



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

PARTNER SUMMARY REPORT

MARCH | 2025

SECTION 1: NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (NDE)



NDE: Office of Inclusive Education (OIE)

OIE OVERALL UPDATE

Date: March 2025

Name: Cate Guzy, Asst. Director / State Early Childhood Special Education Coordinator

Email: Catherine.Guzy@doe.nv.gov

Summary:

The Office of Inclusive Education is currently completing our state monitoring for compliance. In May, using our new Early Childhood Outcome module, Early Childhood Outcome (ECO) scores will be collected.

NDE: Office of Early Learning & Development (OELD)

Name: Patti Oya, Director **Email:** poya@doe.nv.gov



QRIS: QUALITY RATING IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM

Date: March 2025

Name: Sara Kharrat, QRIS Administrator **Email:** sara.kharrat@doe.nv.gov

Name: Meghan McQuillan, Education & Information Officer **Email:** meghan.mcquillan@doe.nv.gov

Summary:

- OELD is developing a self-paced online QRIS Intro Training, allowing teachers, directors, and principals to learn more about QRIS and our work, enhancing accessibility and equity. Previously, only program directors were invited to the QRIS intro training due to the scheduling difficulties.
- We provided Learners user licenses to train all staff at our interested 2-star level programs on ERS and equipped our QRIS coaches with additional tools to support our programs. The LearnERS Pilot Program ended on February 28, 2025. Within one year we had 2,290 modules completed by 392 providers across 31 programs statewide.
- We have started the planning process for transitioning QRIS away from star ratings by 2027, focusing on continuous quality improvement support for providers. This is still in the planning phase, and we will continue involving partners and providers as we move forward.
- REMINDER: The QRIS dashboard is now accessible without needing to create an account or log in. Simply save the link to access updated QRIS information and download reports. Use the CTRL button to filter specific categories on the Dashboard, such as Nevada.

Ready or Head Start programs. Click to access: [QRIS DASHBOARD](#)

This dashboard was made possible by the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) Renewal, Grant Number 90TP099, from the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, awarded to the Nevada Department of Education Office of Early Learning and Development. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. Visit <https://bit.ly/nevadaPDGB-5> or contact Rachel Stepina at rachel.stepina@doe.nv.gov



PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT, BIRTH–5 (PDG B-5)

Date of update: March 2025

Name: Rachel Stepina, PDG B-5 Grant Manager **Email:** rachel.stepina@doe.nv.gov

Name: Kate Pflughoeft, Associate Grant Manager **Email:** kate.pflughoeft@doe.nv.gov

Overall PDG B-5 Nevada Renewal Highlights:

- Presented at the 2025 NAEYC Policy Forum, Washington DC – a national audience of 400 Early Childhood Education Leaders
- Established Partnerships with NevAEYC and Lakeshore for Preschool Exploration Essential Packs to be sent to 3- year-olds throughout the state
- Participated in Education Day at Children’s Week at the NV Legislature

Upcoming:

- Connect with Mississippi PDG B-5 to review what works and doesn’t
- Review Student Success Plan with Partner

Activity 1: Needs Assessment

Name: **Email:**

Summary:

Activity 2: Strategic Plan

Name: Sabrina Jones, ECAC Systems Specialist **Email:** sabrina.jones@doe.nv.gov and

Name: Brandi Hearst, ECAC Administrative Coordinator **Email:** brandi.hearst@doe.nv.gov

Summary:

- In negotiations with Children’s Equity Project to establish a contract for the ECAC Strategic Plan.
- Completed Creation of Local ECAC Mini Grants & the Application Process ALL 4 Local ECAC Applicants were Approved.
- Continued Supporting the Early Childhood Advisory Council and Subcommittee meetings utilizing the 2 ECAC staff roles: ECAC Systems Specialist and ECAC Administrative Coordinator

Meetings:

- Interested in attending ECAC General Meetings and/or Subcommittee Meetings? Check out our informational webpage by clicking the link: [NV ECAC General Meeting Information](#)
- New Membership Orientation: New members, Parents of young children and the public are encouraged to attend. To register, email us at the email addresses above.

