Child and Family Services Reviews

Nevada Statewide Assessment



August 2025

Minor formatting adjustments may have been made to this document for 508 compliance. Content is unaffected.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Children's Bureau

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Statewide Assessment Instrument

Section I: General Information

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List of Statewide Assessment Participants:

The following individuals participated in statewide planning meetings, provided information, and/or reviewed information to complete the assessment.

Internal Stakeholders:

Name	Affiliation	Role in Statewide Assessment Process
Holly Vetter	Clark County Family Services	Information / Review / Guidance
Ramon Avendano	Clark County Family Services	Information / Review
Frank Prado	Clark County Family Services	Information / Review
Liz Stetson	DCFS Rural Region – Carson City District Office	Information / Review / Guidance
Lori Nichols	DCFS Rural Region – Carson City District Office	Information / Review / Guidance
Dana Gray	DCFS Rural Region – Carson City District Office	Information / Review / Guidance
Laurie Jackson	DCFS Rural Region – Carson City District Office	Information / Review / Guidance
Mandy Hall	DCFS Rural Region – Carson City District Office	Information / Review / Guidance
Megan Tingle	State – Family Programs Office	Information / Writing / Analysis
Beverly Brown	State – Family Programs Office	Information / Writing / Analysis
Betsey Crumrine	State – Family Programs Office	Information / Review / Guidance
Dylan Nall	State – Family Programs Office	Information / Writing / Analysis
Jimesian Sanders	State – Family Programs Office	Information / Writing / Analysis
Brandy Scheffler	State – Family Programs Office	Information / Analysis
Rossana Dagdagan	State – Family Programs Office	Information / Analysis
Anita Kelly	State – Family Programs Office	Information / Analysis
Tim Baran	State – Family Programs Office	Information / Analysis
Lorena Bojorquez	State – Family Programs Office	Information / Analysis
Shawna Barnes	State – Family Programs Office	Information / Analysis
Dr. Eric Hulphers, Ph. D	State – Office of Analytics	Data extraction / Report generation
Katie Brandon	State – Office of Analytics	Data extraction / Report generation
Kimberly Martin	Washoe County Human Service Agency	Information / Review / Guidance
Amber Cummins	Washoe County Human Service Agency	Information / Review / Guidance
Molly Blanchette	Washoe County Human Service Agency	Information / Review / Guidance
Eduardo Villanueva	Washoe County Human Service Agency	Information / Review / Guidance
Samantha Sevcsik	Washoe County Human Service Agency	Information / Review / Guidance
NIA Workers (n = 42)	Child Welfare Agencies	Anonymous Survey Information
Ongoing Workers (n = 58)	Child Welfare Agencies	Anonymous Survey Information
Managers, Supervisors and Coordinators (n = 42)	Child Welfare Agencies	Anonymous Survey Information

External Stakeholders:

Name	Affiliation	Role in Statewide Assessment Process
Alicia Summers	NV Supreme Court Improvement Program Coordinator – Contractor	Information
Zaide Martinez	NV Supreme Court Improvement Program Coordinator	Information
Biological Parents (n = 6)	Lived Experience	Anonymous Survey Information
Caregivers, Foster and Adoptive Parents (n = 65)	Lived Experience	Anonymous Survey Information
Youth Aged 14 and older (n = 16)	Lived Experience	Anonymous Survey Information
Judicial Stakeholders (n = 29)	External Stakeholders	Anonymous Survey Information
Tribal Partners (n = 6)	External Stakeholders	Anonymous Survey Information
Community Partners (n = 25)	External Stakeholders	Anonymous Survey Information

Stakeholder Engagement:

Describe how child welfare leadership and staff from all levels of the agency, families and youth, the legal and judicial communities, Tribes, and other key partners and stakeholders were actively engaged in the assessment of the state child welfare system.

As part of the Statewide Assessment process the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) – Family Programs Office (FPO) gathered comprehensive information on the functioning of Nevada's public child welfare system from both internal and external stakeholders. To support this effort, FPO facilitated a series of focus groups throughout March 2025. These sessions provided valuable insight, data, and feedback from the county-operated child welfare agencies and judicial court partners, allowing DCFS to better understand system strengths, challenges, and opportunities for improvement across the state.

