



# Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2023**

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC)

2650 Flamigo RD,  
Las Vegas NV, 89116

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# About Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

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## **Our Purpose**

The Council shall work to strengthen state-level coordination and collaboration among the various sectors and settings of early childhood education programs in Nevada.

## **Our Vision**

Nevada's children will be safe, healthy, and thrive during the first eight years of life, and the system will support children and families in achieving their full potential.

## **Our Fundamental Values**

"All" means all. Opportunities and access are needed for children regardless of race, ethnicity, language, ability, or socioeconomics; also includes children in all environments including those with disabilities.

December 1, 2023

The Honorable Governor Joe Lombardo  
c/o Boards and Commissions  
101 North Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701



Amy Stephenson  
Legislative Counsel Bureau  
Director's Office  
401 South Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Governor Joe Lombardo

Pursuant to NRS 432A.076, the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council (Nevada ECAC) must submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature. We are pleased to present the information for the year 2023 on behalf of the Nevada ECAC. This report outlines a summary of the Council's strategic plan, key accomplishments, and recommendations for improving the early childhood system in the state.

## ECAC 2022-2024 Strategic Plan Summary

On January 19, 2022, the ECAC approved the [2022-2024 Strategic Plan](#), which aims to enhance the Early Childhood System in the state. Coordination and alignment of the early childhood system across sectors and existing initiatives is a crucial component of the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) and the 2022-2024 Strategic Plan. Therefore, the goals, activities, and critical accomplishments mentioned below result from the combined efforts of several state agencies and programs, nonprofit partners, and other key stakeholders. We have substantially coordinated and leveraged existing initiatives and resources to support our collective work. The Nevada Early Childhood Strategic Plan aims to establish a more comprehensive and integrated early childhood service system. It strives to ensure that every child in Nevada has access to quality early childhood services regardless of their family's location or challenges. The plan builds on existing and expanding collaborative relationships and ongoing initiatives across the state. It provides a clear framework and targets for the shared work ahead while being flexible enough to allow stakeholders across Nevada to define, implement, and refine strategies and action plans that respond to specific communities' and populations' strengths and needs. In addition, the 2025 Strategic planning has begun, and we are identifying vendors and building contracts to implement execution.

To achieve the objectives set out in the 2022-2024 Strategic Plan, the Nevada ECAC has formed five workgroups comprising appointed members and more than 40 key stakeholders from across the state. These stakeholders include both provider and parent representatives. We've made significant progress in the first year of the plan. We are excited to continue our efforts beyond 2023 to improve the early childhood infrastructure in Nevada, aiming to promote better outcomes for young children and their families.

# Strategic Plan Goals Accomplishment

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## **Goal 1 – Create a Coordinated Early Childhood Leadership Infrastructure in Nevada**

- Election and transition of the ECAC Chair position  
Tiffany Alston, Director of Programs at Sunrise Foundation was newly Elected as the Chair of Nevada Early Childhood Advisory.
- Administrative staff positions through PDG B5 grant to support and enhance the work of the ECAC.  
Two Administrative Positions: ECAC System Specialist and Administrative Assistant were implemented.
- Assisted in the development and structuring of AB113 in the 2023 Nevada Legislative Session to establish a Governor’s Office for Early Childhood Systems. Although the bill did not pass, efforts provided insight into what may be needed moving forward to support a coordinated leadership infrastructure in Nevada.
- Drafted and supported the successful passage of AB114 in the 2023 Nevada Legislative Session to expand the scope and membership of the Nevada ECAC to include representation of the comprehensive early childhood system inclusive of early learning, maternal and child health, and families.
- The Council has provided advisory support and technical assistance to the Guinn Center with the development of the Early Childhood Governance Structure study, which is scheduled to be complete in 2024.
- Nevada ECAC members and partners received training on the *Manifesto for Race Equity and Parent Leadership* to support the successful integration of family representatives in advisory and leadership positions.

## **Goal 2 – Increase Coordination and Alignment Between Systems of Care for Young Children and Families**

- Completed the Nevada Early Childhood Network Analysis with Visible Network Labs which included an assessment of 56 early childhood partners, representing a collective 786 partnerships. The analysis is being utilized to help identify assets and gaps in network connections throughout the early childhood system to improve cross sector coordination and alignment.

