




## Early Childhood Defined

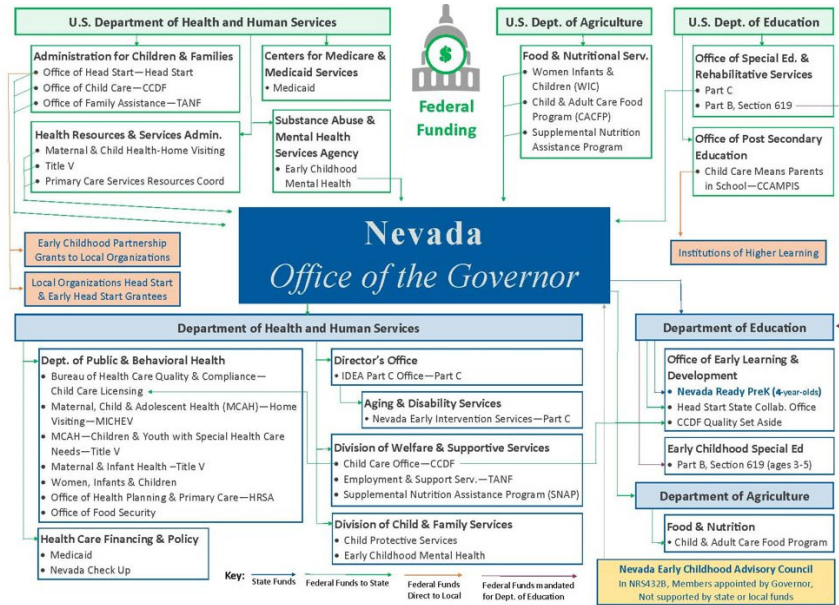
**Early childhood** is defined by the Nevada ECAC as the period from birth to age eight, while also recognizing the importance of quality prenatal care in early childhood outcomes.

**Early childhood** is a period of rapid and critical development which encompasses access to nutrition, health care, protection, play and early learning to stimulate children’s physical, cognitive, linguistic and social-emotional development.



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# Nevada's Early Childhood System



## The Early Childhood Landscape

ALMOST HALF **49%** of Nevada's children under the age of six live in households with income less than **200%** of the federal poverty level (FPL).

NEVADA RANKS **45<sup>TH</sup>**  
in the nation for percentage of children without health insurance at **8 PERCENT** about 58,000 children.

NEVADA'S OB/GYN (MDS AND DOS) WORKFORCE CURRENTLY RANKS **47<sup>TH</sup>**  
in the nation in terms of number of physicians.

NEVADA RANKS **50<sup>TH</sup>**  
for public health funding at \$50 per person compared to the national average of **91 DOLLARS** per person (America's Health Rankings)

NEVADA RANKS **42<sup>ND</sup>**  
in spending per capita for early education at \$103.05 per person compared to the national average of **\$1,085** per person



## Early Childhood System Focus

The data evidence a need for a **comprehensive system** that links young children and families to needed health, education, and social services at the community, state, and federal level. These services are only effective if families know about them. At the same time, providers need to know what support exists in their communities in order to connect families with the resources they urgently need.

*This is why a coordinated system is so vital.*



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## Strategic Framework

### Vision

Nevada's children will be safe, healthy, and thriving during the first eight years of life, and the system will support children and families in achieving their full potential.

### Purpose

The Nevada ECAC shall work to strengthen state-level coordination and collaboration among the various sectors and settings of early childhood education programs in Nevada.