In preparation for the upcoming Child and Family Services Review (CFSR), the FPO led a series of strategic discussions in February and March 2025. These sessions focused on enhancing caseworker reviewer training, understanding key changes for Round 4 of the CFSR, and strengthening the development of quality case review rationales. Additional emphasis was placed on refining the quality assurance feedback loop, establishing effective team pairing strategies, and improving overall process oversight. These collaborative efforts aim to ensure greater consistency, accuracy, and accountability in Nevada's case review practices.

To further inform the Statewide Assessment, surveys were distributed to both internal and external stakeholders to gather information related to systemic factors within the child welfare system. Participation was anonymous, and as such, identifying information was not collected or included in the participant table. The number of surveys completed is reflected in the previous internal and external stakeholders tables. External stakeholders included caregivers, foster and adoptive parents, judicial representatives, biological parents, Tribal partners, community partners, and youth. Internal stakeholders consisted of assessment workers, ongoing caseworkers, supervisors, agency support staff, and managers. By engaging a diverse range of participants, the survey process aimed to capture a comprehensive perspective on system performance and identify opportunities for continued improvement.

Nevada encountered several challenges during the completion of the Statewide Assessment report, particularly in engaging stakeholders and maintaining a structured data collection timeline. One significant barrier was the limited timeframe allocated for stakeholder engagement, which restricted

opportunities for ongoing and meaningful feedback. Competing demands and scheduling conflicts among participants further complicated efforts to coordinate focus groups and meetings, resulting in input from a smaller pool of stakeholders than anticipated. Additionally, an initial delay in launching the assessment process, due in part to staff turnover and a lack of clarity around roles and responsibilities, further compressed the project timeline. As a result, surveys had to be developed and distributed on an expedited schedule, allowing only one month for external stakeholders and three weeks for internal stakeholders to respond. Nevada conducted a broad outreach campaign to promote participation in the surveys, utilizing multiple methods such as listserv distributions, individual emails, flyer postings, and follow-up communications. However, due to the nature of these outreach strategies and the varied distribution channels used, the state was unable to determine the total number of individuals who were reached or invited to participate in the survey process. While Nevada did receive survey responses, participation levels were limited. Furthermore, the absence of compensation for individuals with lived experience served as a disincentive to their involvement, limiting the addition of these critical perspectives.

Section II: States Vision and Organizational Structure

Part 1: Vision and Tenets

- Briefly describe the vision and core tenets of the state child welfare system (i.e., primary programs, including title IV-E prevention programs, as applicable; practice model; structure and approach to drive change) that are designed to produce desired child welfare outcomes and the routine statewide functioning of systemic factors.

Structure

Nevada uses a county-operated, state supervised structure for the management of child welfare services, except in the rural counties of the state, where the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) operates the state child welfare services. The DCFS, under the umbrella of Nevada's Department of Human Services (DHS), provides oversight to child welfare and direct child welfare services.

The organizational structure of DCFS and program delivery of child welfare services are influenced by the state size and concentration of county population. Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 432B.325 states that in counties where the population is 100,000 or more, that the county shall provide protective services for children in that county and pay the cost of those services in accordance with standards adopted by the state. In 2001, the state legislature expanded the county's responsibility to include all child welfare services of child protection, foster care, and adoption (NRS 432B.030 and NRS 432B.044).

Clark County Family Services (CCFS), located in Las Vegas, provides child welfare services to all children and families in Clark County, in the southern part of the State. Washoe County Human Services Agency (WCHSA) located in Reno, provides child welfare services directly to all children and families located in Washoe County, in the northwestern part of the State. DCFS provides child welfare services to the State's remaining 15 counties through five Rural Region (RR) offices.

