



Children's Advocacy

A L L I A N C E

an independent voice
for nevada's children

CHILDREN'S HEALTH 2019 LEGISLATIVE POLICY PRIORITIES

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CHILDREN'S HEALTH POLICY PRIORITIES

- ❖ Support legislation to expand **access to quality mental health services** for children and their families.
- ❖ Improve **reimbursement rates for Medicaid** to increase provider participation and expand access to services.
- ❖ Revise **Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Medicaid** policies to allow coverage for all immigrant children residing in Nevada.
- ❖ Establish resources to support the **purchase of diapers** for families with limited financial resources.
- ❖ Require schools to provide access to **back-up albuterol inhalers** and/or nebulizers for students with asthma.
- ❖ Appropriate funding to support training, technical assistance and stipends to enable child care providers to offer **high quality, nutritious foods and ample opportunities for physical activity**.
- ❖ Update the NRS 442.700 to the current Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) standards and to improve the **data collected when children are tested for lead** to be able to identify at-risk populations and communities.
- ❖ Limit the availability of foods which do not adhere to the current **State Wellness Policy** offered by outside vendors in public schools.
- ❖ Mandate commercial market insurance plans in Nevada to cover the cost of **hearing aids for children**.

COVER ALL KIDS

The Problem:

- While Nevada had the largest percent decrease of uninsured children in the nation, from 14.9% in 2013 to 6.8% in 2016, our state's rate of uninsured children is still much higher than the national average of 4% in 2016.

Recommendation:

- ❖ Nevada should allow coverage for all immigrant children, regardless of status, to enroll in Medicaid and Nevada Check Up (CHIP).

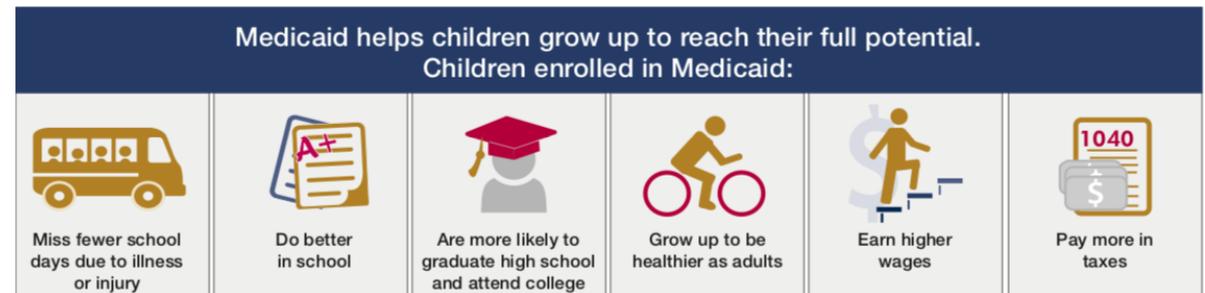


Image provided by Georgetown University Health Policy Institute.

DIAPER ASSISTANCE

The Problem:

- The cost of diapers places a huge financial burden on Nevada's most at-risk families, with 30% of women reporting they were unable to afford to change their child's diapers as often as they would like.



Recommendations:

- ❖ Create a child diaper fund to provide diapers to women with infants participating in the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) program. This fund would provide a monthly \$20 credit for participants to purchase diapers for their infant.
- ❖ Remove the state sales tax on diapers. This would provide all working families with a relief from paying taxes on a necessary good.
- ❖ Encourage convenience stores and businesses in low-income neighborhoods to sell diapers in bulk.

BACK-UP ALBUTEROL INHALERS IN SCHOOLS

The Problem:

- Asthma is the most common medical condition for children entering kindergarten in Nevada. Children do not always have an inhaler available for use, which can result in a life threatening emergency.



Recommendations:

- ❖ Mandate schools to provide access to back-up albuterol inhalers using standing orders for quick-relief medication to be administered by a trained professional within the school. Training should include assessment for use of inhaler vs. epinephrine.
- ❖ Require school districts to implement standardized protocols and instruments for the assessment of a student need for an emergency inhaler.
- ❖ Work with pharmaceutical companies to reduce the fiscal burden on school districts purchasing the medication.
- ❖ Establish protections from liability for schools and medical providers writing the prescriptions.

IMPROVE LEAD DATA COLLECTION

The Problem:

- Less than three percent of Nevada's children are screened for lead and surveillance data is sparse, making it impossible to identify at risk communities.



Recommendations:

- ❖ Revise statutes so they meet current definitions for elevated blood lead levels.
- ❖ Broaden the terminology to expand who should be reporting data and what type of data.
- ❖ Expand demographic variables that should be reported with blood lead level data.

EARLY CHILDHOOD NUTRITION

The Problem:

- 32.6% of Nevada's Kindergarteners are overweight or obese. Children who are obese are more likely to have a shortened lifespan and develop a variety of health problems.



Recommendations (shortened):

- ❖ Continue trainings for early childhood providers on national standards and implementation strategies for healthy nutrition and physical activity in early childhood settings which must align with USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) guidelines and Caring for Our Children (CFOC) standards.
- ❖ Provide direct technical assistance (in coordination with the Silver State Stars Quality Rating Improvement System – QRIS) to early childhood providers.
- ❖ Provide grants and/or stipends to early childhood providers to assist with implementation of physical activity and/or healthy nutrition (PAN) standards. Priority given to providers serving low-income children (child care subsidy), those with a high proportion of racial/ethnic minorities, and rural providers with limited access to resources.

HEARING DEVICES FOR CHILDREN

The Problem:

- Approx. two to three of every 1,000 children in the United States are born deaf or with some degree of hearing loss, and more lose their hearing later during childhood. Many commercial insurance plans in Nevada do not cover the cost of hearing devices for children, or provide inadequate coverage.



Recommendations (shortened):

- ❖ Require commercial insurance plans to provide coverage for medically necessary expenses incurred in the purchase of a hearing device for covered children 21 years of age or younger.
- ❖ Coverage should include the purchase of a hearing device for each ear and include fitting and dispensing services, including providing ear molds as necessary to maintain optimal fit.

2020 CENSUS COMMISSION

The Problem:

- In 2010, it was estimated that over 1 million children in the U.S. under the age of 5 were missed in the count. When groups are undercounted in the census, it impacts not only voting districts but also can result in the loss of millions of dollars for essential social safety net programs that are based on population.



Recommendations:

- ❖ Development of at least three regional coalitions (North, South, and Rural) including representatives from relevant government entities (state and local), organizations serving communities of color, early learning providers, low-income housing and homeless serving organizations, other advocacy organizations, and key community leaders, among others.
- ❖ Development of outreach and educational materials urging Nevadans to participate in the 2020 Census.
- ❖ Establish the Nevada 2020 Census Commission during the 2019 Legislative Session, including an appropriation to support outreach and advocacy efforts targeted in HTC neighborhoods and among HTC populations.



HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

**Text “NEVADA”
TO 52886**

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- What you can do now:

- ❖ Visit our “take action page” on our website: <http://www.caanv.org/take-action/>
- ❖ Sign up for our newsletter: <http://www.caanv.org/#subscribe-section>
- ❖ Follow us on social media: [@caanevada](#)

- What you can do during the legislative session:

- ❖ Attend Children’s Week at the Legislature
- ❖ Testify as an expert

- What you can do in the long-term:

- ❖ Join Nevadans Together for Health Access Coalition



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