

Joe Lombardo
Governor

Richard Whitley, MS
Director



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.



Marla McDade
Williams, MPA
Administrator

December 31, 2024

Diane Thornton, Acting Director
Legislative Counsel Bureau
401 S. Carson St.
Carson City, Nevada 89701

RE: Extended Young Adult Support Services Program (EYASSP) Update

Dear Ms. Thornton:

The Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), Nevada's Department of Health and Human Services, is pleased to provide the six-month progress update regarding the implementation of the Extended Young Adult Support Services Program (EYASSP) in accordance with Senate Bill 380 from the 2023 Legislative Session.

Enclosed with this letter is the comprehensive report of our collective statewide efforts.

Key highlights from the report include:

- Status of Program Implementation:** Regulations have been drafted and input sought from the child welfare agencies. The regulations will be proposed as Temporary Regulations once the final workshop is completed in February 2025.
- Progress of Efforts for Young Adults to Remain in Foster Care:** There has been significant collaboration with the consultation firm, Social Change Partners, the child welfare agencies, the Judicial branch, legal representatives, the local District Attorney offices and the University of Nevada, Reno, Social Work Department to build the foundation for implementation of the EYASSP program. Together, various stakeholders have assisted with the development of a Bill Draft Request for the 2025 Legislative Session, Nevada Administrative Code regulatory revisions, statewide policies, technological enhancements to the federally required case management system, development of extensive training curriculum, creation of a statewide communication plan and development of a public awareness campaign.
- Recommendations for Additional Programs:** The Division is still developing the necessary revisions to the expansion of the Adoption and Kinship Guardianship Assistance programs, as federally required, to align with the provisions of the federal extended foster care program.
- Other Recommendations for Young Adults to Remain in Foster Care:** Revisions to the "opt-in" and "opt out" allowability for youth who may experience a major life event and no longer wish to be a

participant in the program or request re-entry to receive supports offered in the EYASSP program have been completed.

5. **Progress in Securing Federal Funding:** The Children's Bureau, Administration of Child and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has approved the program that has been developed, and the child welfare jurisdictions will be able to bill for the IV-E match upon final legislative approval.

The Division is committed to completing the remaining steps necessary to receive approval from the Children's Bureau. Over the past year, DCFS has made significant progress in collaboration with our essential stakeholders, which is fundamental to ensure the success of this vital initiative to the children and families in Nevada.

Respectfully,



Marla McDade Williams
Administrator

cc: Betsey Crumrine, LCSW, Deputy Administrator for Child Welfare, DCFS
Richard Whitley, Director, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services



Nevada Extended Young Adult Support Services Program

Senate Bill 380 Report

Prepared by:
Nevada Division of Child and Family Services
December 31, 2024

Extended Young Adult Support Services Program (EYASSP)

Senate Bill (SB) 380, passed in the 2023 Legislative Session, requires the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), Department of Health and Human Services, “to establish and administer the Extended Young Adult Support Services Program (EYASSP) to provide extended support services.” This legislation was created in response to the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, Pub. L. No. 110-351, 42 U.S.C. § 675. The intent of this federal legislation is to allow states to extend the foster care age from 18 to 21 and provide equal services and opportunities that all foster children 17 and younger are provided. Further, SB 380 requires DCFS to report progress on the efforts to secure federal funding and approval of Nevada’s Title IV-E Foster Care Plan to make this option available to Nevada’s youth with an effective date no later than July 2025. Certain provisions for this program are already codified in [NRS 432B.5909](#) to [432B.601](#).

In the interim, SB 380 requires DCFS to submit a report beginning December 31, 2023, and every six months thereafter, to provide ongoing updates on Nevada’s progress of onboarding EYASSP in Nevada for submission to the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) which must include:

- (a) The status of the implementation of the program;
- (b) The progress of efforts to allow young adults to remain in foster care;
- (c) Recommendations concerning additional programs to allow young adults to remain in foster care which may include authorizing assistance for young adults under the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program or providing subsidies for the adoption of young adults;
- (d) Any other recommendations to allow young adults to remain in foster care; and
- (e) The progress of efforts to secure federal funding for the Program, including, without limitation, the status of any federal approval necessary to receive such funding.

There were approximately 390,000 children and youth nationwide that entered the foster care system in the last year. Of those children, 4,275 reside in Nevada, and 485 of them are between the ages of 14-17. The federal EYASSP was enacted in response to foster care ending for a child at age 18, when youth often lose access to familiar services and supports, funding, educational opportunities and connection; yet, these same youth often face more barriers on the road to adulthood when compared to their peers. They run a greater risk of experiencing:

- Housing instability and homelessness;
- A shorter or unfulfilled academic trajectory;
- Unemployment and unstable employment;
- Physical, mental and behavioral health issues;
- Loss of health care access; and,
- Involvement in the criminal justice system.

Chapin Hall, a National Independent Policy and Research Organization, has identified that extending foster care to youth until age 21 may help young people of color as well as other young adults. They tend to fare better in extended care with work and educational attainment and are less likely to experience homelessness or young parenthood.

Nevada has an opportunity to assist this age group that historically has not been part of the foster care system. It builds on efforts made in 2011, which established NRS 432B.591 that changed the definition of “child” and allowed youth to stay in foster care until the age of 21 voluntarily. As of September 2024, there were 337 children statewide enrolled in this program. Most of the youth remain in this program post 18 years of age and will be included as part of the formula for the fiscal analysis of the EYASSP. Nevada is unable to claim Title IV-E federal funding with the program established by NRS 432B.591 because the foster care age has not been

extended in Nevada law. This would change with the implementation of SB 380.

In addition to the extended foster care population, all children who are either adopted or have achieved a permanency goal of kinship guardianship at 16 or older and/or a foster teen's child are federally required to have the same supports as the extended foster care population, therefore those youth will also be calculated as part of the EYASSP.

Through this report, the Division is providing an overview of Nevada's progress toward implementation of EYASSP for the 2024 calendar year.

1. The status of implementation of the program

DCFS has made significant progress in our efforts to bring EYASSP to fruition in Nevada since December 2023. Substantial work has gone into the development of policies and essential regulations and allowed DCFS time to submit the necessary Title IV-E plan revisions to the Children's Bureau on December 31, 2023; approval was granted to DCFS on March 4, 2024. The approval of this plan not only extends support to older youth, but it will also allow Nevada the ability to claim Title IV-E federal reimbursement funding. There is a fiscal benefit if Nevada implements EYASSP because Nevada can access the match of Title IV-E funding, allowing Nevada to offset General Funds currently being spent on NRS 432B.591 (Court Jurisdiction). DCFS' FY26 – FY27 Agency Budget Request has been completed and submitted for the 2025 Legislative session.

2. Progress of efforts to allow young adults to remain in foster care

Policies and Procedures:

The Division has continued to collaborate with a consulting firm, Social Change Partners, along with the Clark and Washoe county child welfare agencies developing policies, forms and applications for young adults to enroll in EYASSP, all adhering to federal compliance expectations.

The following policies, fact sheets, eligibility forms and consents have been completed with an effective date of July 1, 2025, if Nevada approves the EYASSP in the next Legislative Session. See Attachment A for EYASSP State Priorities and Timeline.

- EYASSP Eligibility and Program Oversight
- EYASSP Program Eligibility and Enrollment
- EYASSP Case Management and Services
- EYASSP Pregnant and Parenting Policy
- Standardized Supervised Independent Living Setting Readiness Assessment Tool
- Foster Care and Social Security Benefits Fact Sheet
- Consent Forms
- Supervised Independent Livings Settings Approval Standards
- Voluntary Support Services Agreement for *Continuous* Care,
- Voluntary Support Services Agreement for *Reentry* of Foster Care
- EYASSP 15-day Notice Letter
- Case Closing Flow Chart
- Outreach Materials for young adults and community partners
- Internal Guidelines for Licensing Requirements
- Frequently Ask Questions – document

The following policies and eligibility forms are currently in process with a planned completion date of July 1, 2025:

- EYASSP ICPC Policy
- Medicaid Application for young adults 18 – 21
- Young Adult Self-Sufficiency Plan 18 – 21 (includes transition planning)
- EYASSP IV-E Eligibility Determination Application
- Court Report templates for semi-annual hearings
- Court Report template for termination of EYASSP
- Adoption Subsidy Agreement
- KinGAP Guardianship Agreement

In addition, DCFS has completed the analysis of Nevada’s statutes and regulations with an EYASSP lens. The NAC regulatory revisions have been completed, and agreed upon, statewide. Two workshops have been completed (January 2024 and June 2024) and a final workshop will be held in February 2025. The regulations were necessary to ensure compliance with federal requirements surrounding the program and fiscal responsibilities.

The Division also submitted a bill draft request (BDR) for consideration in the 2025 Legislative Session to enact EYASSP into Nevada law and be available to youth ages 18-21 years of age. Following the BDR submission, DCFS began collaborating with Washoe and Clark counties to receive feedback from the child welfare agencies and the local District Attorneys regarding the final language prior to the legislative session to ensure the program requirements are agreed upon and to limit amendment revisions. A copy of the BDR draft has been included in Attachment B.

Technology

The Division has successfully completed all necessary changes to the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) to ensure federally required data sets and entry information contain the programmatic and data requirements for monitoring, analytical assessments, and quality assurance measures. All technological enhancements have been created, with a planned start date of March 2025 for testing and to identify system modifications prior to the July 1, 2025, deadline. Staff in DCFS continue to meet internally to address any identified changes that need to be made to the new system or adjusted based on information learned during the planning and implementation process.

Training

The Division will continue to collaborate with Social Change Partners to create a training plan for the EYASSP. Training curricula is scheduled for completion by January 2025, ensuring that staff, courts, and community partners are provided with program guidance and expectations. Training will occur for all stakeholders beginning March 2025 through July 1, 2025, with two in-person training courses for all child welfare staff, the Judicial Branch and community partners and will be recorded for future use.

