes about the National Student Clearinghouse.





IDA saver Laurie Kinder, owner of Onto-Into

**Table 5. Asset-Specific Outcomes One Year After Exit**

<b>Year of Survey Completion</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Survey responses, Business Completers</b>	67	69	76	212
Still in business, twelve months after completing IDA	85.1%	84.1%	88.2%	85.8%
Launched new product/service or earned new license or certification	56.7%	60.9%	63.1%	60.4%
Used business earnings for financing	26.9%	31.8%	27.6%	28.5%
Have paid workers (in addition to IDA saver)	25.4%	20.3%	31.6%	25.9%
Obtained bank loan, microloan, lending circle loan	20.9%	14.5%	13.2%	16.0%
<b>Survey responses, Vehicle Completers</b>	63	65	53	181
Improved access to education	58.7%	69.2%	64.2%	64.1%
Improved access to health care	77.8%	72.3%	79.2%	76.2%
Increased earnings	76.2%	79.7%	62.3%	73.3%
Improved employment stability	82.5%	86.2%	69.8%	80.1%
<b>Survey responses, Home Purchase Completers</b>	124	123	61	308
Late or partial mortgage payment in first twelve months of ownership	10.5%	7.3%	8.2%	8.8%

Source: IDA Participant Feedback Surveys

Table 6. Financial Capability Outcomes

Calendar Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
<b>FCS responses, Participants who Opened IDA</b>	1415	1010	870	880	1034	5156
<b>FCS responses, Completers at Exit</b>	701	637	718	779	840	3673
<b>FCS responses, Completers 12 months after exit</b>	434	435	403	461	344	2077
<b>Use auto deposit for saving</b>						
Program Entry	46.9%	46.7%	47.5%	47.2%	47.4%	47.1%
Program Exit	60.5%	62.5%	65.8%	64.1%	66%	63.9%
One Year Follow Up	59.6%	54.1%	58.7%	56.2%	53%	56.4%
<b>Spending less than income</b>						
Program Entry	65%	65.9%	67.2%	63.4%	62.6%	64.3%
Program Exit	71.6%	75.8%	72.5%	70.6%	70%	71.9%
One Year Follow Up	75.3%	67.9%	70.3%	61.1%	57.8%	66.7%
<b>Good credit record</b>						
Program Entry	49.5%	52.6%	52.2%	53.7%	46.1%	50.7%
Program Exit	69.9%	70.6%	73.2%	70.9%	66.5%	70.1%
One Year Follow Up	73%	75.1%	77.8%	72.3%	63.3%	72.5%
<b>Maintain emergency savings (\$400+)</b>						
Program Entry	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Program Exit	n/a	78.9%	78%	77.7%	73.9%	77%
One Year Follow Up	77.9%	74.3%	79.3%	67.4%	68%	73.4%

Source: IDA Administrative Dataset and IDA Participant Feedback Surveys.