ECAC Vacant Seats:

- If you, or someone you know, is interested in applying for ECAC Member Seat, contact us!
- For ECAC Membership Details and Application Form: [CLICK HERE](#)
- Open Seats -To view online- [CLICK HERE](#)

ECAC Subcommittees:

Our Subcommittee's are always accepting NEW Participants! You can join our Subcommittee meetings as a member of the public, or, to officially participate, visit the ECAC Subcommittee web page [HERE](#) . When ready, email us your NAME and the Subcommittee you are interested in, and we can start the application process with you!



Activity 3: Family Engagement in the B-5 System:

Name: Nayesdi Badillo, Early Childhood Family Engagement Specialist **Email:** nayesdi.badillo@doe.nv.gov

Summary:

NEW! Family and Community Engagement Mentorship & Networking Program

- We need your support in identifying local and/or statewide organizations that may benefit from the Family and Community Engagement Mentorship & Networking Program, a new initiative under the Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five (PDG B-5).
- This program is designed to enhance family and community engagement, including children ages 0-8, by providing mentorship, funding, and resources to organizations across Nevada. Some of these organizations may not primarily focus on family engagement but are actively incorporating it into their work with children in this age range.

We need your help identifying organizations or groups who may become part of the Network and participate in mentorship, whether formal or informal. For example, Facebook groups, family or community events at the library, or non-profit organizations that support families. Thank you for your support in strengthening family engagement across Nevada.

[CLICK HERE](#) to share your ideas

Questions? Contact Nayesdi Badillo, email above.

Activity 4: Early Childhood Workforce

Name: Jamie Mendez, Early Childhood Workforce Specialist **Email:** jamie.mendez@doe.nv.gov

Summary:

- Nevada Early Care and Education Workforce Wellness Guidebook has been translated into Spanish and will be going out for final workforce and partner review and feedback!
- There are continued planning efforts on the Nevada Early Care and Education Workforce Framework's action steps and 5 priority areas.
- Coming Soon! We will have a vendor to support with completing the Framework's Action Plan. Please email Jamie Mendez, email above, to get involved in supporting the Framework's Action Steps or Priority Areas.
- As of March 2, 2025, we have provided engagement incentives to 192 employees of our Early Childhood Workforce! These engagement incentives have been for opportunities for them to share their lived experience(s) to help shape and guide various grant activities and projects.

Activity 5: Increasing Quality

Name: Dana Preece, Birth - 3rd Grade Specialist **Email:** dana.preece@doe.nv.gov

Summary:

- P-3 Leadership Academy - Cohort 4 is almost complete. We have all the flyers and forms ready for them to upload their participation trackers. We have met with Lakeshore and Lakeshore will send participants a link to shop for materials.
- P-3 Retreat - We are working with RPDP to combine the event. We are putting together numbers for budget. RTI turned in at the beginning of March.
- B-3 Toolkit - Working with Kate from P-3 Center. She created a scope of work where we will be focusing on two audiences (Policy Makers and District Level) for the B-3 Toolkit. The P-3 Center is pushing for it to be mostly policy, I feel we need to focus on districts/admin & teachers.
- Pre-K Packs - Created a draft flyer and mock kits for pricing ideas. Completed the Booklet draft.
- First 5 - Completed the monthly activity corner article "Busy Bugs Hotel"
- Networking throughout Nevada - Worked on finding contact information for Libraries, UNR Extension offices, Tribal, and other rural contacts for BAB/FEMN and Pre-K-Packs.

Activity 6: Subgrants to Programs:

- Bonus Area 1: Coordinated Application, Eligibility, and Enrollment



Activity 6: Sub-grants to Programs:

- Bonus Area 1: Coordinated Application, Eligibility, and Enrollment
- Bonus Area 2: Improving Workforce Compensation
- Bonus Area 3: Increasing Access to Inclusive Settings

This work was made possible by the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) Renewal, Grant Number 90TP099, from the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, awarded to the Nevada Department of Education Office of Early Learning and Development. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official view of the United States Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families. See <https://bit.ly/nevadaPDGB-5> for details or contact Rachel Stepina at rachel.stepina@doe.nv.gov.