Communication Plan

The Division is actively developing a communication plan to connect with young adults through public awareness campaigns and notifying communities of the benefits of EYASSP and the process by which a youth can participate. Staff in DCFS met with youth and young adults in April 2024 to ensure we captured stakeholders with lived experience to assist with creating outreach materials and receive guidance on the most effective

communication platforms for young adults. Outreach materials have also been developed and provided to the child welfare agencies for use within their communities.

Over the past year, DCFS and Social Change Partners conducted a statewide analysis of Nevada’s current placement and housing options, service arrays, and projected enrollment data for the 18–21-year-old population (Attachment C). This analysis aims to present an assessment of the system’s current capacity to meet the needs of youth entering EYASSP and to provide recommendations to all child welfare agencies on available resources, methods to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of support for young people aging out of the foster care system to optimize outcomes for the EYASSP. Further, it includes ways to maximize agency workforce, potential housing solutions, and partnerships that can improve the capacity of community-based providers serving young adult participants across Nevada.

3. Recommendations concerning additional programs to allow young adults to remain in foster care, which may include, without limitation, authorizing assistance for young adults under the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program or providing subsidies for the adoption of young adults

The EYASSP will also expand the Federal Adoption Subsidy and Kinship Guardianship Assistance Programs to young adults who are between ages 18 and 21, to ensure those children who have achieved permanency at 16 or older are not disincentivized programmatically or financially due to their legal status. These programs would allow for continued financial assistance to the adopted parent or appointed guardian to run concurrently with the 18 to 21-year-old foster care population. The Division has included this population group in the proposed FY26-27 budget request as well.

4. Any other recommendations to allow young adults to remain in foster care

As part of the EYASSP, within the DCFS EYASSP BDR language is being proposed to omit the requirement for the youth to “opt-in to extended support and services” and instead, automatically remain in the program unless they choose to “opt-out.” This will ensure the youth continue to receive program and financial support uninterrupted. Currently, a court can end a case for a young adult at 18 years old and reopen it for federal funding eligibility, but this change will assist in streamlining the process and decrease administrative logistics.

5. The progress of efforts to secure federal funding for the program, including, without limitation, the status of any federal approval necessary to receive such funding.

In 2024, the Federal Title IV-E State Plan Amendment was approved. The Division continues to work internally on the cost allocation plan and the process for submitting claims for reimbursement, financial management of EYASSP and eligibility determinations processes.

In closing, the Division and the child welfare agencies are committed to the intent of SB 380. States that have implemented extended foster care programs have shown that by providing additional support and resources for young adults post 18 years of age, they have increased their success in early adulthood.

Attachments:

- Attachment A – NV EYASSP State Priorities and Timeline
- Attachment B – DCFS EYASSP Bill Draft Request
- Attachment C – Improving Provider Capacity Assessment

NV EFC State Priorities and Timeline 2023-2025

High Level

2023	2024	2025
Finalize Policy and Procedures	Training and Capacity Building	Implementation

Quarters are based on calendar year: Q1 = Jan – Mar.; Q2 = Apr. – Jun; Q3 = Jul. – Sep.; Q4 = Oct. – Dec.

Statewide EFC Implementation Plan - All Projects

	2023		2024				2025				Progress
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
1.0 Develop NV Practice Guide (IL and EYASS)¹											
Capacity Building Center IL Workgroups	●										Completed
Draft State Implementation Plans		●	●								Completed
Get stakeholder feedback				●							Completed
Develop Implementation Plans					●						Completed
2.0 Develop Policy											
Draft Policy	●	●	●	●							Completed
Get Stakeholder Feedback				●							Completed
Get DAGS Review				●							Completed
Finalize Policy					●						Completed
Publish Policy					●						Will post in 2025

¹ This is a prediction based on the IL workgroup solutions and assumes that the process can be leveraged to develop a practice guide that applies to both IL and EYASS. The timeline is an estimate and should be reviewed with the Capacity Building Center.

Clarify and Revise Policy						●	●	●	●	●	In Progress
3.0 Develop Forms	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Customize templates (e.g. VSSA, Case Plan)			●	●							Completed
Get stakeholder feedback				●							Completed
Finalize forms					●						Completed
Publish Forms					●						Will post in 2025
4.0 Improve Provider Capacity²	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Create capacity building plan	●										Completed
Assess jurisdiction capacity			●								Completed
Develop recommendations				●							Completed
Implement recommendations					●	●	●	●	●	●	In Progress
5.0 CQI³ and Program Evaluation	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Develop CQI/Evaluation Plan ⁴			●	●							In Progress
Update UNITY ⁵			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Finalizing
Develop Reports			●	●							In Progress
Collect and Analyze Data									●	●	
Evaluate Program Outcomes									●	●	
6.0 Revise State Plan	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Crosswalk state plan template to policies			●								Completed

² This is an area that aligns with needs/solutions identified by the IL workgroups and potential to leverage one process to benefit both IL and EYASS programs.

³ Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)

⁴ Overlap potential with the IL workgroups to create a process that benefits both IL and EYASS programs. Ideally the forms/UNITY windows, the CQI/Evaluation plan, and data reports are developed in tandem to ensure that the right data is being collected and in the right format.

⁵ Assumes that UNITY will require ongoing adjustments as workers start using the new windows and data fields. Need to get the UNITY support team onboard for this and make sure there's a clear process defined for requesting, authorizing, and making changes as needs are identified.

Draft state plan revision ⁶					●						Completed
Submit state plan revision					●						Completed
Receive feedback on submission ⁷						●					Completed
Submit response						●					Completed
Obtain state plan approval							●				Completed
7.0 Develop Jurisdictional Procedures	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
FPO host collaboration and TA workgroups with jurisdictions ⁸					●	●	●	●	●	●	In Progress
Jurisdictions develop implementation timelines and procedures ⁹						●	●				
All admin and procedural changes identified and initiated at the jurisdictional level								●			
8.0 Stakeholder Engagement, Training, and TA¹⁰	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Create training plan and schedule		●									Completed
Create Training Timeline			●								Completed
Court Training											
○ Develop curriculum with Judicial partners					●						In Progress
○ Gather feedback (including YA)					●						
○ Finalize curriculum					●						
○ Confirm trainers						●					
○ Deliver Training							●				

⁶ This assumes dependency on passing of clean up legislation and finalization/publishing of official state policy. Ultimate goal is to get this approved well before 7/1/25 so the state can start claiming as soon as the program is implemented.

⁷ The actual timeline will be determined by the state plan approval process.

⁸ Ideally these workgroups will include YA representation. May be worth exploring if the young leaders from the IL workgroups would be interested and able to participate.

⁹ These include timelines and procedures for current placement approval, IV-E eligibility determination, and VSSA completion.

¹⁰ These are likely examples of training topics

Staff Training												
○ Develop curriculum				●	●							In Progress
○ Gather feedback (including YA)					●							
○ Draft training materials					●							In Progress
○ Finalize training materials					●	●						
○ Finalize curriculum/Trainers						●						
○ Draft video and audio training						●	●					
○ Deliver person trainings							●	●				
○ Ongoing training resource library							●	●				
Train on Clean up Legislation Bill									●			
9.0 Submit Legislation and Budget Requests	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Develop 2026-2027 Budget Requests												Completed
Submit BDR's to DCFS Fiscal Unit												Completed
Submit BDR's to the Interim Finance Committee												Completed
All BDR Submissions Due					●							Submitted Internally
Initial Budget Hearings							●					Internal
Draft changes to legislation												Completed
Talk to Executive Management												Completed
Work with previous EFC bill sponsors												
Leg Session Starts (est Feb)							●					
Leg Session Ends (est June)								●				
10.0 Notify Young Adults (CJ Conversion Pop)	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Develop outreach materials						●						Completed

Confirm training outline and agenda						●						In Progress
Distribute YA outreach materials							●	●				
Notify all other eligible youth							●	●				
Notify current CJ youth							●	●				
11.0 Enroll Young Adults (CJ Conversion Pop)	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Conduct EYASS Eligibility Determinations								●				
Sign VSSA and file with court								●				
Conduct Title IVE eligibility determination								●				
Create EFC case plan								●				
Conduct readiness assessment								●				
Approve placements								●				
12.0 Sunset CJ	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
CJ Program Stops								●				
13.0 EYASS GO LIVE	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
EYASS Starts									●			
15.0 Claiming and Reimbursement	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Develop claiming and reimbursement procedures ¹¹							●	●	●	●		In progress
Submit Claims									●	●		
Receive Federal Reimbursement									●	●		

¹¹ This will likely require FPO collaboration with finance. The entire process, from service delivery to dealing with claiming/reimbursement issues should be mapped and documented to ensure continuity and continuous maximization of Title IV-E dollars. This context can also be useful to share with front line and QA staff so they are familiar with the bigger system that their workflows connect to.

Department of Health & Human Services BDR Concept Form

Budget Period:

FY 25-26

BDR Title:

Extended Young Adult Support Services Program (EYASSP)

NRS title, chapter and sections, Nevada Constitutional provisions, administrative regulations (NAC) affected:

NAC 432B and NAC 424 NRS 432B and NRS 424

If this is a change to the statute, when was it set? Who was the bill sponsor?

July 1, 2025 Senator Nyugen

Would this measure, if enacted, create or increase any fiscal liability of state government or decrease any revenue of state government which appears to be in excess of \$2,000? (If yes, must submit as a budget bill)

Yes No Unknown

Would this measure, if enacted, increase or newly provide for a term of imprisonment in the state prison or make release on parole or probation from the state prison less likely? If yes, must contact the relevant state agencies (i.e. Department of Corrections, Department of Public Safety, etc.) to determine if this should be submitted as a Budget Bill.

Yes No Unknown

Would this legislation impact other Divisions?

