



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

Definition of “Vulnerable or Underserved Children”

The Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council (Nevada ECAC) utilizes the following definition of “vulnerable or underserved children.” The purpose of defining this population is to identify young children and their families who have the greatest need for early childhood programs and services in the State of Nevada. To the extent possible, the factors included in the definition are characteristics that are clear and measurable, enabling the Nevada ECAC and our partners to identify these populations and gaps in access in order to prioritize program and service delivery to meet the needs of this population.

Vulnerable or Underserved children and families include those that:

- Are at or under 200% of the Federal Poverty Level¹
- Reside in rural areas
- Reside in tribal areas or are members of a tribe
- Are **multilingual learners**
- Are immigrants or refugees
- Have a child with a disability **and/or a developmental delay**
- Have a child with special **health care needs**
- Have a child with behavioral and/or mental health needs
- Have a child under 3 years of age
- Are experiencing **transiency and/or housing insecurity**
- Are experiencing homelessness
- Are involved with Child Protective Services, or
- Have a child having 4 or more adverse childhood experiences or environments including²:
 - Verbal abuse
 - Physical abuse
 - Sexual abuse
 - Lack of emotional support
 - Lack of basic needs (food, clothing, shelter, etc.)
 - Parental separation/divorce
 - Witness domestic violence
 - Household substance use
 - Household mental illness
 - Parent/guardian in prison

¹ Federal Poverty Level is determined annually by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. Federal Poverty Level guidelines are posted online at: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/>

² According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), “Adverse childhood experiences, or ACEs, are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood...[and include] aspects of the child’s environment that can undermine their sense of safety, stability, and bonding.” <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/index.html>. List adapted from ACES 10 question survey for use in pediatric practice: <https://acestoohigh.com/got-your-ace-score/>.