NEVADA READY! PRE- K: (NR!PK)

Date: NO MARCH UPDATE

Name: Michael Mitchell **Email:**

Summary:

**SECTION 2: NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (DHSS)
DIVISION OF WELFARE AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (DWSS)**

DHSS/DWSS:

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (CCDP)

Date:

Name: Vacancy

Email:

Summary:

DHSS/DWSS

INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH (IECMH)

Date: No March Update

Name: Rhonda Lawrence **Email:** rlawrence@dcfs.nv.gov

Summary:

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (DHSS)
DIVISION OF PUBLIC BEHAVIOR AND HEALTH (DPBH)**



DHSS/DPBH:

CHILD CARE LICENSING

Date: NO March update

Name: Edith Farmer, Child Care Facilities Supervisor **Email:** efarmer@dwss.nv.gov

Summary:



DHSS/DPBH:
MATERNAL, CHILD & ADOLESCENT HEALTH (MCAH)

Date: No March Update

Name: Tami Conn **Email:** tconn@health.nv.gov

Summary:



DHSS/DPBH:
WOMEN, INFANTS & CHILDREN PROGRAM (WIC)

Date: March 2025

Name: Blanca Ayala, WIC Program Manager **Email:** BlancaAyala@health.nv.gov

Summary:

Nevada WIC is working with the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) in Las Vegas to provide WIC 50% discount rate on bus fares in the Las Vegas area.

DHSS/DPBH:
NEVADA STATE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

Date: No March Update

Name: Kristy Zigenis **Email:** kzigenis@health.nv.gov

Summary:

DHSS/DPBH:
ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Date: No March Update

Name: Jannette Gomez **Email:** jannettegomez@health.nv.gov

Summary:

SECTION 4: NEVADA ECAC EARLY CHILDHOOD PARTNERS

THE CHILDREN'S CABINET (TCC), HRSA:
EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEMS (ECCS)
HEALTH INTEGRATION



Updated: March 2025

Name: Tiffany Olivas, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Manager 2 **Email:** tolivas@childrencabinet.org

Summary:



The Coordinated Intake and Referral System (CIRS) workgroup has completed their shared Executive Summary.

NV EC CIRS Executive Summary_2024.docx - Google Docs Dissemination is ongoing.

- The Fiscal Mapping Project: Final report will be available soon!
- ECCS Manager 2 Tiffany Olivas and EC CHW Manager Jennifer Hines will be presenting an overview of the EC CHW program in March at the 2025 annual Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) in Washington DC. Additionally, the HRSA ECCS technical assistance contractor, Altarum Institute, has chosen this presentation to be the topic of a national Awardee Spotlight for the next newsletter.
- Currently, there is a Senate bill (SB82) related to the development of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Services (Systems). To read the bill text as submitted (revisions pending) and track progress: [SB82 Overview](#)
- **Nevada's ECCS** work was chosen as a state spotlight for the work of the ECCS Leadership team! The final Nevada State Spotlight was completed February by Abt Global. The case study process included analyzing data from multiple data sources including awardee-submitted documents, awardee town halls, and interviews with partners.
- **The First 5 Nevada Leadership Academy's** (F5NLA) next cohort will start early Fall of 2025 and run through Spring of 2026. The First 5 Nevada Leadership Academy is a cohort-style six-month immersive training program for emerging or existing leaders within the early childhood system. The purpose of this training series is to equip professionals with the knowledge, expertise and resources necessary to support the development and sustainability of a comprehensive, coordinated early childhood system in Nevada. Interested individuals from any of the early childhood core sectors (ECE, Family Supports, Health, Mental Health & Nutrition, or Economic Well Being) are encouraged to submit their information through this interest form: [First 5 Nevada Leadership Academy - First 5 Nevada](#)
- In January, the **ECCS Leadership Team** and **Strong Start Leadership** group combined meetings to share updates from current legislation, The GUINN Report, and status of Fiscal Mapping / Early Childhood gap analysis findings. The ECCS Leadership will meet quarterly in 2025.
- **First 5 Nevada (website)** continues to grow, resource and inclusion requests are reviewed by an Advisory Committee monthly. All functions, including the eligibility portal, are available in Spanish as well. The F5N program will be providing resources and information throughout Children's Week at the 2025 Nevada Legislature. F5N has also organized an early childhood screening and connection event for families on April 5 at the College of Southern Nevada's Charleston campus. For more information -
- **SAVE THE DATE** Southern NV Screening & Connection Event – April 5, 2025 - First 5 Nevada
- For information on work with Family Leadership, see the submission below from our First 5 Family Leadership Council

