

ECAC Key Recommendations and Talking Points for the EC Systems Office Policy

This survey is designed to elicit input from ECAC members and key stakeholders on the key roles, responsibilities, and functions of the proposed Early Childhood Systems Office in Nevada. The intent is to include key recommendations in the ECAC Annual Report and to use these recommendations to develop key talking points for the ECAC on the EC Systems Office policy proposals that are anticipated for the 2025 Nevada Legislative Session.

Use this document for reference to complete the online survey by clicking [here](https://forms.office.com/r/MQUjH3vTX6).

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Recommendation 1 – PURPOSE STATEMENT

Reorganizing the governance structure for a comprehensive, coordinated, and aligned early childhood system is a complex task which will require the development of a coordinated plan to address the numerous governance and support elements necessary to ensure a comprehensive and sustainable system. The primary purpose of the Governor’s Office for Early Childhood is to develop a plan for restructuring Nevada’s Early Childhood System, inclusive of necessary changes to programs, funding, staffing, and data systems, which may include significant realignment of state agencies to meet the holistic needs of young children and their families. The purpose is NOT to create a study or report, but an actional plan developed with key stakeholders, including impacted populations representing the diversity of Nevada’s population.

Recommendation 2 – TERM OF OFFICE

Establish the Governor’s Office for Early Childhood as a temporary office to complete the prescribed roles, responsibilities, and functions (as outlined below) within a prescribed period of time of not less than 5 years.

Recommendation 3 – EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEMS DEFINITION

Require legislation to include the Early Childhood System definition approved by the Early Childhood Advisory Council on May 29, 2024, ensuring inclusion of all early childhood systems sectors within the scope and responsibility of the Governor’s Office for Early Childhood.

Recommendation 4 – KEY ROLES, FUNCTIONS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Require the Governor’s Office for Early Childhood to have the following roles, functions, and responsibilities:

1. Analyze and assess state-specific, national, and international research, reports, studies, and assessments addressing early childhood system governance structures and strategies, beginning with the Guinn Center’s 2024 report, *From Crowded to Coordinated: Examining the Governance of Nevada’s Early Childhood Systems*.
2. Convene key stakeholders and participate in and support relevant advisory councils and boards to assess needs in developing an early childhood system governance structure.
 - a. Key Stakeholders shall include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Parents and families who are direct beneficiaries or end users of Nevada’s early childhood system
 - ii. Local government, including both rural and urban municipalities
 - iii. State government administrators and program staff, inclusive of all sectors and services within the early childhood system
 - iv. Members of the early childhood workforce, inclusive of all sectors and services within the early childhood system
 - v. Community-based organizations and intermediary organizations that assist State government in the delivery of programs, services and supports
 - vi. Academic faculty with research or expertise in early childhood programs and services
 - vii. Advocacy organizations
 - b. Advisory Councils and Boards shall include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council
 - ii. Maternal and Child Health Advisory Board
 - iii. Nevada Children’s Behavioral Health Consortium and regional Children’s Mental Health Consortia
 - iv. Governor’s Council on Food Security

- v. Advisory Council on the State Program for Wellness and the Prevention of Chronic Disease
 - vi. Advisory Committee on the State Program for Oral Health
 - vii. Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities
 - viii. Interagency Coordinating Council
 - ix. Governor’s Office of Workforce Innovation – Workforce Development Board and Nevada P-20 To Workforce Advisory Committee
3. Meet with representatives from other states and jurisdictions that have implemented or are in the process of implementing new early childhood governance structures to assess insight on identified strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and opportunities.
 4. Provide staff support to the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council.
 - a. Move the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council under the Office to provide staffing support, reporting, and all administrative functions of the Council.
 - b. Provide all administrative support to the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council and its subcommittees.
 - c. Support the development and implementation of the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council’s Strategic Plan.
 - d. Provide regular updates on the status of the Early Childhood Governance Structure Assessment and Recommendations Plan and seek input on key findings and recommendations.

