

# IMPACT

University of Idaho  
Extension

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## Providing Estate Planning Education via the Web

### *The Situation*

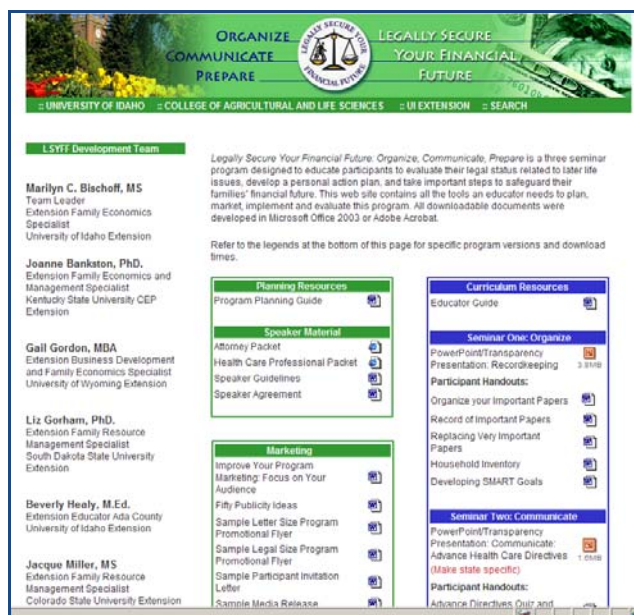
Sixty percent of Americans die without a will and nearly 70 percent report they do not have a living will or medical directive for health care. Many people procrastinate preparing these legal documents because they're unsure how to begin. Families who have completed end-of-life legal preparations can avoid unnecessary stress and expense resulting from not having these documents.

### *Our Response*

Cooperative Extension professionals need educational resources to teach end-of-life legal topics. The USDA Extension Family Economics Program leader asked the University of Idaho (UI) specialist to recruit a multi-state Extension Family Economics team to develop estate planning teaching resources. Team members from Idaho, Colorado, Kentucky, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming met via conference calls and web meetings to design a teaching curriculum titled *Legally Secure Your Financial Future: Organize, Communicate, Prepare* (LSYFF). Curriculum materials include Instructor Guides; PowerPoint slides and teaching notes for three seminars: 1) Organize Your Important Papers, 2) Communicate Your Final Wishes, and 3) Prepare Your Estate Plan; marketing resources, and course evaluations. Team members secured pro bono legal review of materials from attorneys. The team partnered with the University of Idaho Educational Communications department to disseminate the curriculum via the web at:

<http://www.ag.uidaho.edu/lisyff>.

View of the UI LSYFF curriculum website



Team members advertised the website to educators through the national Program Leader's newsletter, a personal finance association newsletter, and presentations at meetings of four national professional associations and two regional associations.

When eXtension, a national extension consumer website delivering the best information from land grant universities, was announced Family Economics leadership asked the team to adapt LSYFF materials as Learning Lessons for this site. The team secured federal grant funding for curriculum adaptation. Consumers can directly

access LSYFF materials through eXtension at:  
[http://www.extension.org/pages/Legally\\_Secure\\_Your\\_Financial\\_Future](http://www.extension.org/pages/Legally_Secure_Your_Financial_Future).

## ***Program Outcomes***

### **LSYFF Web-based Curriculum**

Within six months of publication the LSYFF curriculum website was accessed more than 16,000 times by individuals residing in every state in the U.S. and every continent except Antarctica.

Extension specialists in Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, New Hampshire, North Dakota, and South Dakota adapted LSYFF materials for educator use in their states.

The LSYFF course was taught 10 times to 920 adults in southwest Idaho. Pre- and 6-month follow-up evaluations document results:

<b>Task</b>	<b>Pre-</b>	<b>6-Months later</b>
<b>Completed living will</b>	30%	87%
<b>Completed health care Power of Attorney</b>	32%	81%
<b>Organized family records</b>	40%	88%
<b>Wrote will</b>	44%	81%



### **LSYFF Website**

The eXtension website was launched in mid-February 2008. Because of the recency of the launch, site visit data is not yet available. In mid-March a financial services business requested permission to link its e-newsletter (circulation 40,000 clients) to a section of LSYFF.

## ***For More Information***

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