The DCFS Rural Region is separated into five districts, each providing services to multiple counties:

- District 1 covers the northern part of the state with its main office based in Elko and provides services to Elko, Eureka, Lander, and White Pine counties.
- District 2 covers the western and central part of the state with its main office based in Carson City, and provides services to Carson City, Douglas, and Storey counties.
- District 3 covers the eastern and central part of the state with its main office based in Fallon, and provides services to Churchill, Pershing, and Humbolt counties.
- District 4 covers the southern rural part of the state with its main office based in Pahrump, and provides services to Esmeralda, Lincoln, and Nye counties.
- District 5 covers the central part of the state with its main office based in Fernley and provides services to the Lyon and Mineral counties.

Nevada Vision Statement for Family Centered Practice

Nevada's vision is to have safe, healthy, and thriving youth in every community in the state. DCFS, through collaboration with the State's child welfare agencies, community partners, system partners, and those with lived experience will enhance its child welfare system, enhance its Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) system, and build a service array that provides quality prevention, safety, permanency, and well-being services to Nevada's youth and families.

Child welfare agencies in Nevada believe families are the primary providers for children's needs. The safety and well-being of children is dependent upon the safety and well-being of all family members. Children, youth, and families are best served when staff actively listen to them and invite participation in decision making. DCFS supports full implementation of family-centered practice by engaging families and offering individualized services to build upon strengths, and to meet identified needs of families.

Part 2: Cross-system Challenges

Briefly describe cross-cutting issues not specifically addressed in other sections of the Statewide Assessment that affect the system's programs, practice, and performance (e.g., legislation, budget reductions, community conditions, consent decrees, staff turnover and workload).

Nevada's child welfare system is currently navigating several interrelated cross-system challenges that impact service delivery, workforce stability, and outcomes for children and families. These challenges span staffing, data infrastructure, and behavioral health systems, and they require coordinated reform across agencies and service providers.

A major workforce-related challenge involves persistent difficulties in retaining and supporting front-line child welfare staff. High caseloads and the demanding nature of the work have led to significant turnover, impacting service consistency and continuity for children in care. While Nevada has introduced policy measures, including statutory caseload limits under NRS 432, to mitigate this issue, full implementation is still underway and structural challenges remain.

In terms of infrastructure, Nevada has recognized the critical need to modernize its data management capabilities. The current Unified Nevada Information Technology for Youth (UNITY) system is outdated and lacks the functionality necessary to meet evolving federal standards under the Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) guidelines. In 2024, Nevada conducted a detailed assessment through statewide stakeholder cohorts to define system requirements. However, due to feasibility concerns identified in the 2025 legislative session, the state shifted from plans to build a new system from scratch to exploring existing platforms. As of now, the process of identifying and securing a new CCWIS-compliant system is ongoing, delaying progress toward improved data integration and decision-making capacity.

Behavioral health services for children present another significant cross-system concern. A U.S. Department of Justice investigation concluded that Nevada fails to serve children with behavioral health disabilities in the least restrictive and most integrated settings appropriate to their needs. The overreliance on institutional care is driven by a lack of accessible, community-based alternatives. Gaps in service availability, including insufficient in-home supports, ineffective crisis response, and limited therapeutic foster care, have led to preventable hospitalizations and prolonged separations from families and communities. Additional barriers such as a fragmented provider network, Medicaid access issues, and inadequate discharge planning exacerbate the situation.

Nevada has acknowledged these gaps and is actively working to expand its behavioral health continuum of care. Priorities include building capacity for intensive in-home supports, peer and family support services, and increasing availability of therapeutic foster care. Furthermore, enhancements to Mobile Crisis Response, Wraparound Facilitation, and Intensive Care Coordination are underway to improve service responsiveness and alignment with individual family needs.

Collectively, these challenges highlight the interconnected nature of staffing, technology, and behavioral health systems in delivering effective child welfare services. Addressing them will require continued investment, cross-agency collaboration, and strategic policy implementation to ensure children and families receive timely, coordinated, and high-quality support.

Part 3: Current Initiatives

Briefly describe the cross-cutting improvement initiatives (e.g., practice model, new safety model, workforce projects) to provide context for, and an understanding of, the priority areas of focus from the last CFSR that were addressed through the state's most recent PIP. This is an opportunity to highlight current initiatives and progress made toward achieving desired outcomes and systemic change.