## **Goal 3 – Increase Capacity to Equitably Connect Families with the Early Childhood System Continuum of Care and Community at Large.**

- Played a key role in successfully executing the Nevada Early Childhood Marketing and Outreach Campaign aimed to increase awareness and access to childcare assistance programs. Our primary focus was to ensure outreach to underserved populations and support outreach efforts. In the first six months of the campaign, we delivered the messaging to almost 50 million Nevadans, contributing to a 22 percent increase in the number of children served by the childcare subsidy program. Furthermore, the monthly benefits distributed increased by 45 percent.

**Goal 4 – Identify Budget and Finance Strategies to Drive Policy Goals and Objectives**

- Provided support and technical assistance to The Children’s Funding Project to complete Nevada’s initial Children’s Fiscal Map and the development of the Early Childhood Fiscal Map, which will be released in early 2024.

**Goal 5 – Improve data collection by fostering understanding and collaboration with providers, families, policy makers and other stakeholders.**

- The Data and Evaluation Subcommittee of the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) has been making progress by implementing the objectives outlined in the ECAC Strategic Plan. The subcommittee has been focused on creating a master list of early childhood comprehensive services (ECCS) programs, along with key program indicators (KPIs), a data dictionary, and research questions and data points for a data system to address. With the support of federal funding, Nevada has partnered with the Nevada Institute for Children’s Research and Policy (NICRP) at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, to complete a cross-sector inventory of data systems in Nevada that collect ECE workforce data. In addition, the ECAC has developed the Nevada Early Childhood Data Dashboard, which provides publicly available data on population, workforce, and childcare.

## Recommendations for 2024

The recommendations are categorized to align with the Nevada ECAC Goals outlined in the 2022- 2024 Strategic Plan.

**Goal 1: Early Childhood Leadership Infrastructure**

- **Establish the Governor’s Office for Early Childhood (prenatal to age eight) to align policy and fiscal decision-making for the early childhood system across relevant agencies.**

The proposed structure of the Nevada Governor’s Office of Early Childhood will allow the Governor to make informed decisions regarding early childhood policy, practice, and financing by:

- Improving coordination and efficiency across state departments and local levels of government.
  - a) Mobilizing resources around the Governor’s priorities for children and families.
  - b) Facilitating a holistic approach to serving children and families who utilize a cross sector of programs and supports.
  - c) Funding is currently available through the HRSA ECCS grant (currently led by The Children’s Cabinet in collaboration with multiple state agencies and private partners) to support this recommendation through July 2026.
  - d) Strengthening partnerships with non-profit and private sector entities serving these populations; and

e) Increasing equitable access to programs and services in the early years to prevent or reduce the need for more costly remediation or services in later years.

- Conduct analysis of structures to determine implementation resources needed; The Guinn Center study is underway and will include analysis of governance structures and resources – final report anticipated to be complete in 2024.
- **Restructure the Nevada ECAC to establish program and community level advisory support to the Governor’s Office.**

ECAC Administrative Support:

These Administrative staff positions are currently funded through PDG B5 grant to support and enhance the work of the ECAC.

- Provide funding, as recommended by NDE in AB114 (2023) fiscal note to sustain administrative support the Nevada ECAC in the amount of \$251,520 for the upcoming biennium.
- This work will include supporting the current strategic plan (2022-2024) and the corresponding workplans that drive the action steps and measurable outcomes of the plan. These positions will also closely guide and assist in the development of the next iteration of the strategic plan in 2025, maintaining alignment with PDG B-5 work.

**Goal 2: Increase Coordination and Alignment Between Systems of Care for Young Children and Families**

- **Conduct assessment of the strengths, disparities, inequities, strategic priorities and goals among programs and agencies within the early childhood system:**

Early Childhood Governance Structure:

- Review and potentially implement the early childhood governance structure recommendations from the upcoming Guinn Center Report.
- Request a meeting or presentation upon completion of the report to review recommendations for consideration.
- Conduct analysis of structures to determine implementation resources needed. This activity is in progress and will continue 2024.
- Guinn Center study is underway and will include analysis of governance structures and resources final report anticipated to be complete in 2024.

**Goal 4: Identify Budget and Finance Strategies to Drive Policy Goals and Objectives**

- **Identify funding pathways and policy changes needed to meet program and system goals:**

Early Childhood Fiscal Mapping:

- Review and adopt fiscal strategies included in the Children’s Funding Project Nevada Early Childhood Fiscal Map Report to expand equitable access to high quality programs and services in Nevada. Request a meeting or presentation upon completion of the report to review recommendations for consideration.

