Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

Partner Summary Report

January 2026

EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY NEVADA ECAC
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PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT BIRTH THROUGH FIVE
P D G B 5
NEVADA

Introduction

The Nevada Early Childhood Partner Summary Report details the impact of the collaboration with the Comprehensive Early Childhood System within Nevada during January AND February 2026. This bi-monthly report highlights the successes of our partners, the goals they are working towards, and showcases upcoming activities and events that are open to community members in Nevada. This report is published on the Nevada ECAC website for public viewing and will also be emailed to our Listserv subscribers.

To view online, go to https://nvecac.com/ecac-reports-documents/

Join our listserv for updates, reports, and meeting reminders by clicking here: OELD LISTSERV.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1: NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NDE/QRIS: QUALITY RATING IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM 2

NDE/OELD: PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT, BIRTH–5 (PDG B-5) 2

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (NEVADA ECAC) 2

EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN THE B-5 SYSTEM: 3

SECTION 2: NEVADA ECAC PARTNERS

THE CHILDREN'S CABINET (TCC) HRSA, EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEMS (ECCS), HEALTH INTEGRATION 4

ECCS: FIRST 5 NEVADA FAMILY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL 4

NEVADA ASSOCIATION FOR INFANT & EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH (NVAIECMH) 5

NEVADA INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN'S RESEARCH AND POLICY: NICRP 5

SECTION 3: NEVADA LOCAL ECACS

ELKO / NORTHEASTERN NEVADA ECAC 5

SOUTHERN NEVADA ECAC (SNECAC) 5

SECTION 4: SHARED OPPORTUNITIES 6

SECTION 5: PARTNERS NOT LISTED 7

SECTION 1: NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (NDE)
Office of Early Learning & Development (OELD)

NDE/QRIS: QUALITY RATING IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2026
Name: Sara Kharrat, QRIS Administrator **Email:** sara.kharrat@doe.nv.gov

Updates:
QRIS is on track with collecting feedback from providers and partners regarding the transition from QRIS to QIS, to shift the focus toward provider support and move away from star ratings. Feedback to date has been mixed, and we are continuing to gather additional input to inform next steps.

The LEA feedback session is being rescheduled, and a new date will be shared once it is finalized.
In addition, QRIS is partnering with PDG to provide a comprehensive social-emotional kit for each classroom and family child care provider. We are also planning professional development sessions to introduce providers to effective ways to use the kits with children and to strengthen knowledge and practice related to social-emotional development.

NDE/OELD: PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT, BIRTH–5 (PDG B-5)

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2026
Name: Rachel Stepina, PDG B-5 Grant Manager **Email:** rachel.stepina@doe.nv.gov
Name: Kate Pflughoeft, PDG B-5 Asst. Grant Manager **Email:** kate.pflughoeft@doe.nv.gov

Updates:
- Nevada COMPASS, a platform to assist families experiencing homelessness connected with McKinney Vento liaisons to ensure school enrollment and locate service providers in their area, is live on nevadacompass.com. The website will be transitioned to a permanent site, nevadacompass.nv.gov, at the end of the month. You can now search for services in your area, or if you are a service provider, request that your organization be added to the site. Nevada COMPASS will be added to the Apple and Google App Stores in February, giving Nevada families true mobile access to services throughout the state.

- Being a new parent is challenging; being put in charge of a new life raises so many questions! While we can't answer everything, the New Parent Booklet was designed to answer a few of the questions that they may have after the arrival of a new child. The booklet focuses on two topics – physical and mental health of new parents and how to find an ECE provider.

The "New Parents" booklet is available in both English & Spanish, below:
ENGLISH: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1I89xG5mkP4T4apZkzbp6nS8bsn_3whub/view?usp=drive_link
SPANISH: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VlMQIW9w8mVLLZGn4qXUHt-AUa-8XkS7/view?usp=drive_link

- The Nevada Preschool Development Grant Birth-5 has been granted a No Cost Extension (NCE) of 6 months from the US Department of Health and Human Services to complete all active projects. The extension will apply to programs that have not spent down all of their awarded funds.

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (NEVADA ECAC)

Name: Sabrina Jones, ECAC Systems Specialist **Email:** sabrina.jones@doe.nv.gov
Name: Brandi Hearst, ECAC Administrative Coordinator **Email:** brandi.hearst@doe.nv.gov

Updates:
The Nevada ECAC is preparing for transitions as we move towards new goals, objectives, strategies, and activities with a new strategic plan. We are proud to announce that we are finally near the end of the development process of the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan. The

Council has also created a Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee to finalize goals, objectives, implementation strategies, and to decide the subcommittee structure. As we move into this next chapter. The Nevada ECAC 2026-2030 Strategic Plan will be available, free of charge, on the Nevada ECAC website once it is finalized and approved.

Things to know:
***Subcommittee Membership Applications*:**
As we are putting all of our efforts into completing the Strategic Plan, we have put our Subcommittees on hold for accepting membership. Once the new subcommittee structure is in place, we will open up the Subcommittee Applications again.