TCC AND ECCS:

FIRST 5 NEVADA FAMILY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



Date of update: March 2025

Name: Ashley Dines, Parent Leadership Coordinator **Email:** adines@childrencabinet.org

Name: Anna Villatoro, ECCS Parent Leadership **Email:** avillatoro@childrencabinet.org



Summary:

- The Family Leadership Coordinators actively working on our outreach efforts with childcare programs such as Source Academy and Head Start. Our focus is on reaching Southern, Tribal, and Rural communities.
- Family leaders will be part of the Southern Nevada Screening & Connection Event in April.
- We are collaborating with The Children's Cabinet in the Elko office to expand our reach and connect with more families in the region. We're also encouraging rural families to help distribute fliers and spread the word.
- We attended Children's Week at the Nevada Legislature event. We will be highlighting family leaders from Nevada.

NEVADA ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN (NevAEYC)



Date : No March Update

Name: John Cregg **Email:** john@nevaeyc.org
Name: Carrie Paldi **Email:** cpaldi@learningcaregroup.com
Summary:

NEVADA CHILD CARE PROVIDER COMMITTEE (CCPAC)

Date: No March Update

Name: Lela Gonzales **Email:** larney@childrenscabinet.org
Name: Carrie Paldi **Email:** cpaldi@learningcaregroup.com
Summary:



PYRAMID MODEL

Date: March 2025

Name: Janice Lee, State Coordinator **Email:** janicelee@unr.ed
Summary:

Continuing training and coaching support to early childhood classrooms, centers, programs, and family childcare providers across Nevada to implement Pyramid Model practices for teaching social and emotional skills that prevent and address challenging behavior. Supporting classrooms with developing and implementing positive behavior support plans that teach acceptable skills instead of challenging behaviors. Available to support families with young children (before starting kindergarten) with behavior, social, or emotional support at home or in the community.



RESEARCH AND NEEDS ASSESSMENTS



Date : March 2025

Name: Dr. Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Executive Director **Email:** Amanda.haboush@unlv.edu

Name: Smriti Neupane, Research Analyst **Email:** smriti.neupane@unlv.edu

Summary:

- 7 new resources were added to the tracker this past quarter (since 1/3/25).
- Two examples of report/strategic plan that were added include:
 - Nevada Children's Justice Act Task Force Annual Report
 - Foster/Adoptive Parent Recruitment and Retention Plan 2024-2025

If anyone has updated strategic plans or needs assessment, they are aware of please let us know.



nvaiecmh
Nevada Association for Infant
& Early Childhood Mental Health

Date : March 2025

Name: Jacquelyn Kleinedler **Email:** JKleinedler@nvaiecmh.org

Summary:

The Nevada Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health continues to offer and support I/ECMH Endorsement. We have begun to offer "Infant Mental Health" centered training for providers seeking Nevada Registry credit and MFT/CPC CEU Credit. Visit our website for updates.



**Children's
Advocacy
ALLIANCE**

THE STRONG START PRENATAL TO THREE (PN-3) COALITION THE PRITZKER CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE (PCI) CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (CAA)

Date: March 2025

Name: Dr. Jamelle Nance, Early Childhood Policy Director **Email:** jamelle.nance@caanv.org

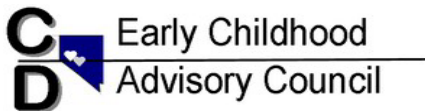
Summary:

- **CAA:** The Children's Advocacy Alliance (CAA), in partnership with the Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy (NICRP), had a successful Children's Week at Nevada Legislature. We would like to thank all our partners, sponsors, and guests for making this event a success! Stay tuned for our Kids Count data release event to see the state of Nevada's children and how we can continue moving the needle together.