#### Goal 5: Execute Data Collection and Integrated Systems to Increase Equity and Accountability

➤ **Implement an Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) to improve service delivery.**

Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS):

- Support and provide resources necessary to develop a Nevada ECIDS that includes cross sector data to inform decision-making and accountability across the early childhood system.
- Coordinate with the Data and Evaluation Subcommittee to identify a core team across agencies and programs that will lead the development. The subcommittee is responsible for executing data collection and integrated systems to increase equity and accountability, which is one of the goals of the Nevada ECAC Strategic Plan. One of the objectives of this subcommittee is implementation of an ECIDS to improve service delivery.
  - a) Identify or hire a cross-agency coordinator to support the effort and connect with data leaders across agencies.
  - b) Develop a Nevada-specific shared purpose, vision, and mission.
    - a. Identify policy questions for the ECIDS to address. These questions may be at the state, regional, or local level.
    - b. Create a workforce use case that addresses the identified policy questions.
    - c. Create and execute data sharing agreements.
    - d. Link the ECIDS to NPWR, the state longitudinal data system.

## Executive Summary of the ECAC 2023 Annual Report

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### Key Accomplishments

- Appointment of Nevada ECAC Chair
- Implementation of ECAC Administrative support position to support Nevada ECAC
- Assisted in the development and structuring of AB113 in the 2023 Nevada Legislative Session to establish a Governor’s Office for Early Childhood Systems. Although the bill did not pass, efforts provided insight into what may be needed moving forward to support a coordinated leadership infrastructure in Nevada.
- Supported the successful passage of AB114 in the 2023 Nevada Legislative Session to expand the scope and membership of the Nevada ECAC to include representation of the comprehensive early childhood system inclusive of early learning, maternal and child health, and families.
- The Council has provided advisory support and technical assistance to the Guinn Center
- Nevada ECAC members and partners received training on the *Manifesto for Race Equity and Parent Leadership*.
- Completed the Nevada Early Childhood Network Analysis with Visible Network
- Played a key role in successfully executing the Nevada Early Childhood Marketing and Outreach Campaign



- Provided support and technical assistance to The Children’s Funding Project to complete Nevada’s initial Children’s Fiscal Map and the development of the Early Childhood Fiscal Map
- Created a master list of early childhood comprehensive services (ECCS) programs, along with key program indicators (KPIs), a data dictionary, and research questions and data points for a data system to address. With the support of federal funding, Nevada has partnered with the Nevada Institute for Children’s Research and Policy (NICRP) at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, to complete a cross-sector inventory of data systems in Nevada that collect.

**Summary Key Recommendations:**

- Establish the Governor’s Office for Early Childhood (prenatal to age eight) to align policy and fiscal decision-making for the early childhood system across relevant agencies.
- Restructure the Nevada ECAC to establish program and community level advisory support to the Governor’s Office
- Conduct assessment of the strengths, disparities, inequities, strategic priorities and goals among programs and agencies within the early childhood system:
- Implement a strategic two-way communications plan to engage and connect providers, families, and stakeholders:
- Identify funding pathways and policy changes needed to meet program and system goals.
- Implement an Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) to improve service delivery.

following is a list of entities and organizations that are working with Nevada ECAC to spearheading these efforts or collaborating with the Nevada ECAC

Department of Education
Office of Early Learning & Development
Office of Inclusive Education
Office of Educator Development, Licensure and Family Engagement
Office of Student & School Supports
Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Childcare Development Program
Division of Child and Family Services, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health
Department of Public and Behavioral Health, Childcare Licensing
Department of Public and Behavioral Health, Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health
Director’s Office, Aging and Disability Services, Part C and NEIS
Local Early Childhood Advisory Councils:
Carson/Douglas Counties ECAC
Northeastern Nevada (Elko) ECAC
Southern Nevada (Clark) ECAC
Tribal ECAC
Tri-County (Lyon, Storey, Mineral) ECAC
Washoe County ECAC
Nevada System of Higher Education
University of Nevada, Reno
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children
Nevada Registry

Children’s Advocacy Alliance – Nevada Strong Start Pritzker PN3 Initiative
The Children’s Cabinet
HRSA Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Health Integration Grant
Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council
Nevada Childcare Provider Action Committee
Las Vegas Urban League

We welcome any questions you might have regarding this 2023 annual report. On behalf of the entire NECAC, it is our honor to serve the Governor and the people of the great state of Nevada.

Tiffany Alston  
 Chair  
 Director of Sunrise Children Center

*Tiffany Alston*

Patrice Gardner  
 Vice-Chair  
 Nevada Head Start State Collaboration Director  
 Dept. of Education,  
 Office of Early Learning and Development

Patrice Gardner