Annual Reports available for viewing:
You can review the Nevada ECAC accomplishments and 2026 recommendations in our 2025 Annual Report.
The Council made significant progress last year, and we look forward to working with our new plan, including more family engagement and continuing to align the Early Childhood System in 2026.

Strategic Plan Annual Report
This Report is also available online and shows the goals met and accomplished, per subcommittee, within the strategic plan.

Did you know that you are always invited to join us! Click on the following links to view the corresponding meeting information
2026 Meeting Schedule **General ECAC** **ECAC Subcommittees**

EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN THE B-5 SYSTEM:

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

Updates:
Need Language Access Help? We're Here for You!
Do you work with young children and need help with language services like interpretation or translation? The Nevada Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B–5) can help! We offer free language interpretation (spoken) and translation (written) for programs and families working with children ages 0–8. We want to make sure all families have access to important events and documents. We offer these services to bridge language gaps and support families across Nevada.

What We Offer:
- Interpretation during online meetings and events (Zoom only)
- Translation of written documents such as flyers, forms, and letters

Who Can Receive Our Help?
To be eligible for these free services, you must:
- Live in Nevada *AND at least one of the following:*
  - Work with or serve children ages 0–8 (birth through 3rd grade) OR
  - Be an ECAC Admin / Co-Chair needing language services for meetings OR
  - Be part of a pre-approved PDG B–5 activity

For more eligibility information, to request language access services, and to help our team better understand your needs and plan accordingly, please fill out either (or both) Request forms, click the link below:
Interpretation Form: https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/0195b4f5bf5e7e1a93e09179dab499f7
Translation Form: https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/aa3566dea0dd428f89a90d6b587b4fd3
To see if you qualify. Contact Nayesdi Badillo at Nayesdi.badillo@doe.nv.gov

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.

SECTION 2:
PARTNERING AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS

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

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2026

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

Updates:

- **ECCS** Lead Tiffany Olivas participating in ECAC Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee

- **The first 5 Nevada Leadership Academy** second cohort has completed the third training module on Nevada's Early Intervention, Nutrition, and Mental Health programs. Participants were provided training directly from the Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD), the Nevada Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (NV-AIECMH), Medicaid, Child and Adult Food Care Program (CACFP), and more!

- **The First 5 Nevada Family Leadership Council** will be unveiling a Companion Guide for the First 5 Nevada Family Leadership Council's Facilitation Rubric. Parent Leaders were included in a focus group to provide feedback on the Companion Guide. The final guide will be available this month! Additional First 5 Nevada Family Leadership Council updates are submitted separately.

- **The First 5 Nevada Website** continues to grow with the addition of multiple services for families accessible through the eligibility portal, as well as new and updated programs on the various resource pages. The F5N Advisory Committee continues to meet monthly to review additions to the eligibility portal. First 5 also continues a rigorous outreach campaign to ensure families are aware of the First 5 Nevada website, Family Leadership, and ongoing events. Working on a common application for NV Ready! Pre-K sites.

- **Fiscal Mapping Project** (Children's Funding Project) Final reports have been added to the ECCS page on the Cabinet website, the ECAC website, and First 5 Nevada. ECCS Lead participated in the NV Fiscal Map Training Overview on Friday, 1/9/26.

- **The Executive Summary of Nevada's Coordinated Intake and Referral System** (CIRS) is being shared with key stakeholders.

- **Sustainability Plan for System Building** efforts supported by HRSA is currently in the planning phase. Meeting with South Dakota ECCS Jan 2026 to discuss sustainability through interviews of ECCS Leadership Council to unveil a Companion Guide for Facilitation Rubric.

ECCS: FIRST 5 NEVADA FAMILY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

January / February 2026

Name: Anna Villatoro, ECCS Family Leadership **Email:** AVillatoro@childrenscabinet.org

Updates:

We reached over 30 Family Leaders in the Family Leadership Council across Nevada.

- A new 2026 training schedule is available.
- The FLC webpage is being updated (stay tuned)!
- WestEd is hosting a special session with the Family Leaders reviewing the Nevada Infant and Toddler Early Learning Guidelines

NEVADA ASSOCIATION FOR INFANT & EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH (NVAIECMH)

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2026

Name: Jacquelyn Kleinedler, Executive Director **Email:** jkleinedler@nvaiecmh.org

UPDATES:

The Association is excited to announce we are accepting enrollees for our newly launched Self-Paced Early Lea[illegible]. The SPELL includes 3 years of membership, 3 years of Reflective Supervision and Consultation, access to the IECMH Competency Guidelines, and support to earn IECMH Endorsement® (all fees paid). With PDG B-5 funding, the SPELL is FREE for early intervention and early intervention adjacent providers. The cost of the lab is $1925 for all other participants. Contact us at info@nvaiecmh.org to learn more and to apply.

