

155

### Idaho Needs Help

The poverty rate in the nation for young adults ages 18-24 is highest in Idaho. Most people that live in Idaho think this fact to be a shock. But there are a lot of reasons this is true and a lot of solutions Idaho could do to help this rate drop.

The high poverty rate in Idaho doesn't seem to be getting better. Some reasons for this could be that 11% of high school students drop out of high school. Another reason could be that only half of high school graduates go on to college, but a reason for that could be that Idaho has boosted the college tuition which makes it less possible for young adults to fo to college to get an education and have a better paying job so they aren't in poverty. One other reason could be that there isn't enough good paying jobs in Idaho which makes it hard for a person to make a good living while trying to get started out of high school.

Seeing how the rest of the nation keeps their poverty rate lower that Idaho, there has to be some solutions to this problem. One way Idaho could prevent poverty is to give businesses in Idaho tax breaks or utility breaks so they can stay in business longer and keep jobs in Idaho so people can have better paying jobs. Also when Idaho gives business tax and utility breaks, it will allow Idaho to raise the minimum wage so people in Idaho can make more money. One other reason that could help the poverty rate in Idaho go down is to offer more scholarship money so young adults can afford to go to college so they won't go into poverty.

As a senior approaching this age group, it scares me to death to think that most likely I will go into poverty, but I am willing to do this so I can go to college and get an education and get a higher paying job. Some things I am going to do while I go to college so I can try not to go into poverty is I am going to live at home so I won't have to pay rent. I am also going to try not to get married so soon so I won't have to have my own house and my own bills. I am also going to try to distinguish between what I want and what I need so I don't spend my money on wasteful things. Also I am not going to get a credit card because I don't want to start off on my own with debt.

I don't think that any programs would really help this problem. I just think that the solutions I have stated above could be enforced, and if that happens, I believe the poverty rate in Idaho would drop. This fact about poverty in Idaho is scary, and I think that everyone should be doing whatever they can to stop this rate from getting any higher.