



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

Partner Summary Report

September | October 2026

Published by
Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

Prepared by
Sabrina Jones
ECAC Systems Coordinator
sabrina.jones@doe.nv.gov

Partner updates, opportunities, events, and resources supporting Nevada's comprehensive early childhood system.

Introduction

The Nevada Early Childhood Partner Summary Report highlights the work of agencies, programs, councils, and community organizations collaborating across Nevada's comprehensive early childhood system. This edition includes updates submitted for September and October 2026, along with events, professional development opportunities, resources, and other ways partners and families can connect.

Section 1 Nevada Department of Education



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

Contact	Email
Sabrina Jones	sabrina.jones@doe.nv.gov

Nevada ECAC is excited to announce that its new website is now live. Visit [Nevada ECAC website](#) to explore Council information, family and professional resources, meeting materials, data dashboards, legislative priorities, and opportunities to participate.

Nevada ECAC subcommittees are actively developing and implementing activities aligned with the Council's 2026-2030 Strategic Plan. View the plan at [Nevada ECAC 2026-2030 Strategic Plan](#).

Policy and Finance Spotlight: The Policy and Finance Subcommittee is monitoring Nevada legislative and interim committee activity, emerging bill draft requests, and policy developments that may affect Nevada's early childhood system. Members are reviewing potential policy priorities and recommendations to strengthen the system. Learn more at [Policy and Finance Subcommittee webpage](#).

Nevada ECAC will discuss development of the 2026 Annual Report during its upcoming October meetings. Partners, parents, early childhood professionals, and community members are encouraged to attend, share their perspectives, and become involved in the work.

Opportunities and Events

- September 16: General ECAC, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- September 22: Communication and Engagement, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- September 24: Policy and Finance, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- October 1: Family Leadership and Engagement, 4:00-5:30 p.m.
- October 6: Executive Leadership, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- October 15: Data, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- October 22: Policy and Finance, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- November 3: Executive Leadership, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- November 5: Family Leadership and Engagement, 4:00-5:30 p.m.
- November 10: Workforce Development, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- November 17: Policy and Finance, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- November 18: General ECAC, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- November 24: Communication and Engagement, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Meeting information and access links are available at [Nevada ECAC meeting calendar](#).

NEVADA ECAC PARTNER SUMMARY REPORT

Silver State Stars Quality Rating and Improvement System

Contact	Email
---------	-------

Sara Kharrat

sara.kharrat@doe.nv.gov

- Nevada's Silver State Stars QRIS is continuing statewide planning for the transition to a Quality Improvement System (QIS), targeted for fall 2027. The future system will place greater emphasis on continuous quality improvement and individualized support for early childhood programs.
- QRIS is transitioning to a new management system to support the future Quality Improvement System. The new system will simplify processes for participating programs, improve data collection and reporting, and reduce administrative work for providers and staff.
- QRIS is exploring opportunities to connect the new quality improvement system with other early childhood programs and agencies. This work may reduce duplicate information requests and improve coordination across Nevada's early childhood system.

Opportunities and Events

- September 16: Foundations of Space and Furnishings, Schedules and Transitions, Elements of Quality, and The Child's Experience.
- September 24: Little Hearts, Big Feelings: Supporting Emotional Regulation with Infants and Toddlers.
- These professional development opportunities are available to programs participating in QRIS. For information, contact qris@doe.nv.gov.

Nevada Ready State Pre K

Contact	Email
---------	-------

Marisa E. Lacroix

marisa.lacroix@doe.nv.gov

Nevada Ready! State Pre-K (NR!PK) is underway for the 2026-2027 school year. Over the past three years, NR!PK has expanded from 3,472 to 8,537 seats, significantly increasing access to early learning opportunities for families across Nevada.

This school year, 19 NR!PK subgrantees representing school districts, charter schools, community-based organizations, and institutions of higher education are participating in the program. These subgrantees include 12 school districts, the State Public Charter School Authority, four nonprofit community-based organizations, and four Nevada System of Higher Education institutions. Douglas County School District and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas are new NR!PK partners this year.