Nevada is actively engaged in strengthening its child welfare system through a series of strategic initiatives aimed at improving practice fidelity, workforce training, and data-informed decision-making. These efforts are focused on ensuring children and families receive high-quality, consistent, and trauma-informed services statewide.

A key area of focus is increasing the fidelity of Nevada's Safety Model. Recognizing the importance of equipping child welfare professionals with the tools and knowledge needed to implement the model with consistency and confidence, Nevada is investing in the development of enhanced professional training opportunities. Central to this effort is the revamp of the new worker training program, referred to as the "North Academy" and "South Academy." This initiative includes the integration of training curricula from both the northern and southern regions of the state to create a unified and comprehensive learning experience. The new training curriculum will embed CFSR principles throughout, ensuring child welfare staff are trained to meet federal performance expectations.

The Nevada Partnership for Training (NPT) is leading this effort, with a strong emphasis on enhancing evaluation processes. The revised approach will include competency-based assessments to ensure caseworkers not only complete the training but demonstrate proficiency in critical areas such as the Safety Model, accurate documentation, and overall child welfare knowledge. A trauma-informed, child-centered lens will be central to the revised curriculum, reflecting best practices in engaging and supporting vulnerable children and families.

In addition to frontline training, Nevada implemented OpenSesame for supervisor training (supervisors, managers, and executives) statewide to bolster asynchronous trainings offered to leadership. This initiative addresses the critical role supervisors play in modeling and reinforcing practice expectations. By ensuring supervisory staff are well-versed and competent in the Safety Model, Nevada aims to strengthen decision-making at all levels of practice and build greater trust in the system's ability to ensure child safety and well-being.

Nevada is also undertaking a comprehensive overhaul of its CQI system. Current gaps in the CQI processes, particularly around data accuracy, performance monitoring, and staff competency, have limited the effectiveness of ongoing quality management efforts. The state is working to redesign its CQI framework to better integrate data-driven decision-making across all child welfare domains. This includes more effective use of CFSR data, a deeper focus on safety and permanency outcomes, and strategies to help staff at all levels understand the role of CQI in daily practice.

Section III: Assessment of Safety Permanency, and Well-Being Outcomes

Safety Outcomes 1 and 2

Safety outcomes include: (A) children are first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect; and (B) children are safely maintained in their own homes whenever possible and appropriate.

Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect

Item 1: Timeliness of initializing investigations of reports of child maltreatment

The Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) sets forth parameters for developing regulations establishing reasonable and uniform standards for child welfare services across the state, to include criteria mandating that certain situations be responded to immediately (NRS 432B.260), and that determinations of abuse and/or neglect be made in cases in which an investigation has occurred. Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) requires a process be established when receiving a referral and determining if that referral constitutes a report of abuse or neglect.

When a referral is received by an intake worker alleging possible child maltreatment, a supervisor reviews the information, decides whether the referral will become a report, and decides what type of response the report merits. If the referral becomes a report, it is assigned to a Child Protective Services (CPS) assessment caseworker for investigation. Statewide policy 0506 Intake and Response Time outlines the expected response time for the type of child maltreatment allegation. In 2020, the DCFS revised its statewide intake policy, extending the Priority 1 response time from 3 hours to 6 hours, which aligns time frames for all jurisdictions in Nevada. The timeline begins with the receipt of the report by the agency. The following are the child welfare agency response times that are outlined in policy:

- ***Priority 1 within 6 calendar hours:*** The report describes dangerous conditions or situations within an institution that are active or in process of occurring at the time of the report. The report describes the employee(s), caregiver(s), and/or institution's capacity as absent or diminished which contribute to a lack of protection at the time of the report. If information within the report is accurate, it is reasonable to believe that a child has suffered, is suffering, or could suffer severe harm without immediate intervention.
- ***Priority 2 within 24 calendar hours:*** The report identifies a threatening condition at the institution that is not reported or alleged to be occurring now, but can be reasonably anticipated to become active, without intervention, in the near future. The report describes employee(s), caregiver(s), and/or institution's capacity, intent, or motivation to protect the child is diminished or in question. The child(ren) is in the protective care of a responsible adult at the time of the report and is expected to be there for a period of time. If information in the report is accurate, it is reasonable to believe that a child could suffer severe harm without intervention.
- ***Priority 3 within 72 calendar hours:*** The report identifies events and circumstances indicative of child abuse and/or neglect which occurred at an institution, but there are no indications of present or impending danger. The information collected suggests a high level of risk that left unmitigated could result in impending or present danger.