Yes No Unknown

Department of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP) and Department of Welfare Support Services (DWSS)

Bill Type:

Budget OR Policy (Complete page 2):
 Substantive OR
 Housekeeping

Effective Date:

7/1/25 10/1/25 1/1/26 Upon Passage & Approval

Fiscal Impact: BA 3229, 3142 and 3143

Category	Item	FY 26	FY 27
	EFC Clark County	1,102,626	2,578,976
	EFC Washoe County	169,365	488,092
	Rural Region	914,208	1,853,491

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Legislation Outline

What is the issue that needs to be addressed? Please include who is being hurt and explain the harm and why it is an issue.

The intent of the Fostering Connections to Success Act federal legislation was to allow states to extend the foster care age from 18 to 21 and provide equal services and opportunities that all foster children 17 and younger are provided. In Nevada, in the 2022 Legislative session SB 380, NRS 432B.5919 was passed to evaluate the capacity and financial needs associated with extending the age of foster care to 21, and if possible, becomes effective July 1, 2025, known as the Extended Young Adult Support Services Program (EYASSP). This program requires all the same activities as a child 17 and younger, attempting to achieve permanency, court hearings, attending medical, educational and employment meetings/appointments, monthly visits with the youth and the placement. This new statute extends the age of all foster children and is not a voluntary program, but rather all youth will be entitled to the monthly foster care maintenance payment, support and services.

What's the fix?

Revising the definition of the age of child and corresponding NRS 432B and NRS 424 related to expanding the services for the 18–21-year-old population to include these age groups in all programming, judicial and case management timeframes, and expectations.

Are there similar measures from current or previous sessions? If so, what are they?

Yes. In 2015, AB350, NRS 432B.5909 - 601 was enacted which allowed youth to remain in the custody of the child welfare agency voluntarily post 18 years to receive ongoing support and case management if they chose to opt in. In addition, those youth that remained in foster care did receive a monthly financial subsidy and case management support, although Nevada is not able to claim Title IV-E federal funds which could offset state general funds. Lastly, once a youth opted out of the AB350 program, there was no ability to readmit them into the child welfare system if they had a significant life event or changed their minds and wanted to take advantage of the opportunities this program provides.

Are there similar issues in other states? If so, what are they?

There are several states that have extended the age of foster care due to the positive outcomes older youth have when financial and case management services do not end during their transition to adulthood. This age extension has been available to all states since 2008 when the Fostering Connections to Success Act was passed.

What are the impacts of the BDR, if implemented, including the benefits proposed?

Foster children will be able to continue services and supports until 21, increasing the likelihood that they will have the resources and opportunities to continue education, employment, housing, financial assistance and continue to have community resources as opposed to ending all services at age 18, a critical point in a young adult's life who need an advocate and support system to guide them out of high school and into collegiate academics and/or workforce opportunities.

If the BDR fails to pass, what are the consequences?

Nevada will continue to close all cases related to foster care children once they reach the age of majority (18), unless the youth opt to remain in the custody of the child welfare agency voluntarily through the Court

Jurisdiction program. By only having this option, Nevada will continue to be prohibited from maximizing federal Title IV-E funding offsets because the age will not have been extended in Nevada statute.

Describe any support for the BDR beyond the requesting agency.

All three child welfare agencies, the Supreme Court Improvement Program, 17 regional Court Improvement Councils (CIC), Legislators, Anne E. Casey, Administration for Children and Families, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Washoe Legal Services, District Attorneys and Child Advocacy Support Agencies (CASA).

Describe any opposition to the BDR.

No known opposition, though it does have a financial impact statewide.

Present a scenario, how will this help Nevadans?

This would provide young adults an opportunity to access services up until the age of 21 which can improve graduation rates and participation in secondary education, decrease incarceration, limit persons from ongoing need for governmental assistance programs and would assist future generations to decrease poverty statistics and increase racial equity among the foster care population.

Please include a copy of the proposed statutory changes.

Social Change Partners did the analysis and provided final drafts, then reviewed and approved by Leslie Hammer and is included on pages 4-9 of this document.

Completed By: Betsey Crumrine

Date: March 14, 2024

Administrator Approval (name):

Date:

Department Approval (name):

Date:

CONTINUATION OF JURISDICTION OF COURT OVER CHILD WHO REACHES 18 YEARS OF AGE WHILE IN CUSTODY OF AGENCY WHICH PROVIDES CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

NRS 432B.5909 Definitions. ~~Effective January 1, 2024.~~ As used in [NRS 432B.5909](#) to [432B.601](#), inclusive, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in [NRS 432B.591](#), [432B.5913](#) and [432B.5915](#) have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.

(Added to NRS by [2021, 2728](#), effective January 1, 2024)

NRS 432B.591 “Child” defined. ~~Effective through December 31, 2023.~~ As used in [NRS 432B.591](#) to [432B.595](#), inclusive, “child” means a person who is:

1. Under the age of 18 years; and
2. Over the age of 18 years and who remains under the jurisdiction of the court pursuant to [NRS 432B.594](#).

(Added to NRS by [2011, 249](#))

NRS 432B.591 “Child” defined. ~~Effective January 1, 2024.~~ “Child” means a person who is under the age of 18 years.

(Added to NRS by [2011, 249](#); A [2021, 2730](#), effective January 1, 2024)

NRS 432B.5913 “Program” defined. ~~Effective January 1, 2024.~~ “Program” means the Extended Young Adult Support Services Program established pursuant to [NRS 432B.5919](#).

(Added to NRS by [2021, 2728](#), effective January 1, 2024)

NRS 432B.5915 “Young adult” defined. ~~Effective January 1, 2024.~~ “Young adult” means a person who is at least 18 years of age but less than 21 years of age ~~[and whose plan for permanent placement adopted pursuant to [NRS 432B.553](#) was, on his or her 18th birthday, a permanent living arrangement other than reunification with his or her parents]~~ *who was under a suitable order for foster care placement or a pending foster care case upon turning 18 years of age, or who exited to KinGAP or AAP after the age of 16 and has a guardian or adoptive parent who is no longer providing care.*

(Added to NRS by [2021, 2728](#), effective January 1, 2024)

NRS 432B.5917 Court to retain jurisdiction over young adult; effect of such retention. ~~Effective January 1, 2024.~~

1. A court shall retain jurisdiction over a young adult until the young adult reaches 21 years of age.
2. While under the jurisdiction of the court, a young adult has the same authority to make decisions as a person who is over 18 years of age and who is not subject to the jurisdiction of the court.

(Added to NRS by [2021, 2728](#), effective January 1, 2024)

NRS 432B.5919 Division of Child and Family Services to establish and administer Program; annual report; regulations. ~~Effective January 1, 2024.~~

1. The Division of Child and Family Services shall establish and administer the Extended Young Adult Support Services Program to provide extended support services to young adults pursuant to the provisions of [NRS 432B.5909](#) to [432B.601](#), inclusive, and the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, Pub. L. No. 110-351, 42 U.S.C. § 675.

2. On or before September 1 of each year, the Division of Child and Family Services shall submit a report regarding the Program, including, without limitation, the number of participants and the costs for providing the extended support services, for submittal to:

- (a) The Interim Finance Committee if the report is received during an odd-numbered year; or
- (b) The next regular session of the Legislature if the report is received during an even-numbered year.

3. The Division of Child and Family Services shall adopt regulations governing the Program. Such regulations, must, without limitation, ensure that the Program complies with the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, Pub. L. No. 110-351, 42 U.S.C. § 675.

(Added to NRS by [2021, 2728](#), effective January 1, 2024)

NRS 432B.592 Court to refer child to attorney for counsel regarding continuation of jurisdiction. ~~Effective through December 31, 2023.~~

1. A court shall refer a child who is in the custody of an agency which provides child welfare services to an attorney in the county who provides legal services without a charge to abused or neglected children if the court determines that the child:

- (a) Has reached the age of 17 years; and
- (b) Is not likely to be returned to the custody of his or her parent before reaching the age of 18 years.

2. The court shall request the attorney to whom such a child is referred to counsel the child regarding the legal consequences of remaining under the jurisdiction of the court after reaching 18 years of age and assist the child in deciding whether to remain under the jurisdiction of the court.

(Added to NRS by [2011, 249](#))

NRS 432B.592 Court to refer child to attorney for counsel and assistance relating to Program. ~~Effective January 1, 2024.~~

1. A court shall refer a child who is in the custody of an agency which provides child welfare services to an attorney in the county who provides legal services without a charge to abused or neglected children if the court determines that the child:

- (a) Has reached the age of 17 years; and
- (b) Is not likely to be returned to the custody of his or her parent before reaching the age of 18 years.

2. The court shall request the attorney to whom such a child is referred to:

- (a) Counsel the child regarding the legal consequences of:

(1) Remaining under the jurisdiction of the court pursuant to [NRS 432B.5917](#), regardless of whether the child elects to participate in the Program; and

(2) Participating in the Program; and

- (b) Assist the child in deciding whether to participate in the Program.

(Added to NRS by [2011, 249](#); A [2021, 2730](#), effective January 1, 2024)

NRS 432B.593 Agency which provides child welfare services to meet with child to determine whether child intends to request continuation of jurisdiction; effect of such meeting; child who has independent living agreement not prohibited from requesting continuation of jurisdiction. [Effective through December 31, 2023.]

1. At least 120 days before the date on which a child who is in the custody of an agency which provides child welfare services reaches the age of 18 years, the agency which provides child welfare services shall meet with the child to determine whether the child intends to request that the court retain jurisdiction over the child pursuant to [NRS 432B.594](#) after the child reaches the age of 18 years.

2. If the child indicates during the meeting held pursuant to subsection 1 that the child does not intend to request that the court retain jurisdiction over the child, the agency which provides child welfare services shall recommend that the court terminate jurisdiction over the child when the child reaches the age of 18 years.

3. Notwithstanding a determination made by a child during a meeting held pursuant to subsection 1, any time before reaching the age of 18 years, the child may:

(a) Inform the agency which provides child welfare services that the child intends to request that the court continue jurisdiction over the child pursuant to [NRS 432B.594](#), and the agency shall revise its recommendation to the court accordingly; or

- (b) Request that the court retain jurisdiction over the child pursuant to [NRS 432B.594](#), and the court shall accept jurisdiction.

