Nevada ECAC 2026-2030 Strategic Plan

Revised Goals & DRAFT Objectives

Goal 1 – Comprehensive and Integrated Early Childhood System

GOAL OVERVIEW:

The 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.) influence a child's well-being and potential, and 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, including:

Nevada's Early Childhood System Sectors

- Early Care and Education
- Health, Mental Health and Nutrition Services
- Family Supports
- Economic Well-Being

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.

DRAFT OBJECTIVES:

1.1: Promote and advocate for an integrated early childhood governance structure that improves alignment and coordination across agencies, and supports shared oversight of programs, services, funding, and administration. *Policy Subcommittee*

1.2: Develop and advance an implementation plan for a statewide Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) to improve data sharing, accountability, and coordinated service delivery across early childhood programs. *Data Subcommittee*

1.3: Strengthen the organizational capacity and infrastructure of the Nevada ECAC to effectively convene partners, align cross-sector efforts, and support a coordinated early childhood system. *Policy Subcommittee*

1.4: Develop and sustain infrastructure that elevates family voice, engagement, and leadership in decision-making to ensure early childhood services are responsive to the needs of children and families. *Family Engagement Subcommittee*

Goal 2 – Workforce Development

GOAL OVERVIEW:

The 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.

GOAL STATEMENT:

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

DRAFT OBJECTIVES:

2.1: Clearly define "early childhood workforce" to include a comprehensive array of early childhood professionals within the various sectors of the early childhood system and align standards related to a qualified, well-prepared, and respectfully compensated workforce. *Workforce Subcommittee*

2.2: Advance coordinated and accessible career pathways that support entry, advancement, and professional growth across early childhood roles, including pathways that recognize experience, credentials, and lived expertise. *Workforce Subcommittee*

2.3: Advocate for equitable and sustainable compensation strategies, including pay parity across early childhood settings and roles, to support workforce stability and recognize the value of the early childhood professions. *Workforce Subcommittee*

2.4: Support strategies that strengthen recruitment and retention of a representative early childhood workforce, with an emphasis on reducing barriers to entry, improving working conditions, and increasing long-term career sustainability. *Workforce Subcommittee*

Goal 3 – Fiscal Policy and Sustainability

GOAL OVERVIEW:

The 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 ensuring 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 need 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.

GOAL STATEMENT:

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

DRAFT OBJECTIVES:

3.1: Maintain and enhance Nevada's comprehensive early childhood fiscal map to track, analyze, and increase transparency of existing funding streams across programs, agencies, and service sectors. *Finance Subcommittee*
3.2: Expand the early childhood fiscal gap analysis to identify the level of funding needed to ensure equitable access to high-quality early childhood services across sectors and to support system sustainability. *Finance Subcommittee*
3.3: Identify, promote, and advance diversified funding sources that reduce reliance on federal funding and strengthen the long-term sustainability and stability of Nevada's early childhood system. *Finance Subcommittee*

Goal 4 – Advocacy and Influence

GOAL OVERVIEW:
The 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 key decision-making, and ensure that early childhood is embraced as a leading priority in Nevada, championed by well-informed decision makers.

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.

DRAFT OBJECTIVES:
4.1: Support the implementation of a coordinated, statewide marketing, communication, and outreach approach for the early childhood system (ECS) to elevate public and policymaker understanding of the value of early childhood investments grounded in science and best practices. *Communications Subcommittee*
4.2: Create and maintain a strategic communications plan with clear, consistent key messages that elevate ECS and ECAC priorities and effectively communicate the impact of early childhood policies and fiscal strategies across local, state, and federal audiences. *Communications Subcommittee*
4.3: Elevate and support meaningful family engagement and leadership to ensure family voices inform early childhood policy development, advocacy, and decision-making at all levels. *Family Engagement Subcommittee*
4.4: Identify, develop, and support early childhood policy champions across sectors and levels of government to advance evidence-based early childhood policies and sustainable fiscal strategies. *Policy Subcommittee*