Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

GENERAL ECAC MEETING

Strategic Plan Briefing

September 17, 2025

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Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council 2025 - 2028 Strategic Plan
Snapshot

Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

1 THE STRATEGIC PLAN'S GOAL

The goal of the ECAC Strategic Planning process is to "produce an evidence-based and actionable strategic plan through the use of a comprehensive development process aligned with the ECAC commitments" of:

- Responsiveness to Nevada's Population
- Family Engagement and Leadership
- Community Partner Collaboration
- Transparency and Responsive Two-Way Communication
- Continuity and Pathways from prenatal into school entry and beyond
- Access to early childhood programs and supports

2 PROCESS & TIMELINE (Sept 2 - Dec 31, 2025)

Public Works LLC, a public policy consulting firm, has been commissioned by the Nevada Department of Education to facilitate a strategic planning process for and with the Early Childhood Advisory Council. This includes:

- Researching promising practices among state advisory councils similar to ECAC
- Assessing progress on results of the five goals of the current strategic plan
- Forecasting the early childhood needs of Nevada's children over the next 3 to 5 years
- Identifying action steps for ECAC to fulfill its mission, goals & objectives

3 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Our team will engage the voices and ideas from early childhood stakeholders throughout Nevada such as ECAC advisory board members, subcommittee members and local ECACs along with providers, parents and teachers on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges that ECAC and the state faces. This will inform how ECAC can realize its vision that "Nevada's children will be safe, healthy and thriving during the first eight years of life." Thus, over the course of September through mid October, the consulting team will conduct:

- Leadership and First-Hand Experience Interviews (e.g. teachers, parents, direct-care staff)
- Focus Groups/ Workshops
- Surveys
- Early Childhood Community Visioning Event

4 PRODUCE AN ACTIONABLE STRATEGIC PLAN

The Strategic Plan will act as a living document, practical guide and toolkit to reach the goals and objectives developed in the 2025-2028 strategic plan. It will help achieve ECAC's mandate to *strengthen state-level coordination and collaboration among the various sectors and settings of early childhood programs.** Presentations to gain input from ECAC advisory board members will be offered prior to completing the final strategic plan due December 31, 2025.

* Source: Current ECAC Strategic Plan at www.nvecac.com

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ECAC 2025-28 STRATEGIC PLAN
TEAM MEMBERS

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- Eric Schnurer, President
- Jennifer Wall, CEO
- Dr. Kristen McNeill, Project Team Director
- Dr. JoAnn Cox, Subject Matter Expert
- Dr. Kate Verville, Subject Matter Expert
- Dr. Linda Rhodes, Community Engagement & Survey Lead

Starting early is starting right on time.
Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

- Tiffany Alston, ECAC Chair
- Patrice Gardner, ECAC Vice-Chair
- Rachel Stepina, PDG B-5 Grant Manager, Nevada Department of Education
- Brandi Hearst, ECAC Administrative Coordinator
- Sabrina Jones, ECAC System Specialist

ECAC 2025-28 STRATEGIC PLAN'S GOAL

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ECAC 2025-28 STRATEGIC PLAN'S RFP PROCESS QUESTIONS

To what extent has the ECAC successfully implemented its existing Strategic Plan? What has contributed to and/or detracted from those efforts?

What do the various needs assessments, landscape reviews, asset mappings produced by the ECAC and its partners indicate are the priority needs for state-level coordination and collaboration?

How can the ECAC most effectively coordinate, support, amplify and supplement system-level efforts to achieve progress on shared outcomes?

What should the next 3-5 years of the ECAC's work aim to achieve? What discrete goals, measurable objectives and high-leverage strategies and activities should the next strategic plan focus on?

