



# Snapshot of 2026 Strategic Plan Goal Revisions

Presented by: Sabrina Jones on January 6, 2026  
at the Executive Leadership Subcommittee Meeting  
Goals Revised by Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee

# Public Works

## GOAL Connected Services

### Goal Statement:

**Promote an integrated, aligned, and family-centered early childhood system that strengthens coordination across agencies and data systems.**

### Goal Overview

- Program roles, shared planning, and improved service navigation through one-stop access points, aligned eligibility tools, and shared data systems.
- These efforts aim to reduce fragmentation, support smoother transitions from early learning through third grade.
- Improving the navigation of early childhood learning and services became a resounding theme among community member survey responses.
- In response, this goal advances an integrated, family-centered Early Childhood System by strengthening coordination across agencies, programs, and data systems serving children and families. It promotes clearer

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## GOAL 1. Comprehensive and Integrated Early Childhood System

### Goal Statement:

Promote an integrated, aligned, and family-centered early childhood system that strengthens coordination across agencies **to support the delivery of services that meet the needs of children and families.**

### Goal Overview:

- Nevada ECAC supports the development of a comprehensive, connected **early childhood system** that aims to provide a seamless, unified, and coordinated approach to early childhood development and education, recognizing how various factors (health, safety, education, etc.) that influence a child's well-being and potential must work together.
- **This approach** is critical in setting the stage for a child's future success by addressing their physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development during these formative years.
- A high-functioning, coordinated early childhood system includes a well-organized network of programs, services, and resources designed to support children and families prenatally through their early years – providing a holistic approach to child development.
- To achieve this goal, it is critical to align governance structures, policies, fiscal support, and data systems across the various sectors of the early childhood system.

### Early Childhood System Sectors:

Early Care and Education, Maternal and Child Health,  
Family Supports, Economic Well-Being, and  
Impacted Individual/Family Representative with Lived Experience

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## GOAL - Workforce

### Goal Statement:

Promote the growth and sustainability of a qualified, stable, and **diverse** early childhood learning and care workforce.

### Goal Overview:

- ECAC embraces the principle that a strong early childhood workforce is foundational to Nevada's success in supporting children from birth through age eight. A qualified, stable, and compensated workforce ensures high-quality learning and provides consistent relationships vital for a child's development.
- ECAC will foster collaboration among the ECS that strengthens career pathways, compensation parity, and amplifies the voices of the early learning and care workforce to shape statewide decisions and policies addressing what many consider a workforce crisis.

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## GOAL 2. Workforce

### Goal Statement:

Promote the growth and sustainability of a qualified and well-prepared, **respectfully** compensated, and **representative** early childhood workforce.

### Goal Overview:

- Nevada ECAC embraces the principle that a strong early childhood **workforce is foundational to** Nevada's success in supporting children from birth through age eight. **A qualified and well-prepared, respectfully compensated, and representative workforce ensures high-quality services** and provides consistent relationships vital for a child's development.
- ECAC will foster collaborations to **strengthen career pathways**, compensation parity, and amplify the voices **of the early childhood workforce** to shape statewide decisions and policies addressing the workforce crisis **across the range of sectors within the Early Childhood System.**

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## Goal- Funding & Affordability

### Goal Statement:

**Promote sustainable funding streams for early childhood systems and improve affordability of early care and learning programs.**

### Goal Overview

- The most frequently cited need voiced throughout the community engagement process is the lack of affordable early care and learning in Nevada. Survey respondents encouraged ECAC to champion a dedicated state funding stream to support universal pre-K for four year-olds, expand early childhood services, and incentivize employers (e.g., through tax credits) to businesses that offer child care benefits.
- Many emphasize the need for the state to view early care and education as a public good similar to providing Nevada's children an education through its support of K-12 schools.

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## GOAL 3. Fiscal Policy and Sustainability

### Goal Statement:

Promote sustainable and **robust** funding streams at levels that **provide high-quality early childhood services across sectors of the early childhood system.**

### Goal Overview:

- Nevada ECAC recognizes that the early childhood system must be sustainably funded at a level sufficient to provide high-quality programs across all sectors to ALL children and families, prenatal through age eight.
- This includes funding to expand access to needed services, ensuring robust funding to support high-quality services, and that funding sources are sustainable to support ongoing, seamless service delivery.
- Nevada's early childhood system is heavily reliant on federal funding streams to support essential services for children and families. While these resources are critical, they are often time-limited, restricted in use, and insufficient to meet the full scope of needs across the state. This reliance creates instability in program availability, limits the ability to scale high-quality services, and contributes to gaps in affordability and access - particularly for families with infants and toddlers, children with special needs, and those living in rural or underserved communities.

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## GOAL Advocacy & Influence

### Goal Statement

Elevate the visibility and value of early childhood learning and care achieved through a coordinated Early Childhood System dedicated to enhancing children's lives.

### Goal Overview

- ECAC's unique mandate and mission to strengthen state-level collaboration among early childhood sectors by making strategic recommendations that increase participation of children in early childhood programs and enhance the systems and services that support them. This goal leverages
- ECAC's position to drive policy change, influence decisions at the state level, and ensure that early childhood is embraced as a leading priority in Nevada.

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## GOAL 4. Advocacy & Influence

**Goal Statement:** Elevate the visibility and value of early childhood policies and fiscal strategies, at the local, state, and federal levels, that are grounded in the science of early childhood development and best practices.

### Goal Overview

- Nevada ECAC's primary purpose, as defined in NRS 432A.076, is to "strengthen state-level coordination and collaboration among the various sectors and settings of early childhood programs." This includes the development of recommendations to:
  - Increase participation of children in early childhood programs.
  - Establish or improve core elements of the early childhood system.
  - Develop or improve a statewide professional development system; and
  - Establish statewide standards for early childhood programs.
- This goal leverages ECAC's position to drive policy change, influence decisions at the state level, and ensure that early childhood is embraced as a leading priority in Nevada, championed by well-informed decision makers.

# Public Works

## GOAL 5. Organizational

### Goal Statement

**Establish a sustainable operational Infrastructure to fulfill the mission and mandate of the Early Childhood Advisory Council.**

### Goal Overview

- The Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) is committed to building a sustainable operational foundation that strengthens its ability to represent and elevate the voices of families, providers, and community partners with lived experience.
- This goal establishes stable administrative capacity, streamlining governance, enhancing communication, and cultivating strategic partnerships that position ECAC as a trusted voice for Nevada's early childhood system.

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## GOAL 5. Combined with Goal 1