Nevada maintains its commitment to CQI through ongoing CFSRs. Nevada conducts four reviews each year, three of which focus on Nevada's two largest Urban areas and one review specific to the DCFS Rural Region, to track the performance and progress on individual items for each child welfare agency.

Results listed in the tables below outline case reviews conducted at the onset of CFSR Round 3, CFSR Round 3 Completion, and ongoing reviews, with the most recent assessment period which reviewed 65 cases occurring in September 2024, January 2025, February 2025, and March 2025. This data is included for CFSR items 1-18. The overall rating is based on the last two assessment periods.

Table 1.1: CFSR/Statewide Quality Improvement Review Data

Performance Item	National Standard	CFSR Round 3 Initial	CFSR Round 3 Completion	Nevada CQI Review	Nevada CQI Review	Overall Rating Movement
Time Period		2018	September 2022	2023 - 2024	March 2025	
Item 1: Timeliness of Initial Investigations of Reports of Child Maltreatment	95%	58.30%	83.72%	77.42%	89.29%	
Cases Reviewed		80	84	71	65	

Source: Online monitoring system (OMS) state rating summary reports based on strength ratings.
CFSR Round 3 Initial = State Rating Summary which includes Quality Improvement Review Data for WCHSA, CCFS, and DCFS-RR data pulled in 2018.
Nevada CFSR Round 3 Completion = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QTR 9, DCFS-RR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, & Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.
Nevada CQI Review (2023-2024) = Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2023, November 2023, February 2024, and April 2024)], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.
Nevada CQI Review (03/2025) = PUR Start Date(s): [Jul 01, 2023, Jan 01, 2024], Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2024, Sep 2024, Jan 2025, Feb 2025, Mar 2025], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.

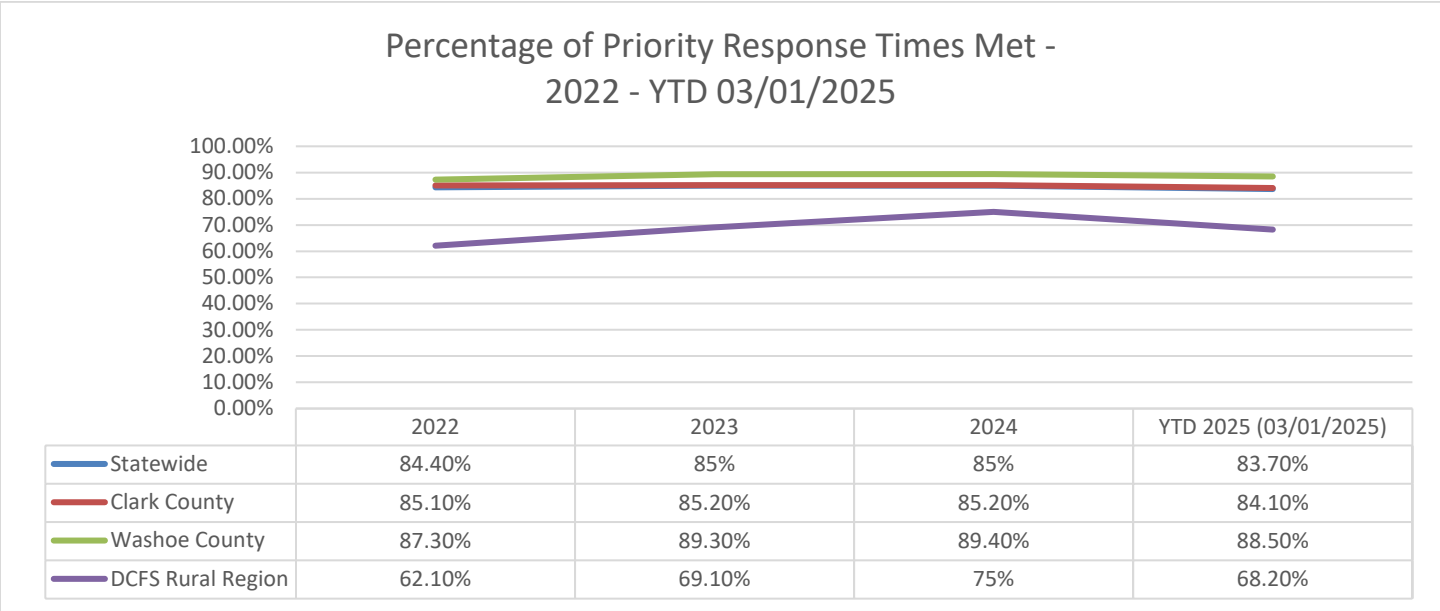
Nevada's baseline data for CFSR Round 3 statewide was 58.30%. Nevada successfully completed its Program Improvement Plan (PIP) in September 2022, achieving a statewide strength rating of 83.72% for Item 1.