The 2026-2027 school year represents the largest and most diverse provider participation in the history of NR!PK. This mixed delivery system expands access to high-quality pre-K while supporting parent choice and the Nevada Department of Education's priority of building strong foundations for Nevada's youngest learners.

NEVADA ECAC PARTNER SUMMARY REPORT

This growth reflects a significant investment in Nevada’s early childhood system and collaboration among state legislators, the early childhood education community, participating programs, and the Nevada Department of Education.

Family Leadership and Engagement

Contact	Email
---------	-------

Anna Villatoro	AVillatoro@childrenscabinet.org
----------------	--

- Five family leaders joined the ECAC Family Leadership and Engagement Subcommittee on September 3, 2026.
- Anna Villatoro, Family Leadership Coordinator, and Lisa Jackson, QITM Coordinator, are expanding connections with families through outreach at rural community events, including the Pine Nut Festival in Schurz, Nevada, on September 19, 2026.
- The program is not currently recruiting families; however, community outreach continues to build relationships with families and strengthen local connections.

Section 2 Nevada Department of Human Services

Nevada Women Infants and Children Program

Contact	Email
---------	-------

Blanca Ayala	BlancaAyala@health.nv.gov
--------------	--

Nevada WIC launched a new nutrition education portal for WIC families: [Nevada WIC nutrition education portal](#).

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Services

Contact	Email
---------	-------

Rhonda Lawrence	rlawrence@dcfs.nv.gov
-----------------	--

In September and October 2026, Nevada Division of Child and Family Services Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Services continues to provide relationship-focused, trauma-informed Child-Parent Psychotherapy for children from birth through age six, along with targeted case management as needed. Program locations in Clark and Washoe counties are available at [DCFS children’s mental health service locations](#).

Early Childhood Day Treatment morning and afternoon sessions are offered at the North Las Vegas, Henderson, and Reno sites. Families should contact program sites directly for eligibility criteria. Child Care Consultation services, including child-specific observation, follow-up recommendations, and professional development for child care providers, are available in Clark and Washoe counties. Clinicians also provide emergency

NEVADA ECAC PARTNER SUMMARY REPORT

comprehensive assessments for young children temporarily placed at the Clark County Child Haven emergency shelter.

IDEA Part C Office

Contact	Email
Betsy Newman	elnewman@adsd.nv.gov

The IDEA Part C Office completed its annual monitoring of early intervention programs across the state and saw improvement in programs this year. The office received its Annual Performance Review from the Office of Special Education Programs and moved into the “Needs Assistance” category.

The IDEA Part C grant has been submitted, and the office is awaiting information about funding levels for the next year. Professional development for Nevada’s early intervention system continues, including a three-part vision series open to providers statewide.

Nevada Early Intervention Services

Contact	Email
Dazzrael Lyke	dlyke@adsd.nv.gov

Opportunities and Events

- Bolden Area Command National Night Out: October 6, 2026, 5:00-7:00 p.m., Doolittle Recreation Center, 1950 J Street, Las Vegas. Details: [National Night Out information](#)
- UMC Annual Halloween Safetacular and BOOster Bonanza: October 24, 2026, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., at the UMC Children’s Hospital and Trauma Center parking lot. The trunk-or-treat-style wellness fair will feature pedestrian and bicycle safety education, family activities, games, prizes, and booster giveaways.

Section 3 Nevada ECAC Partners

The Children’s Cabinet Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems and First 5 Nevada

Contact	Email
Tiffany Olivas	tolivas@childrencabinet.org

- The HRSA Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant awarded to The Children’s Cabinet closes September 30, 2026.