4. A child who enters into an agreement with an agency which provides child welfare services before the child reaches the age of 18 years to allow the child to live independently is not prohibited from requesting that the court retain jurisdiction over the child pursuant to [NRS 432B.594](#), and such a child is entitled to the same rights and protections set forth in [NRS 432B.591](#) to [432B.595](#), inclusive, as provided to any other child.

(Added to NRS by [2011, 249](#))

NRS 432B.593 Duties of agency which provides child welfare services relating to participation in Program; child who has independent living agreement not prohibited from electing to participate in Program. [Effective January 1, 2024.]

1. At least 120 days before the date on which a child who is in the custody of an agency which provides child welfare services reaches the age of 18 years, the agency which provides child welfare services shall meet with the child to:

(a) Provide information to the child regarding the Program, including, without limitation, eligibility requirements for participation in the Program and extended young adult support services available to participants in the Program; and

- (b) Determine whether the child intends to *opt out to no longer request* participate in the Program.

2. Notwithstanding a determination made by a child during a meeting held pursuant to subsection 1, and notwithstanding any previous decision to terminate participation in the Program, any time before reaching the age of 21 years, a young adult may request to participate in the Program.

3. The agency which provided child welfare services to a young adult before his or her 18th birthday:

(a) Shall, ~~upon the request of the young adult to participate in the Program made on or after his or her 18th birthday~~, assist the young adult ~~to enroll in the Program~~ *in maintaining eligibility for the program including meeting one or more of the participation conditions.*

(b) May refer the young adult to an attorney who provides legal services without a charge to assist the young adult to enroll in the Program.

4. A child who enters into an agreement with an agency which provides child welfare services before the child reaches the age of 18 years to allow the child to live independently is not prohibited from electing to participate in the Program, and would be entitled to the same rights and protections set forth in [NRS 432B.5909](#) to [432B.601](#), inclusive, as provided to any other young adult under the Program.

(Added to NRS by [2011, 249](#); A [2021, 2731](#), effective January 1, 2024)

NRS 432B.594 Retention of court's jurisdiction over child; termination of such jurisdiction; written agreement between agency which provides child welfare services and child; resolution of dispute between agency and child; rights of child to services and payments while under jurisdiction of court. [Effective through December 31, 2023.]

1. A court which orders a child to be placed other than with a parent and which has jurisdiction over the child when the child reaches the age of 18 years shall retain jurisdiction over the child if the child so requests.

2. Except as otherwise provided in this section, jurisdiction over a child that is retained pursuant to subsection 1 continues until:

- (a) The agency which provides child welfare services, the child and the attorney of the child agree to terminate the jurisdiction;
- (b) The court determines that:

- (1) The child has achieved the goals set forth in the plan developed pursuant to [NRS 432B.595](#);
- (2) The child is not making a good faith effort to achieve the goals set forth in the plan developed pursuant to [NRS 432B.595](#);

or

(3) The circumstances of the child have changed in such a manner that it is infeasible for the child to achieve the goals set forth in the plan developed pursuant to [NRS 432B.595](#);

(c) The child requests that jurisdiction be terminated; or

(d) The child reaches the age of 21 years,

↳ whichever occurs first.

3. If the court that retains jurisdiction over a child pursuant to this section transfers jurisdiction to another court in this State, the court which accepts jurisdiction must retain jurisdiction over the case for the period provided pursuant to this section.

4. A child who requests that the court retain jurisdiction over the child pursuant to this section must, upon reaching the age of 18 years, enter into a written agreement with the agency which provides child welfare services. The agreement, which must be filed with the court, must include, without limitation, the following provisions, which must specify that:

(a) The child voluntarily requested that the court retain jurisdiction over the child;

(b) While under the jurisdiction of the court, the child is entitled to continue to receive services from the agency which provides child welfare services and to receive monetary payments directly or to have such payments provided to another entity as designated in the plan developed pursuant to [NRS 432B.595](#) in an amount not to exceed the rate of payment for foster care;

(c) While under the jurisdiction of the court, the child will no longer be under the legal custody of the agency which provides child welfare services, and the proceedings concerning the child conducted pursuant to [NRS 432B.410](#) to [432B.590](#), inclusive, will terminate;

(d) The child may, at any time, request that jurisdiction over the child be terminated; and

(e) If there is an issue concerning the child while under the jurisdiction of the court, the child and the agency which provides child welfare services agree to attempt to resolve the issue before requesting a hearing before the court to address the issue.

5. If an issue arises concerning a child who remains under the jurisdiction of the court, the child, the agency which provides child welfare services or the attorney assigned to the case may request a hearing before the court to address the issue. Before requesting such a hearing, the child and the agency which provides child welfare services must attempt to resolve the issue.

6. If the agency which provides child welfare services wishes to have the court terminate jurisdiction over the child, the agency which provides child welfare services must send a notice to the child and the attorney of the child informing the child and the attorney of the child that the child has 15 days after receipt of the notice in which to request an informal administrative review. If, during the administrative review, a resolution is not reached, the child or the attorney of the child may request a hearing before the court pursuant to subsection 5. If the child and the attorney of the child agree to have jurisdiction terminated or do not request an informal administrative review, the jurisdiction of the court must terminate upon notice to the court by the agency which provides child welfare services.

7. A child, while under the jurisdiction of the court pursuant to this section, is entitled to continue to receive services and monetary payments from the agency which provides child welfare services directly or to have such payments provided to another person or entity as designated in the plan developed pursuant to [NRS 432B.595](#) in an amount not to exceed the rate of payment for foster care.

8. The court may issue any order which it deems appropriate or necessary to ensure:

(a) That the agency which provides child welfare services provides the services and monetary payments which the child is entitled to receive; and

(b) That the child who remains under the jurisdiction of the court is working towards achieving the goals of the plan developed pursuant to [NRS 432B.595](#).

(Added to NRS by [2011, 250](#))

NRS 432B.594 Participation in Program: Eligibility; termination of participation; written agreement between agency which provides child welfare services and young adult; resolution of dispute between agency and young adult; rights of young adult to services and payments while participating in Program. ~~Effective January 1, 2024.~~

1. To be eligible to participate in the Program, a young adult must:

(a) Enter into a written agreement with the agency that provides child welfare services that satisfies the requirements prescribed in subsection 3;

(b) Be:

(1) Enrolled in a program of secondary education or an educational program leading to a general educational development certificate or an equivalent document;

(2) Enrolled in a program of postsecondary or vocational education;

(3) Enrolled or participating in a program or activity designed to promote employment or remove obstacles to employment;

(4) Employed at least 80 hours per month; or

(5) Incapable of satisfying any of the requirements prescribed in paragraphs (1) to (4), inclusive, due to a documented medical or cognitive condition; and

(c) Make a good faith effort to achieve the goals set forth in the plan developed pursuant to [NRS 432B.595](#).

2. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a young adult may continue to participate in the Program until:

(a) The agency which provides child welfare services, the young adult and the attorney of the young adult agree to terminate participation in the Program;

(b) The court determines that:

- (1) The young adult has achieved the goals set forth in the plan developed pursuant to [NRS 432B.595](#);
 - (2) The young adult is not making a good faith effort to achieve the goals set forth in the plan developed pursuant to [NRS 432B.595](#); or
 - (3) The circumstances of the young adult have changed in such a manner that it is infeasible for the young adult to achieve the goals set forth in the plan developed pursuant to [NRS 432B.595](#);
 - (c) The young adult requests that participation in the Program be terminated; or
 - (d) The young adult reaches the age of 21 years,
- ↳ whichever occurs first.

~~(e) The young adult may not be terminated from the Program until the court approves a transition plan consistent with 42 U.S.C.A. 675 (5)(H) and (I).~~

3. The written agreement to participate in the Program required by subsection 1 must be filed with the court and must include, without limitation, provisions which specify that:

- (a) The young adult voluntarily requested to participate in the Program;
- (b) While participating in the Program, the young adult is entitled to continue to receive services from the agency which provides child welfare services and to receive monetary payments in the manner prescribed in the plan developed pursuant to [NRS 432B.595](#) in an amount sufficient to assist the young adult to achieve self-sufficiency which does not exceed the rate of payment for foster care;
- (c) While participating in the Program, *the agency will retain placement and care responsibility, however*, the young adult will no longer be under the legal custody of the agency which provides child welfare services, and any proceedings conducted pursuant to [NRS 432B.410](#) to [432B.590](#), inclusive, will terminate;
- (d) The young adult may, at any time, request that his or her participation in the Program be terminated; and
- (e) If there is an issue concerning the participant, the participant and the agency which provides child welfare services agree to attempt to resolve the issue before requesting a hearing before the court to address the issue.

~~(fe) The young adult may not be terminated from the Program until the court approves a transition plan consistent with 42 U.S.C.A. 675 (5)(H) and (I).~~

4. If an issue arises concerning a participant, the agency which provides child welfare services or the attorney assigned to the case may request a hearing before the court to address the issue. Before requesting such a hearing, the participant and the agency which provides child welfare services must attempt to resolve the issue.

5. If the agency which provides child welfare services wishes to terminate the participation of a young adult in the Program, the agency which provides child welfare services must send a notice to the participant and his or her attorney that the participant has 15 days after receipt of the notice in which to request an informal administrative review. If, during the administrative review, a resolution is not reached, the participant or the attorney of the participant may request a hearing before the court pursuant to subsection 4. If the young adult and the attorney of the young adult agree to terminate participation or do not request an informal administrative review, participation in the Program must terminate upon notice to the court by the agency which provides child welfare services.

6. A participant is entitled to continue to receive services and monetary payments from the agency which provides child welfare services in the manner prescribed in the plan developed pursuant to [NRS 432B.595](#) in an amount sufficient to assist the young adult to achieve self-sufficiency which does not exceed the rate of payment for foster care.