During the CFSR Round 3 PIP, a statewide team created a report that tracks priority response times statewide, which is distributed to agencies on a weekly and/or monthly basis. Since 2021, the DCFS FPO has conducted quarterly CQI reviews of a sample of priority response times that were not met, and the results are shared at statewide meetings. The following is an analysis based on the CQI reviews completed:

- 10% of reports identified with a response time "not met" were reviewed from January 2021 until September 2024 on a quarterly basis.
- Documentation impacts the determination of met response times. When the response time was met and the report showed that it was not, the following documentation errors were commonly noted:
    - Missing child contact case notes
    - Improperly recorded attempted contact notes
    - Child fatality reported
- When the response time is not met, the reason is not documented.
- Missed response times primarily occur in P2 and P3 cases.
- At times, the response time was met and correctly documented by the caseworker, but the report had an error. Each time this occurred, the information was provided to IT staff who developed the report to make any necessary changes to ensure accurate reporting.
- Response times could not be verified during the review in some cases due to lack of documentation (e.g., missing case notes, present danger assessments, incomplete report detail window).

To conclude, DCFS found documentation errors and improper information entry led to an underreporting of appropriate agency response times, with the actual times being 21-33% higher than indicated in the initial reports. To better understand what may impact workers' ability to meet the priority response time, a statewide survey was conducted with caseworkers who initiate investigations. 42 caseworkers completed the survey, and the two primary challenges identified by caseworkers were high workloads (60% of respondents) and insufficient staffing (17% of respondents).

Figure 1.2: Percentage of Priority Response Times Met



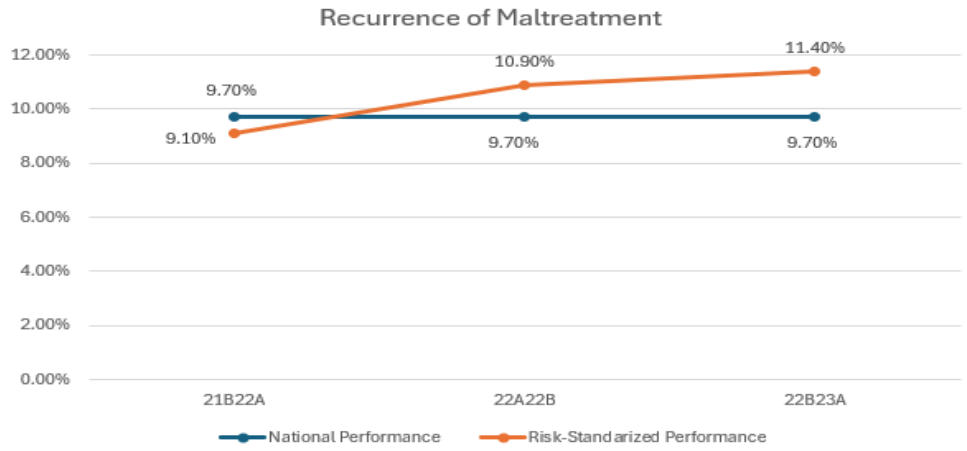
	2022	2023	2024	YTD 2025 (03/01/2025)
Statewide	84.40%	85%	85%	83.70%
Clark County	85.10%	85.20%	85.20%	84.10%
Washoe County	87.30%	89.30%	89.40%	88.50%
DCFS Rural Region	62.10%	69.10%	75%	68.20%