NEVADA ECAC PARTNER SUMMARY REPORT

- The Children’s Cabinet applied for the HRSA ECCS SEED Project. The initiative is intended to improve access to quality health and human services for families with children from the prenatal period through age five. Award notifications are expected by the end of September.
- The Early Childhood Community Health Worker and outreach team completed two rural Nevada outreach events in Fallon and Winnemucca and supported Ages and Stages Questionnaire screenings for local families.
- The First 5 Nevada Family Leadership Council will participate in the Pine Nut Festival in Schurz, sharing information about family leadership, the First 5 Nevada website, and the Eligibility Portal.
- First 5 Nevada launched Understanding Early Intervention Therapy and Support Services, explaining speech, occupational and physical therapy, Applied Behavior Analysis, and other developmental supports. Family Leadership Council members also contributed experiences and advice for families navigating early intervention.
- Nevada Fiscal Mapping work continues with an in-depth review of public funding streams and data for children and youth from birth through age 24.
- The ECCS team is participating in a technical assistance cohort through the Center for Maternal and Child Health Medicaid Partnerships. Partners identified shared priorities including a Maternal Home, increased support for newborn and infant preventive care, and shared infrastructure for Nevada families.
- Tiffany Olivas was welcomed to the Nevada Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Board of Directors for a term beginning in September or October 2026.

Nevada Institute For Children’s Research & Policy



Nevada Institute for Children’s Research and Policy

Contact	Email
Amanda Haboush-Deloye	amanda.haboush@unlv.edu
Smriti Neupane	smriti.neupane@unlv.edu

Fifteen resources were added to the NICRP Strategic Plans and Needs Assessment List from July 3 through September 2, 2026. New resources include the 2026 KIDS COUNT Data Book, the 2026-2031 Southern Nevada Community Health Improvement Plan, and the Nevada Council on Food Security 2025 Annual Report.

View the tracker at [Nevada Early Childhood Needs Assessment List](#). Partners may email Amanda Haboush-Deloye or Smriti Neupane with updated strategic plans, reports, missing resources, or requests for help locating a needs assessment.

Opportunities and Events

- Step Up for Kids and Healthy Kids Festival: September 26, 2026, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Pearson Community Center. [Step Up for Kids event information](#)
- Essentials for Childhood free parent and provider trainings presented by Prevent Child Abuse Nevada. September schedule: [September training schedule](#)

NEVADA ECAC PARTNER SUMMARY REPORT



Children's Advocacy Alliance

Contact	Email
Jamelle Nance	jamelle.nance@caanv.org
Annette Dawson Owens	annette.dawson@caanv.org

The Children's Advocacy Alliance continues to work with partner organizations on family-focused policy priorities and strategies. As Nevada's Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT grantee, CAA released its 2026 Nevada Children's Report Card: [2026 Nevada Children's Report Card](#).

CAA continues monthly virtual Child Advocacy Ambassador trainings that introduce Nevada's legislative process and support advocacy in communities statewide. The current cohort concludes at the end of October. Recruitment for the next cohort, beginning in January 2027, will seek more families with young children while considering all interested participants.

Strong Start Prenatal to Three Coalition

Contact	Email
Jamelle Nance	jamelle.nance@caanv.org

The coalition continues to meet quarterly to help shape policies and programs affecting families with children from the prenatal period through age three. Current priorities include developing an Early Childhood Fund, supporting a coordinated comprehensive early childhood system, supporting the early childhood workforce, and increasing housing supports for families with young children.

Opportunities and Events

- Next coalition meeting: October 29, 2026, 10:00-11:30 a.m. Contact Jamelle Nance to participate.

NEVADA ECAC PARTNER SUMMARY REPORT

Acelero Learning Clark County Head Start

Contact	Email
---------	-------

Laura Brown lbrown@acelero.net

Acelero Learning Clark County Head Start has open enrollment at all 12 centers throughout the Las Vegas Valley for children from birth through age five. Families may apply at [Acelero Learning enrollment website](#) or visit a center for help with the online application.

On September 8, 2026, Acelero Learning hosted building dedication ceremonies honoring Tameka S. Henry and Brian L. Pauling for their leadership, community commitment, and service to future generations. The Spring Valley center was renamed the Acelero Learning Tameka S. Henry Center, and the Henderson center was renamed the Acelero Learning Brian L. Pauling Center.

