

Nevada ECAC 2026 – Interim Policy Priorities Survey Summary

September 2025

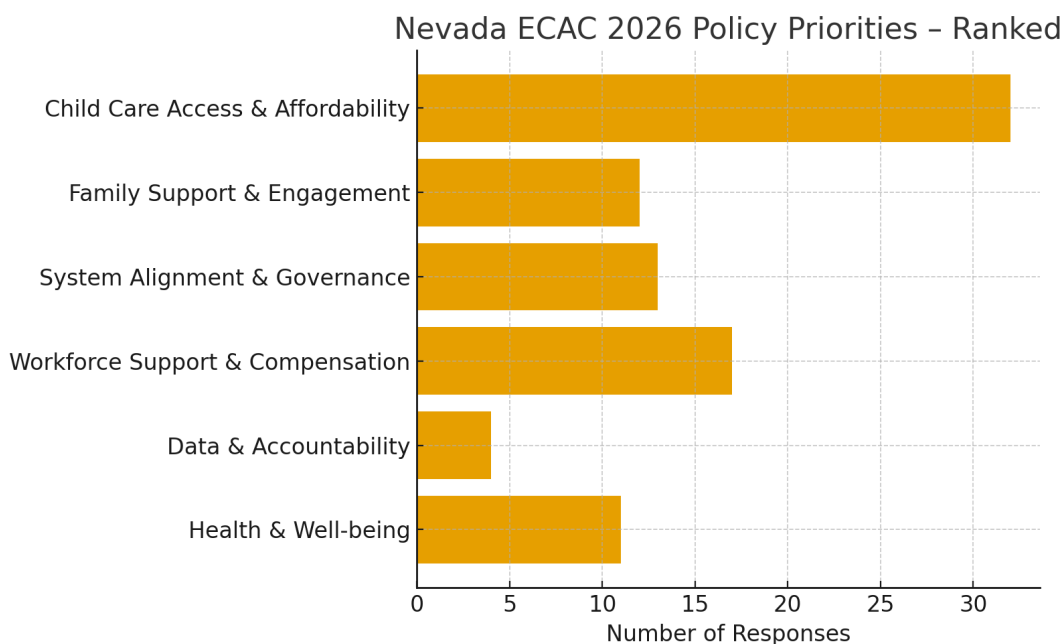
This brief summarizes the policy recommendations gathered from ECAC Members, Subcommittee Members, Early Childhood Professionals, and Parent/Family representatives for consideration by the Nevada ECAC to include in the 2025 Annual Report to the Legislature and Governor.

The survey received 34 total responses, with respondents self-identified in the following roles:

- Appointed ECAC Members: 4
- ECAC Subcommittee Members: 3
- Early Childhood Professionals (no official role with ECAC): 18
- Parents/Families (including Foster Parents): 7
- Other: 2

Each respondent had the opportunity to provide multiple responses, resulting in a total of 104 responses from the 34 respondents.

The chart below shows the most common priority areas, ranked by frequency of responses (N=104).



Qualitative analysis of the responses resulted in the identification of six core issue areas presented in the recommendations. The following represents the key issues, ordered in rank of frequency of inclusion in responses (N=104).

Child Care Access & Affordability – 30.8%

- Expand subsidies and financial assistance for families.
- Increase availability of quality child care and Pre-K programs (including full-day).
- Ensure foster families and underserved communities have consistent access.

Workforce Support & Compensation – 16.3%

- Increase wages and benefits, including health insurance, for the early care workforce.
- Expand training pathways and reduce burdensome requirements.
- Support program sustainability in both urban and rural areas.

System Alignment & Governance – 12.5%

- Address fragmentation across early childhood, K-12, and child welfare systems.
- Establish a clear governance structure for early childhood.
- Implement a universal application to streamline program access.

Family Support & Engagement – 11.5%

- Adopt family-centered approaches across all programs.
- Simplify communication of resources and reduce administrative burdens.
- Expand home visiting programs and engagement supports.

Health & Well-being – 10.6%

- Expand access to health supports for young children and the workforce.
- Promote trauma-informed practices in child welfare and early education.
- Ensure early identification and intervention for at-risk children.

Data & Accountability – 3.8%

- Develop an Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS).
- Use data to guide decision-making and track outcomes.

Summary of Recommendations by Respondent Role

ECAC Members & Subcommittee Members

- Establish a **centralized governance system** for early childhood to overcome fragmentation and inefficiencies.
- Develop a **formal Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS)** to track child outcomes.
- Create a **universal application process** to make access easier for families.
- Increase **Pre-K enrollment statewide**, aiming for universal Pre-K.
- Strengthen the **early childhood workforce** through competitive wages, training pathways, and career supports.
- Expand **subsidies** so families can afford care and providers can sustain workforce pay.
- Align programs and funding using **fiscal mapping** and central oversight of key funding streams.
- Require **greater engagement of legislators and policymakers** in early childhood initiatives.
- Create a **fully funded Office of Early Childhood** reporting to the Governor.

Early Childhood Professionals (Non-ECAC)

- **Reduce barriers to opening child care centers**, particularly for infant/toddler care, by addressing excessive regulatory costs and duplication in inspections.
- Simplify licensing by eliminating unnecessary **annual renewal requirements** for experienced providers.
- **Lower the qualifying age for Pre-K** entry from 4 to 3 years to expand early learning.
- Improve **child care subsidy programs**, raising income eligibility thresholds to reflect cost of living.
- Rebuild and sustain subsidy support and **quality initiatives** that were lost post-pandemic.
- Provide **scholarships, grants, and professional development** for early educators to strengthen the workforce.
- Invest in **infant/toddler slots** through dedicated programs.
- Digitize **payment and timesheet processes** to reduce errors and delays.
- Expand **child care slots and centers** to better support families in need.
- Increase **resource availability** for families navigating child welfare involvement.

Parents & Families (including Foster Parents)

- Expand **family-centered mental health and postpartum supports** for caregivers.
- Provide **timely processing of child care assistance applications**, including for foster families.
- Strengthen **child safety and prevention education** statewide (online safety, exploitation, trafficking prevention).
- Ensure foster parents have **consistent access to child care** to support employment and stability.
- Expand **Pre-K access to all elementary schools**, free of charge.
- Increase access to **autism therapies and language supports**, including for families without insurance.
- Extend program eligibility to cover children **up until kindergarten entry** for smoother transitions.
- Ensure **child care support is available at placement** for foster children entering homes.
- Expand availability and choice of **therapists** to meet children's developmental needs.
- Improve **geographic access to services**, reducing long travel times and waitlists.
- Incentivize providers to expand services into underserved neighborhoods.
- Support **weekend and flexible-hour services** to meet family needs.
- Address **staffing shortages** in school districts by funding training and licensure pathways for specialized teachers.
- Recognize the **burden on families** of taking time off work for children's appointments and therapies.