Source: UNITY Database

Figure 1.2 illustrates the percentage of priority response times met by jurisdictions statewide over the last three calendar years and 2025 to date (March 1, 2025).

Nevada continues to track the Federal Data Indicators Repeat Maltreatment and Maltreatment in Foster Care. In FFY 2021B and FFY2022A, Nevada was statistically better than the national performance on Recurrence of Maltreatment. Since that time, the national performance has remained the same and Nevada has seen an increase in the recurrence of maltreatment. Nevada is currently statistically worse than the national performance. Nevada intends to conduct deeper data exploration through manual case reviews to better understand what is causing the increase for recurrence of maltreatment. Based on quarterly FPO CQI reviews, it appears that the DCFS – Rural Region consistently demonstrates higher compliance with priority response timeframes. However, discrepancies in data entry practices within the UNITY system have resulted in underreported performance metrics in the official data, masking the region's actual responsiveness.

Figure 1.3: Recurrence of Maltreatment



Data Source: CFSR Round 4 Statewide Data Indicators provided by ACF on March 11, 2025

Figure 1.3 illustrates Nevada Performance on 'Recurrence of Maltreatment'. As shown, Nevada is statistically worse than the national performance.

Table 1.4: Percent of Children without Recurrent of Maltreatment in Home Settings

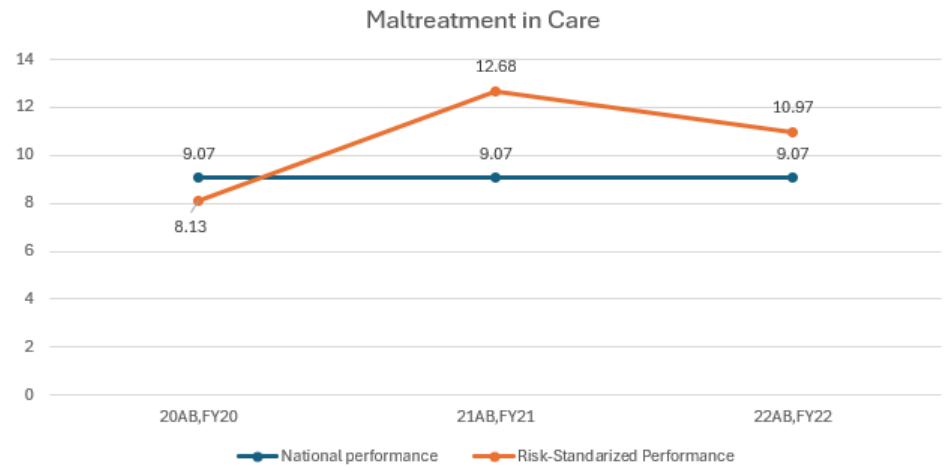
Region	*SFY2021*	*SFY2022*	*SFY2023*	*SFY2024*	*SFY2025 YTD**
Clark	94.72%	93.75%	94%	94.65%	96.07%
Washoe	96.33%	95.91%	97.43%	94.22%	95.56%
Rural	97.73%	96.68%	98%	97.93%	98.15%
Statewide	**95.19%**	**94.19%**	**94.65%**	**94.75%**	**96.14%**

*Data Source: UNITY Report CFS7L8 (*Note: SFY 2025 YTD includes nine months of data: July 1, 2024 – March 20, 2025)*

Table 1.4 illustrates the effectiveness of child protective services in reducing the risk of harm for children who have been maltreated. For children with a substantiated report of abuse and/or neglect, the table reflects the percentage of children who did not have a substantiated report in the six months following a substantiated report during each year for SFY2021 through SFY2025 YTD.