Opportunities and Events

- Trunk or Treat: October 28, 2026, 4:30-7:00 p.m., Acelero Learning Brian L. Pauling Center, 178 Westminster Way, Henderson. Organizations may participate in candy distribution. Contact Ryan Henson at 725-270-6560 or r.henson@link2hope.org, or use the RSVP form: [Trunk or Treat RSVP form](#).



Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children

Contact	Email
---------	-------

Carrie Paldi carrie.paldi@gmail.com

NevAEYC is grateful for its partnership with the Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation, which has allowed the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship to continue. Current funding does not fully support the scholarship at historical levels, limiting the amount of support available to the early childhood education workforce. NevAEYC continues to seek additional funding partners.

Section 4 Nevada Local ECACs

Carson Douglas ECAC

Contact	Email
---------	-------

Tiffany Olivas tolivas@childrenscabinet.org

NEVADA ECAC PARTNER SUMMARY REPORT

Carson Douglas ECAC is planning its annual Fall Early Childhood Education Conference. Carson City School District's 2026 Educator of the Year, Kendra Tuttle, will present the keynote address. Mrs. Tuttle has contributed to Carson Douglas ECAC and early childhood advocacy for many years.

Opportunities and Events

- Fall Early Childhood Education Conference: October 17, 2026, Carson High School Technology Center, 111 North Saliman Road, Carson City. Contact Tiffany Olivas for information and registration.

Southern Nevada ECAC

Contact	Email
Amanda Haboush-Deloye	amanda.haboush@unlv.edu

SNECAC met in July, assisted with planning for Step Up for Kids 2026, and discussed next steps for increasing its impact.



Rural Nevada ECAC

Contact	Email
Michael-Ann Lazzarino	michael-ann@communitychestnevada.net

Rural Nevada ECAC hosted and participated in two developmental screening events during the previous two months. More than 15 rural families received developmental screenings and needed referrals.

Section 5 Opportunities and Events

Date	Opportunity
September 16, 2026	QRIS Foundations of Space and Furnishings, Schedules and Transitions, Elements of Quality, and The Child's Experience
September 19, 2026	Pine Nut Festival family outreach in Schurz
September 24, 2026	QRIS Little Hearts, Big Feelings training

NEVADA ECAC PARTNER SUMMARY REPORT

Date	Opportunity
September 26, 2026	Step Up for Kids and Healthy Kids Festival at Pearson Community Center
October 6, 2026	Bolden Area Command National Night Out at Doolittle Recreation Center
October 17, 2026	Carson Douglas ECAC Fall Early Childhood Education Conference
October 24, 2026	UMC Halloween Safetacular and BOOster Bonanza
October 28, 2026	Acelero Learning and HopeLink Trunk or Treat in Henderson
October 29, 2026	Strong Start Prenatal to Three Coalition meeting

Section 6 Partner Updates for Future Editions

We value these partners' continued partnership and look forward to sharing their news and accomplishments in a future edition.

Nevada Department of Education

- Office of Inclusive Education Special Education Indian Education and Gifted and Talented Education

Nevada Department of Human Services

- Division of Supportive Services Child Care Licensing
- Child Care and Development Program
- Nevada Home Visiting Program
- Maternal Child and Adolescent Health
- Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System
- Oral Health Program
- Nevada State Immunization Program

Nevada Department of Administration

- Nevada State Library Archives and Public Records

Nevada ECAC Partnering Agencies and Programs

- Nevada Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health
- Health Resources and Services Administration
- Health Integration
- Pritzker Children's Initiative
- Child Care Provider Action Committee

NEVADA ECAC PARTNER SUMMARY REPORT

- Nevada Pyramid Model Partnership

Nevada Local ECACs

- Elko ECAC
- Lyon Churchill ECAC
- Washoe County ECAC