

PRESS RELEASE

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In January, eviction court cases trended upwards as requests for rental assistance doubled.

The negative effects of job loss and housing crisis are still very real for many of our neighbors. Last April, Jesse Tree's call volume on our Housing Crisis Line grew 300% and remained at this level through the end of 2020. Last month, calls doubled again, with over 1,200 requests for assistance fielded as eviction court cases trended upward despite a federal eviction moratorium in place.

In September of 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a federal eviction moratorium, meant to put a temporary halt on eviction for qualifying renters. This moratorium was extended by the Trump administration through the end of January and then, by the Biden administration through the end of March.

Despite the moratorium remaining in place, we have seen the number of weekly court cases in Idaho, especially in Ada County, trending upward. Over the next two weeks there are 40 eviction hearings scheduled in the Treasure Valley (see attached, and overall annual eviction numbers in the chart below). Jesse Tree staff continue to proactively reach out to all parties before eviction court dates to try to intervene with services and rental assistance, and **renters with a court date should immediately contact the organization.**

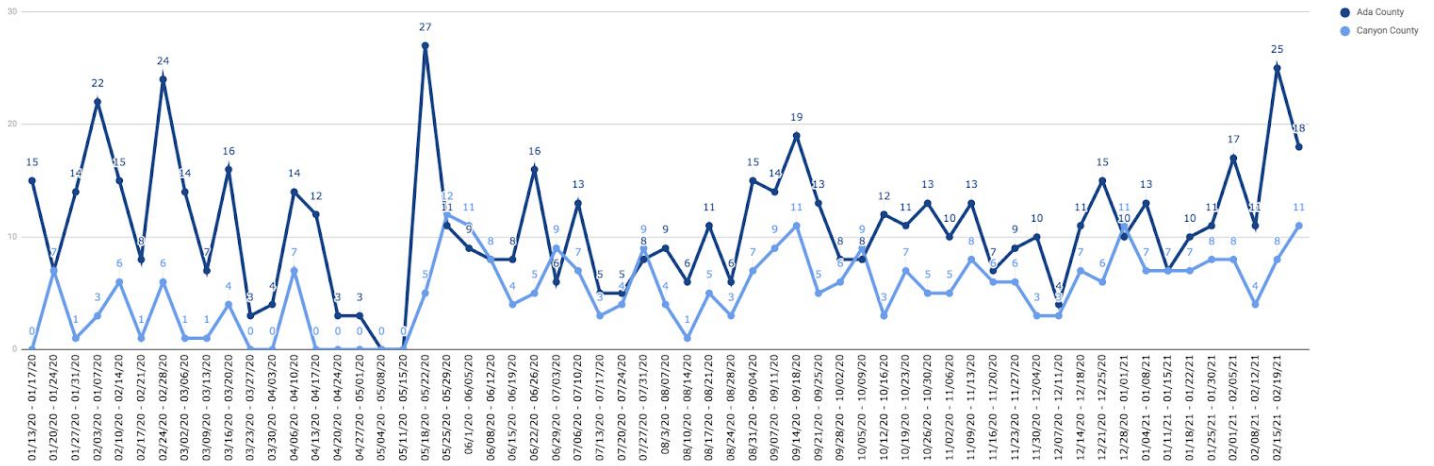
Despite increased call volume on the housing crisis line, Jesse Tree is still able to answer live calls or respond within one business day. **Thankfully we have resources to help**, and are now able to assist at least 50-100 renting families per month with support and rent assistance. The State of Idaho, Ada County and Boise City have all received COVID Relief Fund funding dedicated to emergency rental assistance. \$200 million in rental assistance will soon be available to tenants in Idaho. Jesse Tree will be working to help administer this funding, and also has other funding available to renters in need right now.

Research and data shows that providing direct financial assistance, coupled with other social services, works to prevent eviction and homelessness. We have all of the tools needed to solve this problem and prevent it from becoming a bigger crisis, but we must act now to help our neighbors and prevent the eviction court cases from trending even higher as the effects of this pandemic rage on.

If you or someone you know is at risk of eviction or homelessness **please contact Jesse Tree's Housing Crisis Line at 208-383-9486** to be connected with a case manager for assistance.

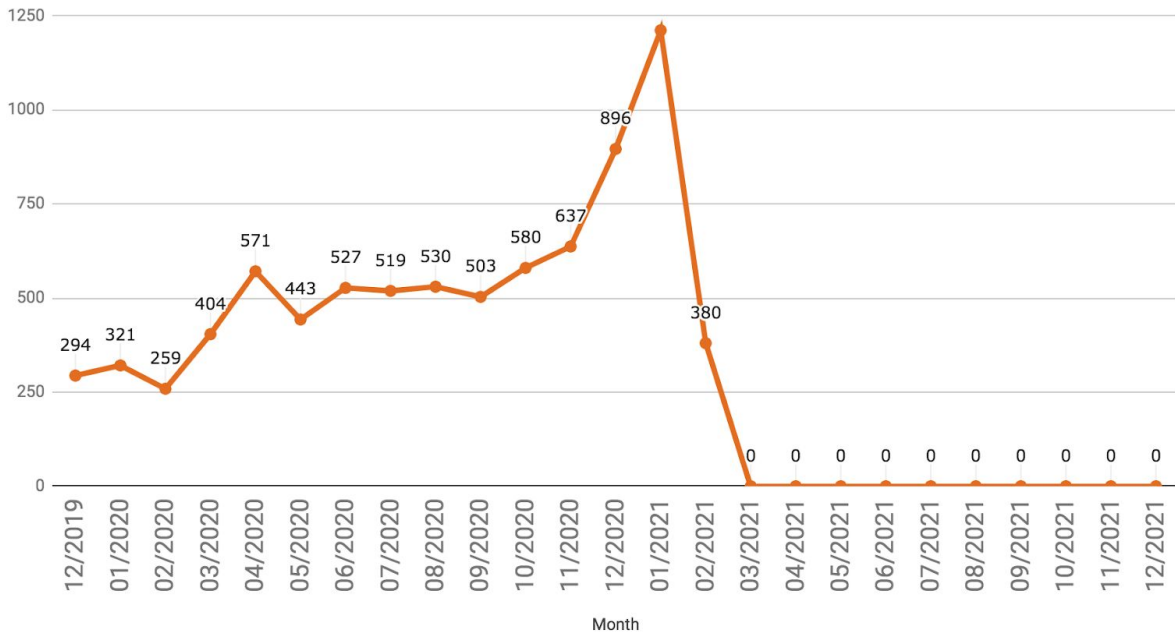
Ali Rabe is the Executive Director of Jesse Tree, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing eviction and homelessness.

Number of Cases in Eviction Court



Data and image provided by Jesse Tree.

Housing Crisis Line Volume



Data and image provided by Jesse Tree.