7. The court may issue any order which it deems appropriate or necessary to ensure:

- (a) That the agency which provides child welfare services provides the services and monetary payments which the participant is entitled to receive as prescribed by the plan developed pursuant to [NRS 432B.595](#); and
 - (b) That the participant is working towards achieving the goals of the plan developed pursuant to [NRS 432B.595](#).
- (Added to NRS by [2011, 250](#); A [2021, 2731](#), effective January 1, 2024)

NRS 432B.595 Written plan to assist child to transition to independent living; duties of agency which provides child welfare services during period that court retains jurisdiction. [Effective through December 31, 2023.]

1. If the court retains jurisdiction over a child pursuant to [NRS 432B.594](#), the agency which provides child welfare services shall develop a written plan to assist the child in transitioning to independent living. Such a plan must include, without limitation, the following goals:

- (a) That the child save enough money to pay for his or her monthly expenses for at least 3 months;
- (b) If the child has not graduated from high school or obtained a general equivalency diploma or an equivalent document, that the child remain enrolled in high school or a program to obtain a general equivalency diploma or an equivalent document until graduation or completion of the program;
- (c) If the child has graduated from high school or obtained a general equivalency diploma or an equivalent document, that the child:
 - (1) Enroll in a program of postsecondary or vocational education;
 - (2) Enroll or participate in a program or activity designed to promote or remove obstacles to employment; or
 - (3) Obtain or actively seek employment which is at least 80 hours per month;
- (d) That the child secure housing;
- (e) That the child have adequate income to meet his or her monthly expenses;
- (f) That the child identify an adult who will be available to provide support to the child;

(g) If applicable, that the child have established appropriate supportive services to address any mental health or developmental needs of the child; and

(h) If a child is not capable of achieving one or more of the goals set forth in paragraphs (a) to (g), inclusive, that the child have goals which are appropriate for the child based upon the needs of the child.

2. During the period in which the court retains jurisdiction over the child, the agency which provides child welfare services shall:

(a) Monitor the plan developed pursuant to subsection 1 and adjust the plan as necessary;

(b) Contact the child by telephone at least once each month and in person at least quarterly;

(c) Ensure that the child meets with a person who will provide guidance to the child and make the child aware of the services which will be available to the child; and

(d) Conduct a meeting with the child at least 30 days, but not more than 45 days, before the jurisdiction of the court is terminated to determine whether the child requires any additional guidance.

(Added to NRS by [2011, 252](#); A [2013, 3292](#))

NRS 432B.595 Written extended youth support services plan to assist young adult to transition to self-sufficiency; *semi-annual review*; payments; duties of agency which provides child welfare services during period that young adult participates in Program. ~~Effective January 1, 2024.~~

1. ~~Upon the request~~ *On behalf* of a young adult who satisfies the requirements of subsection 1 of [NRS 432B.594](#) to participate in the Program, the agency which provides child welfare services shall develop, *in collaboration with the young adult*, a written extended youth support services plan to assist the young adult in transitioning to self-sufficiency. Such a plan must include, without limitation:

(a) The persons or entities that will receive payments from the agency which provides child welfare services and the manner in which such payments will be allocated. The agency which provides child welfare services may make payments to more than one person or entity authorized to receive payments pursuant to subsection 2.

(b) The goals set forth in subsection 3.

2. The plan developed pursuant to subsection 1 may provide for the agency which provides child welfare services to make direct payments to:

(a) A foster home.

(b) A qualified residential treatment program.

(c) A child care institution.

(d) A person or entity, including, without limitation, a relative or fictive kin, who provides a supervised arrangement for independent living where the participant resides.

(e) A landlord, property manager or other entity that collects rental payments for housing.

(f) A participant.

(g) Any combination of the persons or entities listed in paragraphs (a) to (f), inclusive.

3. The plan developed pursuant to subsection 1 must include, without limitation, the following goals:

(a) That the young adult save enough money to pay for his or her monthly expenses for at least 3 months;

(b) If the young adult has not graduated from high school or obtained a general equivalency diploma or an equivalent document, that the young adult obtain a high school diploma or general equivalency diploma;

(c) If the young adult has graduated from high school or obtained a general equivalency diploma or an equivalent document, that the young adult:

(1) Complete a program of postsecondary or vocational education;

(2) Complete a program or activity designed to promote employment or remove obstacles to employment; or

(3) Be employed at least 80 hours per month;

(d) That the young adult secure housing;

(e) That the young adult have adequate income to meet his or her monthly expenses;

(f) That the young adult identify an adult who will be available to provide support to the young adult; and

(g) If applicable, that the young adult have established appropriate supportive services to address any mental health or developmental needs of the young adult.

4. If a young adult is not capable of achieving one or more of the goals set forth in paragraphs (a) to (g), inclusive, of subsection 3, the young adult must have goals which are appropriate for the young adult based upon the needs of the young adult.

5. Based upon the needs of a participant, the agency which provides child welfare services may, at any time, after consulting with the participant, revise:

(a) The persons or entities to whom a payment is made pursuant to subsection 2.

(b) The manner in which payments are allocated between persons or entities to whom payments are made pursuant to subsection 2.

6. The plan developed pursuant to subsection 1 must be ~~annually~~ reviewed *at least once every six months* and mutually agreed upon by the young adult and the agency which provides child welfare services at the hearing *by court or administrative panel as* required by [NRS 432B.601](#).

7. The agency which provides child welfare services shall:

(a) Monitor the plan developed pursuant to subsection 1 and adjust the plan as necessary;

(b) Provide or arrange for the provision of a placement or living arrangement, support services, and case management;

(c) Provide support and connection to services to help the young adult meet their goals;

~~[(b)]~~ (d) Contact the young adult by telephone at least once each month and in person at least ~~[(quarterly)]~~ *once per month, with at least half the contacts made within the young adult's residence*;

~~[(e)]~~ (e) Ensure that the young adult meets with a person who will provide guidance to the young adult and make the young adult aware of the services which will be available to the young adult; ~~[(and)]~~

~~[(d)]~~ (f) Conduct a meeting with the young adult at least 30 days, but not more than 45 days, before he or she reaches the age of 21 years to determine whether the young adult requires any additional guidance~~[-];~~

(g) Develop a transition plan consistent with 42 U.S.C.A. 675(5)(H) and provide the young adult with the documents outlined in 42 U.S.C.A. 675(5)(I) in the 90-day period immediately prior to the date on which the young adult will leave the Program.

8. As used in this section:

(a) "Child care institution" has the meaning ascribed to it in [NRS 432A.0245](#).

(b) "Foster home" has the meaning ascribed to it in [NRS 424.014](#).

(c) "Qualified residential treatment program" has the meaning ascribed to it in 42 U.S.C. § 672.

(Added to NRS by [2011, 252](#); A [2013, 3292](#); [2021, 2734](#), effective January 1, 2024)

NRS 432B.601 *Semi-Annual hearing concerning participant.* ~~[(Effective January 1, 2024.)]~~

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, the court shall, within ~~[(12)]~~ *180 days* ~~months~~ after the date on which a participant entered into a written agreement pursuant to [NRS 432B.594](#) and *every 6 months* ~~each year~~ thereafter, hold a hearing to:

(a) Review the plan developed pursuant to [NRS 432B.595](#); and

(b) Determine whether the agency which provides child welfare services has made reasonable efforts to assist the participant in meeting the goals prescribed in the plan.

2. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, notice of the hearing must be given by regular or certified mail. Notice may be given to the participant or his or her attorney by electronic mail if the participant or his or her attorney, as applicable, agrees to receive notice in this manner.

3. Unless required by the court or panel, the young adult is not required to be present at the hearing.

4. The court may enter an order directing that the hearing required by this section be conducted by a panel of three or more persons appointed by mutual consent of the judge or judges of the court. *At least one member of the panel shall be a person who is not responsible for the case management of, or the delivery of services to the young adult who is the subject of the review.* The persons so appointed shall serve without compensation at the pleasure of the court.

(Added to NRS by [2021, 2729](#), effective January 1, 2024)



Improving Provider Capacity

State of Nevada Extended Foster Care
July 2024

Overview

Older youth transitioning from foster care to adulthood have unique and, often, complex needs. Not only have they experienced the trauma(s) that brought them to the attention of the child welfare system, they experience complex traumas associated with family separation, multiple placements often in non-familial settings, system restrictions that prevent participation in normative activities, and the realities of becoming an adult with few (and sometimes no) natural relationships with positive adults who they can turn to when they need additional support, advice about important decisions, or to access resources typically provided by families (e.g., a temporary place to live, someone to borrow twenty dollars from, meals from time to time, and/or the occasional groceries, etc.). The lack of access to family and other supportive adults often results in a direct impact on the achievement of important developmental milestones in emerging adulthood, such as learning how to make decisions, developing positive coping skills, and learning to gradually become more self-sufficient. These complex challenges and lack of natural supports frequently result in increased risk for adverse adult outcomes in the areas of housing stability, unemployment, low educational attainment, and early or unintended parenthood. Extended Foster Care (EFC) is one tool Nevada is implementing to reduce these risks by providing older youth and young adults the opportunity to access normative services and connections prior to exiting foster care. While many states have some version of extended foster care, enrollment rates remain relatively low across the nation. However, the research shows, that when young people enroll in EFC their outcomes in the areas stated above, improve.

