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## Executive Memorandum

**To:** Jessica Sotelo, Executive Director, Partners for Prosperity  
**From:** Judy McClanahan, Community Development Specialist, Partners for Prosperity  
**Date:** February 11, 2006  
**Re:** Learning Event

A learning event with social service providers in the P4P region was held in October. Part of the requirements of community development staff is to stay abreast of service providers in our area and the changes that have occurred within the past year.

Julie Neff, Rural Development Specialist with USDA Rural Development has worked with the Single Family Housing program for 14 years. She explained the various programs USDA RD provides to Southeastern Idaho communities as well as described how Single Family Housing programs help people with low income to become homeowners, or repair and improve the homes they own.

Margaret Ganyo, Executive Director of United Way of Southeastern Idaho told staff that United Way of Southeastern Idaho is a local organization that conducts an annual fund-raising campaign to provide needed health, youth, and human-services to Southeastern Idaho. She said that they are the largest funder of health and human services after the government and that 21 local nonprofit organizations depend on them to raise money for critical programs that provide solutions to community problems.

Chris Piersol, Executive Director of Aid for Friends in Pocatello gave us the history of Aid for Friends. He also explained to staff that many people think of homelessness in the winter, but the number of people he provides shelter to only declines a little bit in the summer. He said that May and June are typically peak months but they need support all year long. They serve over 7 thousand people a year and are the only homeless shelter between Billings, Montana and Salt Lake City, Utah.

Deb Hemmert, SouthEast Idaho Community Action Agency (SEICAA) Executive Director, explained to our group that SEICAA is a community action organization providing low-income residents with the necessities of life, from food to affordable housing. Her main concern at the meeting was that the Meals On Wheels Program is in desperate need of funding as they supply food to about 350 people each month. They also provide services from weatherproofing a home to a box of food. There is the "working closet" where low-income participants can find professional clothing and the Family Development Program that promotes self-sufficiency by helping people one-on-one with things like budget counseling and job readiness. She said that no matter what people need SEICAA works to help them find it. It also helps to find resources like affordable housing and job counseling. They help people who earn 125 percent of the poverty level depending on family size. SEICAA is funded by grants, state money, and donations.

The common thread among these service agencies and partner organizations is that they are interested in taking action to help people in poverty. By thinking, planning, and working together as a united community we can accomplish goals that would be hard to



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achieve alone. P4P does not wait for the stakeholders to walk through the door; staff and members of the working groups attend neighborhood association meetings, city planning offices, and cultural and community centers to invite people to join our organization. P4P staff is constantly reviewing, recommending, and implementing strategies to promote and expand working group programs with a focus on education, action, and long-term constituency building.