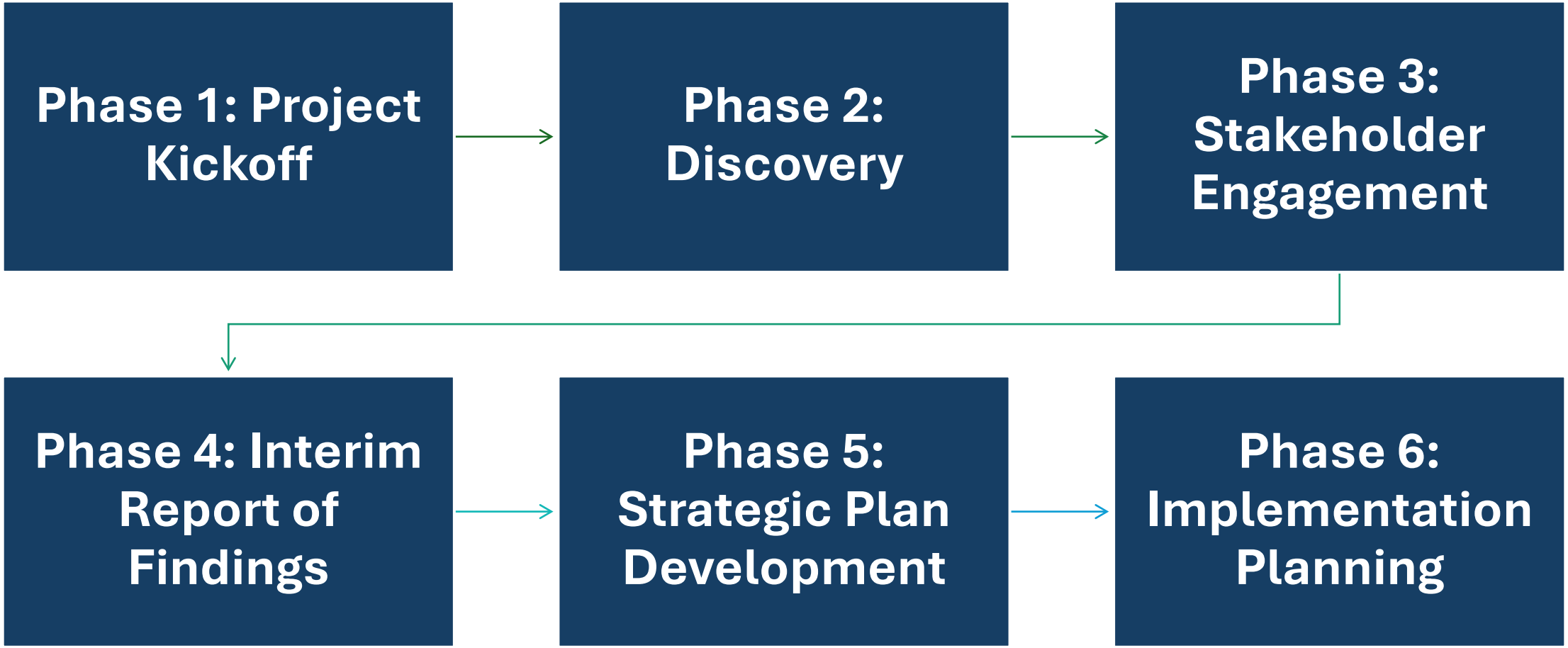
ECAC 2025-28 STRATEGIC PLAN'S
RFP PROCESS QUESTIONS

5. How should the work of the strategic plan be operationalized through the ECAC subcommittees, with thought to how efforts are articulated, sequenced, coordinated, supported, measured, and communicated?

6. How can the ECAC be organized and operate to best support its members and partners to regularly and efficiently communicate, collaborate and implement the plan?

7. What routines, tools, and skills are needed to support effective project management for the implementation of the next strategic plan?

ECAC 2025-28 STRATEGIC PLAN'S
ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS: OUR METHODOLOGY



