

This Profile of Innovation is part of a series highlighting innovative initiatives implemented or planned by Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Lead Agencies. These profiles feature activities aligned with recovery priorities. Many were funded with federal coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) funds, including the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act; the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act; and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP Act) funds. The information was gathered during the [COVID-19 Recovery: Sharing Uses of Federal Relief Funds webinar](#) and from publicly available sources, and has been reviewed by the Lead Agency.

The Office of Child Care (OCC) has issued [information memoranda](#) (IM) for all the COVID-19 federal response and recovery funds. These guidance documents include an overview of the funds, details about the obligation and liquidation periods, allowable use of funds, administrative cost caps, and so on. OCC has strongly encouraged Lead Agencies to use these funds as part of a cohesive vision to implement policies that will better support children's developmental and learning needs, meet parent's needs and preferences with equal access to high-quality child care, and support a professionalized workforce that is fairly and appropriately compensated.

Overview of Nevada's Use of Federal Relief Funds

The CCDF Lead Agency in Nevada is allocating the use of ARP Act funds to support child care in the Silver State. Funding is administered by the CCDF Lead Agency the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS), Child Care Development Program (CCDP). Nevada intends to help stabilize and reimagine the child care sector through support for providers (including licensed family child care homes), increased access to child care services, and reduced costs to families.

Innovation

Nevada expands the Early Childhood Support Network (ECSN) Substitute Teacher Program: The ECSN Substitute Teacher Program started over 20 years ago as a private business and became part of the CCDF program in 1997. To meet the increased demand due to COVID-19 staff shortages and to support engagement in professional development or provider support opportunities, Nevada has expanded the program's capacity.

The program offers substitute teachers in licensed child care centers and family child care homes in the metropolitan areas of Reno and greater North Las Vegas who have registered for the service. There are 12 early childhood substitute teachers in the program. It has also expanded into rural parts of North East Nevada with a full-time teacher supporting three counties.



Additional Details About Nevada's ARP Act Recovery Funds

- Nevada [Stabilization Grants](#)
- Workforce support [Early Childhood Staff Stipend Incentive Program](#)
- Intensive child care support via [Wonderschool](#)
- Back to Work (B2W) [Child Care Subsidy Program Pilot](#)
- Find out more about [Nevada's COVID-19 response](#)

- On-call, highly-trained early childhood substitute teachers are available for licensed centers and family child care to do the following:
 - Support providers during staff shortages
 - Support engagement in professional development or provider support opportunities
 - Role model best practices in working with young children and provide information about quality initiatives
 - Provide resources about grants and additional services and supports
- The ECSN substitute teachers are the documented back-up providers for family child care in the Reno and Las Vegas areas.

The substitute teachers have completed background checks and training in CPR and first aid, child abuse and neglect, communicable disease, sudden infant death syndrome, early childhood development, and center and family child care environments. Since July 1, 2021, these substitute teachers have provided over 4,000 hours of support.

Primary Project

DWSS convened partners (child care resource and referral agencies, Nevada Department of Education, Children's Advocacy Alliance, Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children and others) from across Nevada to give input on the use of COVID-19 relief funds. Expansion of ECSN's Substitute Teacher Program was an answer to both addressing a critical need and an opportunity to support the infrastructure.

ECSN is operated by The Children's Cabinet, a nonprofit organization whose CCDF-supported programs also include child care subsidy assistance, child care resource and referral, workforce development and provider education and training, and support for program start up and marketing. The Children's Cabinet also conducts a number of statewide quality initiatives. You can [learn more about ECSN by viewing its brochure](#).

Nevada plans to sustain ECSN with quality dollars in the future.

Other COVID-19 Recovery Activities

Nevada's [Strong Start Child Care Services Center](#) will provide one-stop services connecting all types of providers with the information and supports they need in a shared services model. These will include training, quality improvement, small business administration resources, networking, behavioral and health referrals for children, child care subsidy resources, educational and professional development grants, small business loans, and early childhood substitutes. Virtual services and two physical locations are funded with ARP Act dollars.

[Employer Childcare Solutions](#) and **Back to Work** are part of Nevada's approach to developing employer-supported child care. Nevada has an [Employer Childcare Development playbook](#), a [Child Care Accelerator Toolkit, and other resources, which you can find at this link](#).

Would You Like to Know More?

Please contact the OCC Regional Office, the Child Care State Capacity Building Center's State Systems Specialist, or the Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response and Recovery team member for your Region to arrange a peer to peer opportunity with CCDF staff or request additional information.