- One of our priority bills, **AB185**, (which protects home-based childcare providers from HOA's) was heard on March 10th with outstanding attendance and support from community members, childcare providers, and partners! We will keep you informed on the progress of our Early childhood-related bills, specifically SB82 (Office of Early Childhood Systems). Please reach out if you would like to testify and need support.
- **Strong Start Prenatal-to-Three:** We are continuing to convene partners with a focus on identifying continued gaps, specifically around the implementation of previous legislation to ensure families are accessing programs and services that they need and want. Our next coalition meeting is scheduled for Apr 24, 2025, at 9:00am. Please reach out if you would like to attend and have not received the meeting invite.

SECTION 5: Nevada's LOCAL ECACs



CARSON/DOUGLAS ECAC

Date: MARCH 2025

Name: Tiffany Olivas, Chair **Email:** tolivas@childrenscabinet.org

Summary:

- Submitted Local ECAC Supports proposal for activities to support our local families and early childhood workforce.
- CD ECAC meets bi-monthly, unless needed.
- Early Childhood Education, Career and Technical Education students at Carson High School have organized their third annual Day of the Young Child. This is a free and family friendly event being held Saturday May 10th at the CHS Tech Center 10:00- 1:00pm.
- Council Chair provided an overview of the history and current projects of the CD ECAC during January / February General Nevada ECAC meeting.

ELKO / NORTHEASTERN NEVADA ECAC

Date: MARCH 2025

Name: Kelly Melendez, Chair **Email:** Kmelendez@ecsdnv.net

Name: Sarah Carone, Elko ECAC Statewide Representative **Email:** SCarone@childrenscabinet.org

Summary:

Completed and received the Local ECAC Supports for our region. Will be planning activities for summer, Fall and winter 2025 is based on grant in our upcoming May meeting.



SOUTHERN NEVADA ECAC (SNECAC)

Date: March

Name: Dr. Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Organizer **Email:** amanda.haboush@unlv.edu

Name: Smriti Neupane **Email:** smriti.neupane@unlv.edu

Summary:

On Wednesday, February 19th SNECAC met in person at a local library with 10 attendees.

We discussed the Local ECAC Supports application, Children's Week at the Legislature, and discussed partner updates.

Our next meeting is in May 2025 where we will discuss the activities for the remainder of the year, including hosting another local Children's Day at City Hall or the Clark County Government Center.

TRIBAL ECAC

Date: No March Update

Name: Ashleigh Baker **Email:** abaker@itcn.org

Summary:

TRI-COUNTIES ECACs: LYNN, STOREY AND MINERAL COUNTY

Date: No March Update

Name: Evelyn Knight **Email:** evelynknight@ymail.com

Summary:

WASHOE COUNTY ECAC

Date: No March Update

Name: Melissa Burnham **Email:** mburnham@unr.edu

Name: Anna Severns **Email:** aseverens@doe.nv.gov

Summary:

SECTION 6: OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL: EVENTS - FUNDING - OUTREACH - RESOURCES

For Everyone:

Add anything that can benefit others such as:

Opportunities for Funding, Workshops, Meetings, Events, Professional Development, Outreach, Resources

Opportunities to Share and Explore



nvaiecmh
Nevada Association for Infant
& Early Childhood Mental Health

- The Nevada Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health is **Now accepting applications** for new Board Members. If you or someone you know values early relational health and would like to work with us to promote understanding and practices that support young children, families, and other service providers. Come join us by sending an Email to Jacquelyn: jkleinedler@nvaiecmh.org



- **3/19/25** from 5:30-6:30 pm Elko Health Fair at Elko Convention Center: Share community resources to support children with special needs - pizza on site and childcare available.
- **3/22/2025:** Parent Information Night at Northside Early Learning Center (Fallon)
- **SAVE THE DATE: April 5, 2025**
First 5 Nevada Early Childhood Screening and Connection event for families
Location: College of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas -Charleston Campus
- **Saturday May 10th - Day of the Young Child**
Located at: CHS Tech Center
From: 10:00- 1:00pm
The Career and Technical Early Childhood Education students at Carson High School have organized their third annual Day of the Young Child. **This is a free, family-friendly event!**

ADD YOUR OPPORTUNITY ABOVE THIS LINE AND BELOW ANY OTHER ENTRIES, IF ANY