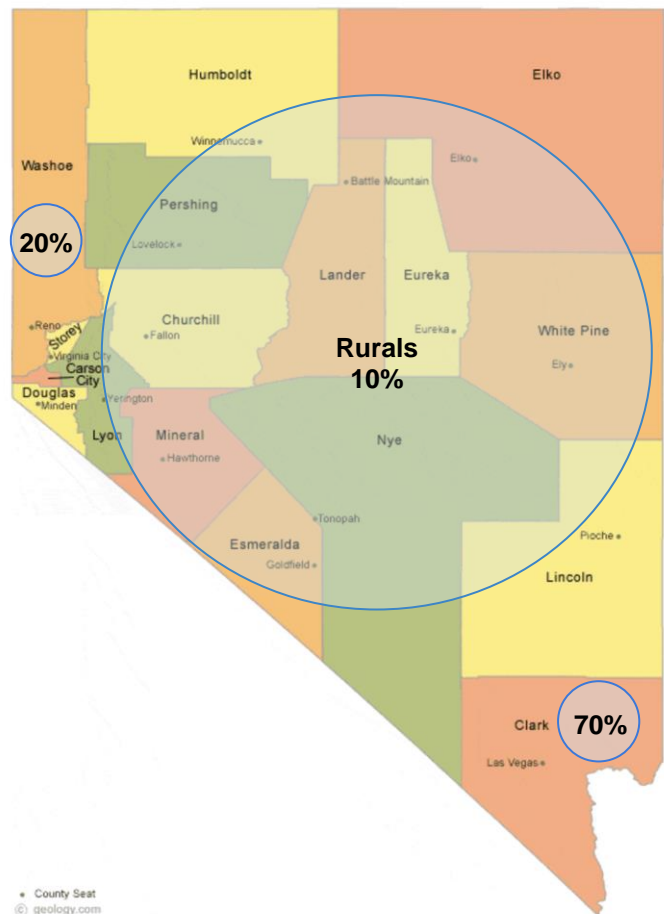
Understanding the current landscape and leveraging available services and placement options within the framework of Nevada's existing child welfare system is crucial for optimizing outcomes in the Extended Foster Care program (EFC). To this end, Social Change Partners conducted a statewide analysis of Nevada's current placement and

housing options, service arrays, and projected enrollment data to present an assessment of the system’s current capacity to meet the needs of youth entering EFC and to provide recommendations to the Nevada Department of Health & Human Services, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), Clark County, and Washoe County to inform resource allocation and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of supports for young people aging out of the foster care system. Additionally, this report provides insights around the optimization of the workforce, potential housing solutions, and partnerships that can improve the capacity of community-based providers serving EFC participants across Nevada.

ADMINISTRATIVE LANDSCAPE

Nevada operates a hybrid child welfare administrative structure that is divided into three areas. The two largest urban counties, Clark County and Washoe County, are state-administered and county operated. The remaining fifteen rural counties are state-administered and state operated, in which the state of Nevada oversees the implementation of services through community-based contracts with providers that deliver direct services to the foster care population.

Clark County, which includes the greater Las Vegas area, accounts for an estimated 70% of Nevada’s child welfare population, including youth aging out of foster care. Washoe County follows with an estimated 20% of the child welfare population and includes the metropolitan areas of Reno and Sparks. The remaining counties, including fourteen rural counties and the independent city of Carson City, collectively host the remaining 10% of the child welfare population in Nevada. It is important to note, that the rural jurisdictions span vast distances and include frontier communities.



PROJECTED EXTENDED FOSTER CARE POPULATION IN NEVADA

Based on December 2023, Unified Nevada Information Technology for Youth (UNITY) Reports, Nevada’s Extended Foster Care program is projected to have around 300 participants when the program officially starts in July of 2025. Application of the 70/20/10 split of child welfare population across jurisdictions indicates that Clark will have an estimated 209 participants, Washoe will have 60 and the Rurals will have around 30 participants.

Over the next two years, it is estimated that approximately 300 to 350 youth may become eligible for the extended foster care in Nevada (see Table 1), and by Fiscal Year 2028, it is projected that Nevada will have approximately 360 youth eligible to enroll in Extended Foster Care.

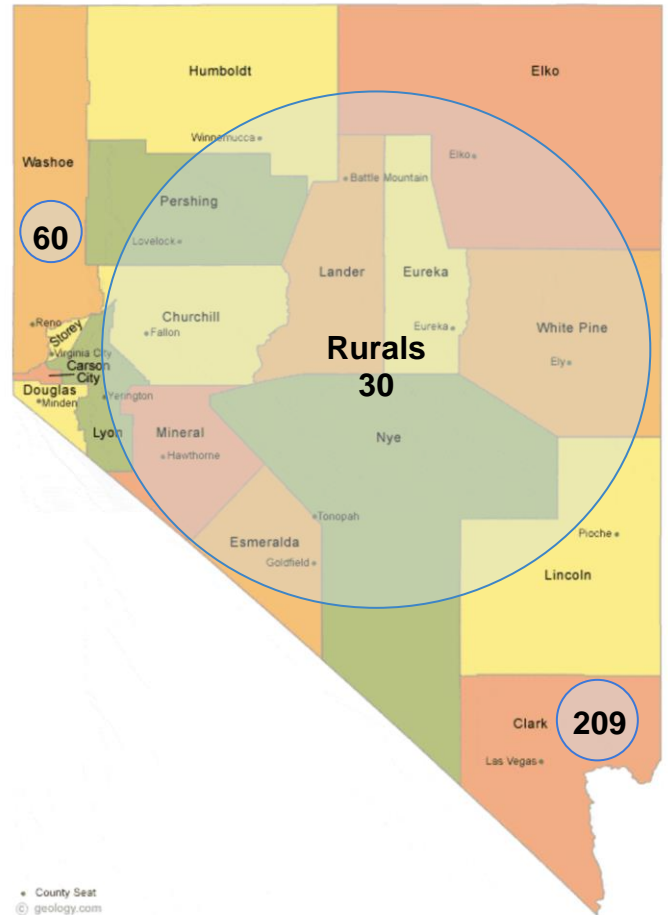


Table 1. Estimated EFC population by jurisdiction, FY 26-28

Jurisdiction	FY26	FY27	FY28
Clark	209.3	249.2	252
Washoe	59.8	71.2	72
Rurals	29.9	35.6	36
Statewide Total	299	356	360

**Projections do not account for the rate of new entries into foster care for youth over the age of 14 or exits to permanency.*
**Projections do not account for young adults that turned 18 between July 2022 and November 2023 that will be eligible for entry into EFC after July 1, 2025.*
**Assumes 100% Entry Into EFC*

Statewide Elements

WORKFORCE

Currently, each child welfare jurisdiction in Nevada employs a unique system of assigning and managing caseloads for 14 to 21-year-olds receiving case management services in accordance with State and Title IV-E and Chafee Federal requirements. Across all jurisdictions, current caseloads for older youth exceed recommended best practice levels. The following numbers represent self-reported caseloads per caseworker in each jurisdiction as of March 2024. It is important to note that caseloads and workloads vary significantly based on population density, availability of resources, and other factors specific to each jurisdiction.

- In Clark County, there are currently 8 caseworkers that serve young adults between the ages of 18 to 21, with an average caseload size of 40 young adults per worker. For youth ages 14 to 17, Clark County utilizes the LifeSet model. This model caps caseloads at 10 youth per worker. There are currently 4 LifeSet caseworkers, which has resulted in an extensive waitlist for this population.
- In Washoe County, we were unable to identify the number of positions specifically designated to serve older youth and young adults. However, the LifeSet model is currently in use in this jurisdiction with a cap of 8 youth per worker for 17- and 18-year-olds. Current workers self-reported an average of 17 to 22 children and youth per caseworker.
- In the Rural jurisdiction, the provision of independent living services is contracted to the Ron Wood Family Resource Center. The Center serves all ages of children and youth impacted by foster care, from birth to 21 years old. They currently have 6 caseworker positions, serving an average of 25 children/youth per worker.

Table 2. Current caseworkers and caseloads by jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Caseworkers	Cases per worker (average)
Clark	8	40
Washoe	Unknown	17-22
Rurals	6	25

Recommendations

Case management in child welfare involves working with families to assess for strengths and needs, establish goals, create plans to achieve the goals, provide services to meet needs identified in assessments, monitor progress toward achievement of the goals, and closing cases when goals have been achieved. For young people facing transitioning into adulthood from the foster care system, these goals and plans are not always linear due to developmental gaps. These gaps are the result of missed experiences that contribute to the accomplishment of developmental tasks and directly stem from living in an environment (foster care) that requires youth to grow up quickly without age normative adolescent experiences that contribute to the development of increasingly complex life skills, including opportunities to practice the skills of adulthood and to fail safely within a consistent caregiver relationship.

Youth in care often develop an alternate set of skills that promote resilience but frequently does not include some of the critical skills needed to navigate the transition to adulthood after aging out of foster care. The outcome of missed experiences and opportunities result in the development of skills aimed at self-protection, self-reliance for survival, and lack of perceived agency to be effective in one's life.

A stable workforce with manageable caseloads is critical to implementing a successful extended foster care program. Youth aging out of care require specialized support to promote achievement of positive outcomes in adulthood. Young adults in extended foster care often require high touch case management support to access critically needed services, to assist them in developing natural social networks, and to address barriers that frequently arise. Furthermore, the experience of other states strongly supports the creation of specialized positions dedicated to supporting older youth in foster care and young adults enrolled in extended foster care. The following recommendations are offered to create a successful environment for the EFC workforce:

- **Caseloads for workers that support young adults enrolled in extended foster care (EFC) should align with the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) best practice standards, which is between 12 and 15 youth per caseworker¹**

¹ [Child Welfare League of America Caseload & Workload A Synthesis of: The Evidence Base, Current Trends, and Future Directions](#)

depending on the complexity and level of service required for each youth. Higher caseloads often result in reduced time and attention dedicated to each participant, hindering the direct support workers can provide to ensure progress towards meeting transition plan goals while in the program. Furthermore, a byproduct of high caseloads in child welfare is significant staff turnover that results in inconsistent adult support and the additional trauma of severed relationships.