NEVADA INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN'S RESEARCH AND POLICY: NICRP

RESEARCH AND NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2026

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

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

Updates:

NICRP Needs Assessment List Update:

49 new resources were added to the tracker from November 1 to December 31, 2025. Two examples of reports/strategic plans that were added include:

- From Crowded to Coordinated: Examining the Governance of Nevada's Early Childhood System 2025 (Report by Guinn Center)
- Artificial Intelligence in K-12 Education: Opportunities, Challenges, and Policy Implications 2025 (Report by Guinn Center)

If you, or anyone you know, has an updated strategic plan/report or is looking for a "Needs Assessment," please let us know via the email above. Also, check out our new formatting on our Needs Assessment webpage: https://nic.unlv.edu/nvecac-needs-assessment/. If you notice any resources missing from the webpage, please send them to us, and we will add them.

SECTION 3:
NEVADA LOCAL ECACs

ELKO / NORTHEASTERN NEVADA ECAC

January / February 2026

Name: Sarah Carone, Chair **Email:** SCarone@childrenscabinet.org

Name: Yosaba Arellano , State Representative **Email**: yarellano@hsnn.net

Updates:

Local ECAC Supports, funded by PDG B-5, ended on 12.30.2025, and we spent our funds on time! N

We purchased approximately $2,000 worth of ECE learning materials for all 6 of our CTE Teacher Training Classrooms in our district.

SOUTHERN NEVADA ECAC (SNECAC)

January/February 2026

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

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

Updates:

Our last meeting was held on 10/15/25, with our next meeting on 1/21/26 at 12:00 pm.

View our report that includes a\our 2024-2025 activities of the 2024-2025 Youth Mayor. Check out all the great things they did! https://nic.unlv.edu/step-up-for-kids More to come in 2025-2026 for the mayor and council f!

SNECAC 2026 Meetings are held quarterly (Jan/April/July/October), 12:00 pm-2:00 pm / 3rd Wednesday

2026 Meeting Schedule:

- January 21, 2026, from 12:00 pm-2:00 pm, held in person at **Acelero's Lorenze Campus**
- NEXT Meeting: April 15. A big thank you to Acelero for offering to host the meeting.

SECTION 4:
OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL: EVENTS - FUNDING - OUTREACH - RESOURCES

...Begin your Journey Here...

After-school & OST Programming

- **The 2026 Nevada Afterschool Showcase/McKinney Vento & Foster Care Summit**

Tuscany Suites Resort Casino in Las Vegas | February 26-27, 2026

- To register, click the link: https://www.nevadaafterschool.org/nevada-afterschool-showcase/

The Nevada Early Childhood Research Symposium

Taking place in **Reno** on **Thursday, April 23rd,** the symposium is a preconference activity for the NevAEYC Annual Conference. Registration information will be released soon. Some travel assistance will be available on a limited basis.

2026 NevAEYC State Conference: Powered by Play | April 23-25, 2026

The Nugget Resort and Casino, Sparks, Nevada. More details can be found HERE:
REGISTRATION FOR ATTENDEES: To **REGISTER** to attend the conference, click HERE to Register
EXHIBITORS: If you are interested in being an **Exhibitor,** click HERE for the Exhibitor Application
SPONSORS: If you are interested in becoming an **Event Sponsor,** click HERE

SECTION 5:
NEVADA ECAC PARTNERS NOT LISTED

Below are the Nevada ECAC Partners who were not able to give an update for the **January / February 2026** edition of the Nevada ECAC Partner Summary Report. We appreciate their partnership and look forward to hearing all of their accomplishments and planned activities in the next edition.

Nevada Department of Education:

- NDE/OCSS: SPECIAL EDUCATION, INDIAN EDUCATION, GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION (GATE)
- NDE: NEVADA READY!PRE-K

Nevada Department of Human Services:

- DHS/DSS: CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (CCDP)
- DHS/DSS: CHILD CARE LICENSING
- DHS/DCFS: INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH (IECMH)
- DHS: IDEA, PART C
- DHS / ADSD: NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES (NEIS)
- DHS/DPBH: WOMEN, INFANTS & CHILDREN PROGRAM (WIC
- DHS/DPBH: MATERNAL, CHILD & ADOLESCENT HEALTH (MCAH)
- DHS/DPBH: ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM
- DHS/DPBH: NEVADA STATE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

Nevada Department of Administration:

- NDA: NEVADA STATE LIBRARY, ARCHIVES, AND PUBLIC RECORDS

Nevada ECAC Partnering Agencies and Programs:

- NEVADA CHILD CARE PROVIDER COMMITTEE (CCPAC)
- NEVADA ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN (NEVAEYC)
- PYRAMID MODEL
- THE STRONG START PRENATAL TO THREE (PN-3) COALITION, THE PRITZKER CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE (PCI), and CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (CAA)
- Early Head Start / Head Start

Nevada Local ECACs:

- CARSON / DOUGLAS ECAC- NOTHING TO REPORT
- RURAL NEVADA ECAC