ECAC 2025-28 STRATEGIC PLAN WORKPLAN & TIMELINE

PHASE	KEY ACTIVITIES	DELIVERABLES W/ DATES
Project Kickoff	Kick Off Meeting with Public Works LLC, ECAC PDG B-5 Team Members	July 11, 2025: Reviewed Project Plan with timeline, document request, provided selection of peer states for review
Discovery	• Strategic Planning **Session 1: ECAC Executive Leadership Subcommittee Meeting** • Document Review • Critical Partner Interviews, ECAC Members and Subcommittee Members • Peer State Review	Month of September 2025 Public Works conducts in person/Zoom interviews from priority list provided by ECAC Team Public Works conducts Peer State Review (ECAC Team decides by 9/30 if Peer State Review is needed)
Stakeholder Engagement	• Two Stakeholder surveys designed: NDE Staff, PDG B-5 Team Educators, Administrators & Community Members. *Possible* focus groups depending number & feasibility to conduct	Public Works Team and ECAC Team. Draft surveys to ECAC by Sept 17th. Approval by Sept 22nd. Surveys out in field no later than Sept 23rd · Open for two weeks. Public Works presents findings/results to ECAC Team by October 9, 2025 .

ECAC 2025-28 STRATEGIC PLAN'S WORKPLAN & TIMELINE (continued)

PHASE	KEY ACTIVITIES	DELIVERABLES W/ DATES
Interim Report of Findings	Public Works provide Interim Report of interviews, surveys and focus groups to ECAC Team **Strategic Planning Retreat: October 29-30, 2025**	Public Works Team provide Interim Report to ECAC Team by October 27, 2025 Kristen and Kate to conduct Strategic Planning Retreat - October 29-30th in Las Vegas
Strategic Plan Development	Gain feedback from stakeholders on Strategic Plan Goals, Objectives, etc. Review design concepts. Iterative draft of Strategic Plan to ECAC and receive feedback	Draft of Strategic Plan concept to ECAC Team by November10 and gain input from ECAC Team by November 17, 2025 Final Draft of Strategic Plan sent to ECAC Team by November 24 and feedback from ECAC Team due to Public Works by December 8, 2025 Graphics & formatting completed by December 12-19 Strategic Plan final to ECAC Team by December 22, 2025
Implementation	Provide ECAC Team a Work Plan for implementation of Strategic Plan goals & strategies.	Public Works Team provide ECAC Team with Work Plan for Implementation of Strategic Plan by December 23, 2025

ECAC 2025-28 STRATEGIC PLAN
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT: SURVEYS

IDENTIFYING WHAT TO ASK?

1. Questions addressing the project's Scope of Work (e.g. SWOT Analysis).
2. Questions that explore insights resulting from Key Informant Interviews.
3. Questions that the Strategic Planning Team would like to explore.
4. Questions the Public Work's Consulting Team need to explore.
5. Questions gathering feedback on status of addressing the current Strategic Plan's Six Commitments.

COLLABORATIVE SURVEY DESIGN

1. Drop-down Menus (Identifiers)
2. Likert ratings using a Matrix to measure multiple factors under a generalized topic.
3. Multiple Choice
4. Star ratings (slider) on a specific topic
5. Open-ended Comments
6. Incentive to take & complete survey.

Goal is to keep respondent engaged in a user-friendly format. Not over-complicated. Graphically pleasing and easy to complete.

ECAC 2025-28 STRATEGIC PLAN
SURVEY DISTRIBUTION & DELIVERABLES

PROCESS

1. Questions addressing the project's Scope of Work (e.g. SWOT Analysis).
2. Questions that explore insights resulting from Key Informant Interviews.
3. Questions that the Strategic Planning Team would like to explore.
4. Questions the Public Work's Consulting Team need to explore.
5. Questions gathering feedback on status of addressing previous Strategic Plan's Five Goals.

DELIVERABLES

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Goal is to keep respondent engaged in a user-friendly format. Not over-complicated. Pleasing to see and easy to complete.

ECAC 2025-28 STRATEGIC PLAN
THE CUMINATION OF ALL OF OUR WORK …

PRODUCE AN ACTIONABLE STRATEGIC PLAN

The Strategic Plan will act as a living document, practical guide and toolkit to reach the goals and objectives developed in the 2025-2028 strategic plan. It will help achieve ECAC's mandate to *strengthen state-level coordination and collaboration among the various sectors and settings of early childhood programs*.* Presentations to gain input from ECAC will be offered prior to completing the final strategic plan due December 31, 2025.

Questions

Thoughts. Suggestions. Next Steps.

Contact: Dr. Kristen McNeill, Project Director, Public Works, LLC

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