- Leadership in each jurisdiction should **consider the feasibility of allocating staff resources to establish dedicated EFC units**, as well as implementing specialized training and supervision to assist workers in developing the unique skill sets needed to support young adults entering EFC. As described previously, this demographic has unique and distinct needs requiring developmentally appropriate engagement strategies that differ from those necessary to engage children and parents working towards permanency through parental reunification, adoption, or guardianship. *Costs associated with additional staff are eligible for federal reimbursement through Title IV-E.*
- **Under best practice caseload standards, the following staffing patterns would be needed:**
 - In Clark County there are an estimated 209 youth eligible to enter EFC on July 1, 2025. Fourteen (14) dedicated positions would be needed to maintain caseloads at 15 young adults (18-21) per worker.
 - In Washoe County there are an estimated 60 youth eligible to enter EFC on July 1, 2025. This would indicate a need of 4 positions to maintain caseloads at 15 young adults (18-21) per worker.
 - Using the same methodology, there are an estimated 30 youth eligible to enter EFC on July 1, 2025 in the Rural jurisdiction. While this would indicate a need for 2 dedicated positions to maintain a caseload of 15 young adults (18-21 year olds) per worker, the vast expanse between areas makes this logistically improbable. The use of a mixed caseload for current permanency workers is likely more feasible in this jurisdiction, with the recommendation of specialized training and supervision to support engagement of young adults enrolled in extended foster care. This can be achieved through the procurement of EFC case management services in the rural regions, similar to the current Independent Living contract with Ron Woods Family Resource Center.

Additional evaluation is needed to assess case management services and training for caseworkers that work specifically with EFC participants that are also pregnant or

parenting. Nevada’s Families First Prevention and Services Plan (FFPSA) indicates that existing caseworkers assigned to the young person will be responsible for completing the Prevention Plan and working with them and their child(ren) to prevent child maltreatment and entry into the child welfare system. As of March 2024, there were approximately 76 young people, between 14-21 years old, who are parenting or pregnant in foster care or receiving some type of post-18 Independent Living Services. Specifically, in Clark County there are 60 pregnant or parenting youth; in Washoe County there are 10, and in the Rurals there are 6.

Table 3. Numbers of pregnant and parenting (P&P) young adults by jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	P&P Young Adults
Clark	60
Washoe	10
Rurals	6

To ensure the provision of high-quality services and to maximize federal funding, the following recommendations are also offered:

- **Create specialized positions that provide expertise in high-stakes practice areas** designed to support and complement the work of direct caseworkers, including:
 - *Housing Navigation Specialists* responsible for collaborating and partnering with internal and external stakeholders to continuously identify current housing options for older youth and young adults; developing and strengthening relationships with landlords, realtors, housing authorities, and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to improve access to housing and support services for young adults enrolled in EFC; and working closely with caseworkers to provide support around accessing developmentally appropriate housing options, as well as addressing barriers that arise around access. Some states have utilized these positions to also provide technical assistance and training to caseworkers and community-based Independent Living providers around the local and statewide housing arrays and the process of accessing HUD funded vouchers, specifically Fostering Youth to Independence (FYI) and Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers for young adults enrolled in EFC. This recommendation was also referenced in conversations with the Capacity Building Center for States regarding Nevada’s Independent Living Program.

- *Title IV-E Specialists* specifically responsible for maximizing IV-E revenue by determining IV-E eligibility upon entry into EFC and for youth previously determined ineligible for IV-E under the lookback. Currently, Nevada has a plan developed to maximize Federal Financial Participation (FFP) for youth participating in EFC, by:
 - maintaining ongoing eligibility for youth who are IV-E eligible while under 18 by processing their case as an uninterrupted foster care episode;
 - conducting new IV-E eligibility determinations for youth who are not IV-E eligible while under 18 by opening a new foster care episode upon entry into EFC; and
 - conducting a new IV-E eligibility determination for any youth who re-enters EFC after previously exiting foster care at age 18 or after.

Processing the IV-E eligibility status of young people entering EFC is a significant increase in workload for current staff. To ensure processes are conducted in a manner that maximize federal funding and ensures a clean audit, it is important to have sufficient staff. It is recommended that Nevada consider adding additional staff, either in each jurisdiction or by adding a centralized position at the state level, to process the EFC redeterminations. Part of the cost associated with these positions can be offset by the additional federal funding available under EFC. Other states that have created focused IV-E eligibility positions for EFC have actualized increased rates of eligibility between 30 and 40 percent.

- *High Needs EFC Specialists* specifically responsible for providing expertise around complex areas of practice, including accessing and securing Social Security Disability benefits, Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waivers, and adult guardianship processes. These are often complex and time-consuming systems to navigate, and these specialists could assist caseworkers in completing paperwork, processing appeals, and providing additional support to young adults as they navigate the challenging experience of transitioning between child and adult care systems.

Additional funding may be needed for operational expenses related to the fulfillment of the monthly face-to-face visit requirement under IV-E for extended foster care, both within the state and for young people residing out of state.

DATA SYSTEMS

Data plays a pivotal role in planning across child welfare, serving as the foundational building block for informed decision-making and strategic foresight. Most state Comprehensive Child Welfare Information Systems (CCWIS), or their current equivalents, were not designed to capture data on the extended foster care population. In the realm of EFC, data-driven planning will enable Nevada to identify the services and supports needed to better understand the population and design and implement efficient case management strategies to meet their needs effectively and efficiently. Data will provide the information needed to better allocate resources to enhance the goals of Nevada's Extended Foster Care program, including but not limited to prevention of homelessness, access to medical and behavioral health services, specific areas of transition planning that require heightened focus, and access to appropriate Title IV-E maintenance payments.

At present, each jurisdiction independently monitors young adults over the age of 18 and independently determines caseload structures. Data collection relies heavily on sources such as Excel spreadsheets and anecdotal information provided directly by case workers. Each jurisdiction knows their young adults very well, but siloed data collection processes make state level program and budget planning very difficult. To enhance service delivery, clarify caseloads and monitor expansion needs, and to aid in budget projections, collaborative workgroups established by the Family Programs Office (FPO) and the jurisdictions are determining essential EFC data requirements. Sustained commitment to these collaborative efforts is crucial to advancing favorable outcomes for Nevada's EFC program.

Recommendations:

A critical first step is to invest resources to **update Nevada's CCWIS system UNITY or utilize another data management system to provide up-to-date and unified tracking across the three jurisdictions**. Utilizing a unified system for all of Nevada's EFC system that tracks youth and young adults entering, participating in, and exiting EFC would allow the state and jurisdictions to enhance collaboration and communication, as well as meet current and future federal reporting requirements.

The following are **recommended data elements** that should be captured to meet current and future requirements:

- **Voluntary placement agreements (VPA)**, including judicial determination and ongoing court reviews, to support Title IV-E claiming.
- **Placement by type**, for example, foster family home, child-care institution, or a supervised setting. Supervised settings should allow the selection of more specific types such as transitional living programs, relative homes, apartment/house rentals, group home settings, room rentals, couch surfing, homeless shelters, FYI/FUP vouchers, out of state placements, etc. This level of tracking can assist Nevada in determining current and future housing needs and where to allocate funding resources for further development of housing options/programs.
- Data specific to **pregnant and parenting young people** for both EFC and FFPSA related services. This tracking is needed to ensure maximum and accurate Title IV-E reimbursement for services and administrative costs, accurate monthly stipend disbursement for both the young person and the child as required, and to determine Medicaid eligibility. In addition, consider data collection in the areas of prenatal, post-natal and pediatric care that leads to healthy outcomes as a tool for identifying further prevention strategies and successes.
- **Employment and educational outcome measures**. This data can assist in the improvement of real-time case management strategies, allocation of resources to developed targeted supports – if needed, and to track longitudinal outcomes and success.
- **Required monthly visits and additional standards**. Currently states are only required to provide the Administration on Child and Families (ACF) data on the percentage of children under 18 years of age who are visited monthly by their caseworkers. However, ACF intends to consider data reporting requirements for young people over 18 years of age participating in EFC as the program is adopted by more states and becomes standard national practice.
- **NYTD and AFCARS** data requirements also need to be extended and captured appropriately post-18 in Nevada’s UNITY system.

Community Support Systems

HOUSING

The experience of other states clearly illustrates that the long-term success of Nevada's EFC program will depend on prioritizing the expansion of appropriate housing and living arrangements for participating youth. Young people in Nevada encounter barriers experienced by EFC participants across the country, including high costs of rent, lack of credit history, and lack of adequate support networks for situations in which young people lose their housing (e.g. evictions, being asked to leave by family members or 'unofficial' house share/room rentals, stopping out of post-secondary institutions and dormitory settings, etc).

Currently there are four Transitional Living Programs (TLP) in Nevada that serve transition age young people, all in Clark County:

- Nevada Homes for Youth
- Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth
- Living Grace Homes (Maternity Home)
- R.I.S.E. Homes

The rest of the state currently experiences a supportive housing desert that must be addressed to adequately support the needs of young people enrolling in Nevada's EFC program.

Recommendations:

Stable housing is a necessary and essential basic need that must be met before outcomes can be achieved in any other area of life, including sustainable employment, advanced educational attainment, and safe and positive parenting, to name a few. Independent Living staff from all three jurisdictions indicate that TLP and Supportive Living policies are needed to serve youth and young adults across the state. To that end, the following recommendations are offered:

- **Develop new Transitional Living Program (TLP) placements for EFC youth** across the state to offer short and long-term supportive housing opportunities, life skill training, supportive access to educational, career opportunities, and mental/physical health care for youth in foster care and young adults in EFC.