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# Strategic Framework

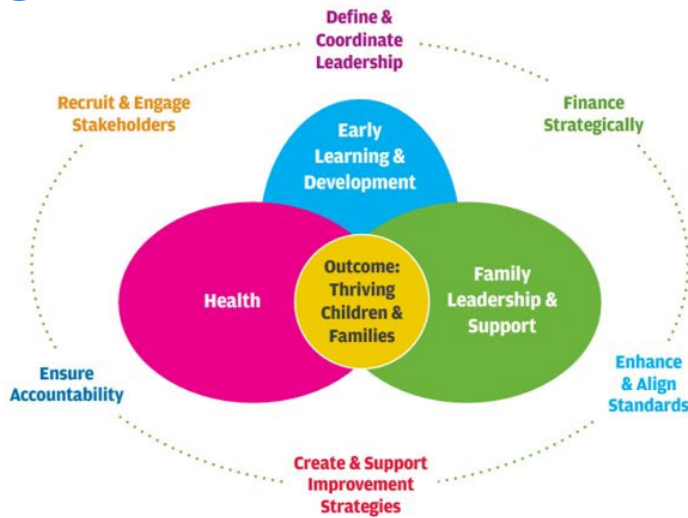
## Values and Principles

Every child in Nevada is our child, and is worthy of our commitment to their care, learning, and well-being. The following values and principles lay the foundation for this plan and the important work to follow:

- Reach all children and families, as early as possible, with needed services and supports
- Genuinely include and effectively accommodate children with special needs
- Reflect and respect the strengths, needs, values, languages, cultures and communities of children and families
- Ensure stability and continuity of services along a continuum from prenatal into school entry and beyond
- Ease access for families and transitions for children
- Value parents as decision makers and leaders
- Catalyze and maximize investment and foster innovation



# Strategic Framework



# 2022-2024 Strategic Plan

## Goal 1:

### Create a Coordinated Early Childhood Leadership Infrastructure

- Establish Governor's Office for Early Childhood (prenatal to age eight) to align policy and fiscal decision-making for the early childhood system across relevant agencies.
- Restructure the Nevada ECAC to establish program and community level advisory support to Governor's Office.
- Establish supports and resources to ensure equitable engagement of parents/families in leadership and decision-making at state and local levels.

*Define, Develop  
and Coordinate  
Leadership*



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# 2022-2024 Strategic Plan

## Goal 2:

### Increase Coordination and Alignment Between Systems of Care for Young Children and Families

- Conduct assessment of the strengths, disparities, inequities, strategic priorities and goals among programs and agencies within the early childhood system.
- Produce and disseminate an early childhood system assets and gaps analysis.
- Integrate cross-sector priorities, goals, and initiatives into the Nevada ECAC workplan to better coordinate and align services and improve access and outcomes.
- Establish workplan to update and align early childhood system standards, administrative rules and program practices.

*Enhance &  
Align Standards*

*Create &  
Support  
Improvement  
Strategies*



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# 2022-2024 Strategic Plan

## Goal 3:

### Increase Capacity to Equitably Connect Families with the Early Childhood System Continuum of Care and Community At Large

- Implement a strategic two-way communications plan to engage and connect providers, families and stakeholders.
- Expand engagement, training, and leadership opportunities for underrepresented and underserved populations.
- Expand engagement, alignment, and coordination of services among all early childhood system providers.
- Select and implement a centralized intake and referral system to streamline access and utilization of services.



# 2022-2024 Strategic Plan

## Goal 4:

### Identify Budget and Finance Strategies to Drive Policy Goals and Objectives

- Perform fiscal analysis of early childhood funding streams and program development needs.
- Identify funding pathways and policy changes needed to meet program and system goals.



# 2022-2024 Strategic Plan

## Goal 5:

### Execute Data Collection and Integrated Systems to Increase Equity and Accountability

- Improve data collection by fostering understanding and collaboration with providers, families, policy makers, and other stakeholders.
- Increase availability of, access to, and use of data that can be disaggregated to drive informed decision making.
- Implement Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) to improve service delivery.



## NECAC Subcommittees



- Executive/Leadership
- System Alignment
- Communications and Engagement
- Finance and Policy
- Data and Evaluation





## Get Involved

*Learn more about how you can get involved  
and view the full plan at*

<http://nvecac.com/>

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