Recommendation 5 – REPORTS AND DELIVERABLES

Require the Early Childhood Systems Office to complete the following reports and deliverables:

1. Submit at least quarterly reports to the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council regarding the activities of the Office and any recommendations for improvements to the early childhood system, seeking input and advisory support for key findings and recommendations. Submit a draft of the annual report to the Governor and Legislature for review and input by the ECAC prior to submission.
2. On or before December 1 of each year, submit an annual report to the Governor and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau regarding the activities of the Office/Department and any recommendations for improvements to the early childhood system.
3. No later than July 1, 2028, submit a final report to the Governor and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau that includes specific recommendations and a comprehensive plan to reorganize Nevada’s early childhood system governance structure. The report shall include, but is not limited to:
 - a. Assessing the needs of families with young children in Nevada, with a particular focus on the needs of vulnerable and underserved populations (as defined by the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council), including current challenges of service delivery to inform a governance structure to support more efficient and effective processes.
 - b. Consolidating or reorganizing of State departments, divisions, agencies, offices, or programs, as deemed necessary to support a comprehensive and coordinated governance structure based on the needs of families with young children in Nevada.
 - i. This may include recommendations to add, change, or eliminate existing departments, divisions, agencies, offices, and/or programs.
 - c. Offering recommendations to align, braid, and coordinate funding, including consideration of federal mandates and limitations, as well as opportunities to create fiscal efficiency within the system and generate or support new revenue streams, as needed.
 - d. Recommending enhancements and supports for the early childhood workforce necessary to effectively implement the recommended consolidation or reorganization, as well as the broader early childhood workforce needed for programmatic implementation based on the needs of families with young children in Nevada.
 - e. Providing recommendations to enhance and support early childhood data systems and infrastructure, including, but not limited to, opportunities to develop an Early Childhood Integrated Data System, a Coordinated Intake and Referral System, and a Universal Application System.

Recommendation 6 - STAFFING

Ensure the Governor's Office for Early Childhood has the staff support necessary to carry out the roles, functions, and responsibilities detailed above, including the following positions:

1. Director– The Director of the created entity shall serve as a member of the Governor's Cabinet and have primary responsibility for overall roles, responsibilities, and functions of the Office/Department, including hiring and supervision of all staff listed below. The Director, and/or his or her representatives, will serve as a non-voting members of the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council and will assist in the implementation of the Nevada ECAC Strategic Plan.
 - a. Minimum Qualifications:
 - i. A minimum of 10 years of administrative, management, or leadership experience within Nevada's early childhood system in a public agency or private entity.
 - ii. Demonstrated understanding of early childhood systems, including cross-sector coordination and alignment.
 - iii. Experience and demonstrated ability to convene and collaborate effectively across stakeholder groups, streamline and improve efficiencies, and improve program and system level accountability.
 - iv. Proven ability to communicate complex issues in writing and through public speaking.
 - v. Experience in managing multiple complex programs with a demonstrated ability to improve organizational performance and develop workforce capabilities.
 - b. Appointment – The Governor shall appoint a person from a list of three persons recommended to the Governor by the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council established pursuant to NRS 432A.076.
2. Data Systems Analyst – Responsible for developing the plan to establish an Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) and overall data infrastructure to streamline data input and reporting for a comprehensive early childhood system.
3. Fiscal Systems Analyst – Responsible for coordinating, analyzing, and communicating the impacts of funding for programs and initiatives that fall under the umbrella of the early childhood systems governance structure.
4. Early Childhood Workforce Analyst – Responsible for initiating and managing an early childhood systems workforce study, including assessing and identifying strategies to address workforce issues including compensation, benefits, and equitable representation across sectors of the early childhood system.
5. Family and Community Engagement Specialist – Responsible for conducting outreach and engagement of family and community representatives in State-level decision-making including the development and implementation of policies, programs, procedures, and infrastructure impacting the equitable delivery of early childhood programs and services.
6. Early Childhood System Administrative Assistant – Responsible for providing administrative support to the Director and project staff of the Office of Early Childhood Systems, as well as providing administrative support to the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council.

Recommendation 7 - AUTHORITY

Ensure the Governor's Office for Early Childhood has the support and authority to carry out the roles, functions, and responsibilities detailed above:

1. Require each agency, board, commission, department, officer, employee, or agent of the State or a local government to provide the Office/Department or any representative of the Office such assistance as the functions and operations of the Office may require if that assistance is within the scope of duties of the person or entity.
2. Vest the Office with the authority to request, for each regular session of the Legislature, the drafting of one legislative measure relating to matters within its scope. The request must be submitted to the Legislative Counsel on or before September 1, preceding the regular session.

Recommendation 8 - FUNDING

Provide adequate funding to support a staff with the expertise and experience necessary to complete the roles, functions, and responsibilities outlined above, as well as necessary operational costs to include travel, materials, and other resources as deemed appropriate.