- These programs could include supervised group homes, family host homes, or scattered-site apartment settings.
- TLP programs can be designed to also serve the general population of young people who are experiencing homelessness or can serve ‘higher risk’ populations such as youth and young adults of color and/or LGBTQIA2S+ individuals.
- **Increase or reallocate funds to expand the availability of TLP programs** for youth enrolled in EFC. According to the current Statewide Contracts Report from *NevadaEPro*, the State of Nevada contracts millions of dollars each year to vendors across the state to provide services and shelters. With additional partnership and financial investment from the state these already successful programs may be able to expand their capacity to meet the housing needs of EFC youth.
- With the ability to access federal Title IV-E funds starting in July 2025 for administrative purposes including staff salaries, **consider reallocating John E. Chafee funding** from salaries and benefits to housing support services, including TLPs.
- **Explore braided funding models** used in other states that effectively combine federal and state funding sources, including Medicaid, TANF, Title IV-E, and John E. Chafee federal funds.
- **Collaborate with Family and Youth Services Bureau grantees** in Nevada to expand Transitional Living Programs in Clark County and establish programs in other regions of the state.
- **Implement a Landlord Collaboration program.** This program presents an innovative solution to overcome obstacles faced by young people when seeking to rent apartments, homes, or rooms. Many landlords hesitate to lease to young individuals due to limited credit history, insufficient income, or a lack of positive rental history. In today’s rental market, landlords often require tenants to earn up to three times the amount of rent. Establishing partnerships between EFC programs, landlords, and rental property managers could facilitate access to stable and secure housing in communities chosen by young people, thereby reducing risk of eviction and housing exploitation. This collaboration could also provide additional access for young people receiving Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) vouchers. A Landlord Collaboration initiative could involve contracted services, Housing Navigation Specialists, or direct collaborations with the real estate sector. According to reports from jurisdictions across the nation that have implemented EFC programs, young people transitioning to adulthood often prefer living arrangements secured independently, including apartment rentals, renting rooms

from acquaintances or family members, or entering into shared rental agreements with roommates.

- Often Landlord Collaboration (LC) programs include the provision of **dedicated funding to pay for deposits and guarantee damage reimbursement to landlords** should it be needed. This solution could be implemented as a part of an LC program or as a standalone benefit provided to EFC participants. This benefit greatly reduces the risk landlords take to house young people exiting from foster care and further reduces barriers that prevents landlords from renting to young people in Extended Foster Care.
- **Consider creating state-funded housing infrastructure programs** using models that have been successful in other states such, as tiny house communities, remodeled hotels/motels, or clustered duplex/tri-plex solutions.

Lastly, it is critically important for state leaders to understand that young people aging out of foster care often choose to live with a parent, grandparent, older sibling, or chosen friend/family. The state should ensure that Supportive Independent Living Setting (SILS) policies created around EFC do not limit caseworkers' ability to support young people's decisions about their housing choices. Title IV-E does not prohibit these placement types in EFC. Strict requirements around approved housing settings, such as requirements that a young person live in licensed group homes, TLPs, college dormitories, or with licensed foster parents, often result in young people choosing not to enroll in EFC, unintentionally preventing them from accessing all the critical supports and resources they need to become successful, self-sufficient adults. To combat concerns related to permitting less-structured living environments for young people enrolled in EFC, **training can be provided to caseworkers around properly assessing these potential placements and the provision of ongoing supervision, support, and safety planning.**

MEDICAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE

In April 2023, the DHHS division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP) approved amendments to the Medicaid State Plan as indicated by the federal SUPPORT Act for Aged Out Former Foster Care Children (FFCC). The act requires states to ensure continued Medicaid eligibility and coverage through age 26 for youth who age out of foster care at age 18 or 21.

Recommendations:

It can be particularly difficult for young people and their caseworkers to navigate the transition of physical and behavioral health providers (from child serving systems to adult serving systems) during emerging adulthood to ensure access to continuous or immediate services. Youth aging out of foster care, whether they are entering EFC or not, experience barriers to coverage and access to services, which can lead to treatment setbacks and disengagement with important preventative health and mental health supports. To address these challenges, the following recommendations are offered:

- **Establish a partnership with the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Division of Health Care Financing and Policy** to work with FPO to identify barriers and create solutions that ensure seamless transition of services from child to adult medical and behavioral health providers. Specific strategies may include:
 - Identification of Medicaid insurance coverage gaps that may prevent child providers to continue services for young adults between the ages of 18 and 21;
 - Working with insurance service coordinators prior to a youth's 18th birthday to identify appropriate adult providers that can begin seeing young people immediately upon reaching the age of emancipation; and
 - Determining which key re-assessments are needed at age 18 (and ensuring completion of these required assessments) to continue access to ongoing, seamless psychiatric, behavioral health or medical equipment services.
- **Ensure caseworkers are attentive to the transition of medical and behavioral health care needs** during the teen years. This can include working with providers around continuity of care, ensuring completion of required/needed re-assessments, and timely completion of applications for disability services required in adulthood (e.g. SSI benefits in adulthood, DD Waiver, etc.).
- **Continuously seek input from young people** with lived experience to best understand what works and what doesn't work for them. This qualitative data can provide important feedback and information for providers that accept Medicaid to ensure their needs are being met during this transitional period.

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY

An effective child system that supports young people transitioning to adulthood also focuses on fostering a sense of belonging and ensuring that young people have natural support systems that can and will be there long after involvement with foster care and EFC. Often the focus of child welfare systems is on identifying traditional family systems and close networks who can support children and youth. However, a broader group of supportive adults and peers are key in supporting young people as they experience life's challenges, failures, successes and the long-term process of healing from childhood trauma.

Recommendations:

To foster belonging, policies and procedures should utilize tools that ensure young people have identified and established relationships with supportive adults (and positive peer networks) to achieve the goals outlined in their transition plans in all life domains. Due to family dynamics and lack of generational access to services/supports, these supportive adults and peers should always include people outside of core family, such as teachers, mentors, community members, or co-workers. By including non-traditional support systems, the EFC program can create inclusive and comprehensive safety nets that provide and ensure young people are able to fail safely while navigating the journey to adulthood, including supporting them in developing healthy relationships and learning the critically important life skill of setting healthy boundaries throughout the course of their lives. Key recommendations include:

- **Develop youth-centered policies and procedures** that include opportunities for young people to provide system-level feedback and recommendations for improvement;
- **Implement a case management and youth engagement practice model** that provides staff with the tools and skills necessary to develop transformative rather than transactional relationships with young people. A practice model(s) can be implemented statewide or modified to meet the needs of each individual jurisdiction.
- **Engage youth, young adults and people with lived experience in planning and decision making.** Nevada's Youth-Adult Partnership council should be involved in the planning, design and implementation of the EFC program with ongoing evaluation to ensure quality support and that the program is able to adjust with changing needs of the community.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1.0 WORKFORCE	
1.1	Caseloads for workers that support young adults enrolled in extended foster care (EFC) should align with the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) best practice standards, which is between 12 and 15 youth per caseworker depending on the complexity and level of service required for each youth.
1.2	Consider the feasibility of allocating staff resources to establish dedicated EFC units, as well as implementing a specialized training and supervision to assist workers in developing the unique skill sets needed to support young adults entering EFC.
1.3	In Clark County there are an estimated 209 youth eligible to enter EFC on July 1, 2025. Fourteen (14) dedicated positions would be needed to maintain caseloads at 15 young adults (18-21) per worker.
1.4	In Washoe County there are an estimated 60 youth eligible to enter EFC on July 1, 2025. This would indicate a need of 4 positions to maintain caseloads at 15 young adults (18-21) per worker.
1.5	There are an estimated 30 youth eligible to enter EFC on July 1, 2025 in the Rural jurisdiction. While this would indicate a need for 2 dedicated positions to maintain a caseload of 15 young adults (18-21) per worker, the vast expanse between areas makes this logistically improbable. The use of a mixed caseload for current permanency workers is likely more feasible in this jurisdiction, with the recommendation of specialized training and supervision to support engagement of young adults enrolled in extended foster care.
1.6	Additional evaluation is needed to assess case management services and training for caseworkers that work specifically with EFC participants that are also pregnant or parenting.
1.7	Create specialized positions that provide expertise in high-stakes practice areas designed to support and complement the work of direct caseworkers, including Housing Navigation, Title IV-E Specialists, and High Needs EFC Specialists.
2.0 DATA SYSTEMS	
2.1	Update Nevada’s CCWIS system UNITY or utilize another data management system to provide up-to-date and unified tracking across the three jurisdictions.
2.2	Capture data elements including Voluntary placement agreements, placement by type, data specific to pregnant and parenting young people, employment and educational outcome measures, required monthly visits and additional standards, and NYTD and AFCARS data.
3.0 COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEMS: HOUSING	
3.1	Develop new Transitional Living Program (TLP) placements for EFC youth across the state to offer short and long-term supportive housing opportunities, life skill training, supportive access to educational, career

	opportunities, and mental/physical health care for youth in foster care and young adults in EFC.
3.2	Increase or reallocate funds to expand the availability of TLP programs.
3.3	Consider reallocating John E. Chafee funding from salaries and benefits to housing support services, including TLPs.
3.4	Explore braided funding models used in other states that effectively combine federal and state funding sources, including Medicaid, TANF, Title IV-E, and John E. Chafee federal funds.
3.5	Collaborate with Family and Youth Services Bureau grantees in Nevada to expand Transitional Living Programs in Clark County and establish programs in other regions of the state.
3.6	Implement a Landlord Collaboration program.
3.7	Dedicate funding to pay for deposits and guarantee damage reimbursement to landlords.
3.8	Consider creating state-funded housing infrastructure programs using models that have been successful in other states such, as tiny house communities, remodeled hotels/motels, or clustered duplex/tri-plex solutions.
3.9	Train caseworkers around properly assessing placements and the provision of ongoing supervision, support, and safety planning.
4.0 COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEMS: MEDICAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE	
4.1	Establish a partnership with the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Division of Health Care Financing and Policy to work with FPO to identify barriers and create solutions that ensure seamless transition of services from child to adult medical and behavioral health providers.
4.2	Ensure caseworkers are attentive to the transition of medical and behavioral health care needs during the teen years.
4.3	Continuously seek input from young people with lived experience to best understand what works and what doesn't work for them.
5.0 COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEMS: COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY	
5.1	Develop youth-centered policies and procedures that include opportunities for young people to provide system-level feedback and recommendations for improvement.
5.2	Implement a case management and youth engagement practice model that provides staff with the tools and skills necessary to develop transformative rather than transactional relationships with young people.
5.3	Engage youth, young adults and people with lived experience in planning and decision making.