At the completion of the last Statewide Assessment in 2018, the percentage of children without recurrence of maltreatment in home settings was 98.37%. Nevada saw a decrease of approximately 3-4% since that time, however, as of March 20, 2025, Nevada had a slight increase with the current percentage of children in home settings without a recurrence of maltreatment at 96.14%

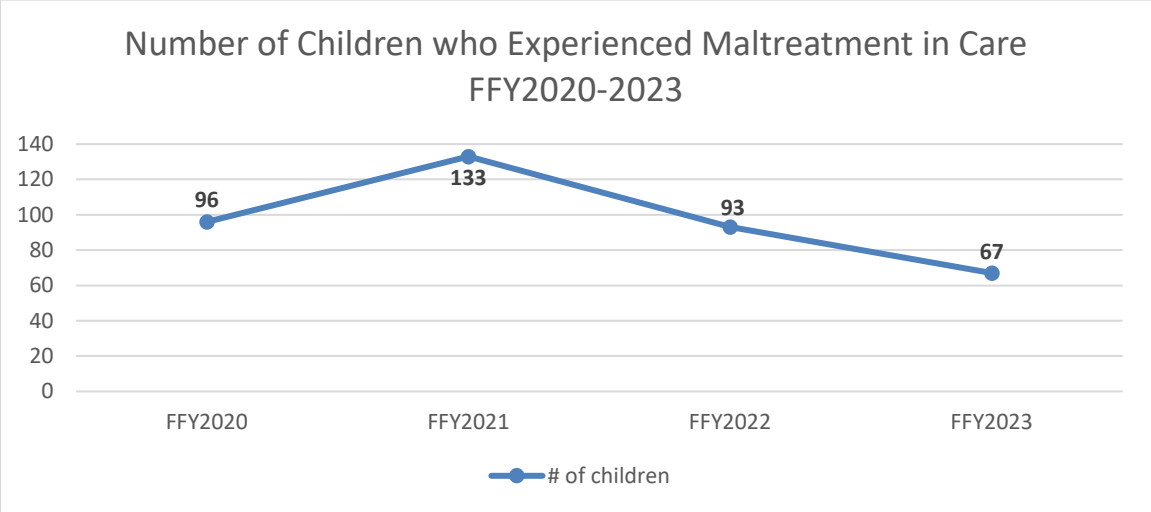
Figure 1.5: Maltreatment in Care



Data Source: CFSR Round 4 Statewide Data Indicators provided by ACF on March 11, 2025

Figure 1.5 illustrates Nevada Performance on 'Maltreatment in Care'. As shown, maltreatment in care saw an increase during FFY2021, however, it has decreased in subsequent FFYs. Nevada remains statistically worse than the national performance.

Figure 1.6: Number of Children who Experienced Maltreatment in Care



Source: DHS Office of Analytics
Note: This graph identifies the unique number of children who experienced maltreatment in care. From FFY2021 through FFY2023, there were several children that experienced maltreatment in care 2 times (3 children in FFY2021, 8 children in FFY2022, and 3 children in FFY2023).

Figure 1.6 illustrates the number of children by FFY that experienced maltreatment in care. As shown, Nevada had an increase in FFY2021, but the number has decreased in subsequent FFYs.

Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

Results listed in the tables below outline case reviews conducted at the onset of CFSR Round 3, CFSR Round 3 Completion, and ongoing reviews, with the most recent assessment period which reviewed

65 cases occurring in September 2024, January 2025, February 2025, and March 2025. This data is included for CFSR items 1-18. The overall rating is based on the last two assessment periods.

Item 2: Services to families to protect children in home and prevent removal or re-entry into foster care

Pursuant to NRS 432B.340, when an agency which provides child welfare services determines that a child needs protection, but is not in imminent danger of abuse or neglect, the agency may offer the parents a plan for services and inform the parents that the agency has no legal authority to compel the family to accept the plan or file a petition pursuant to NRS 432B.490 and if the child is in need of protection, request that the child be removed from the custody of his or her parents. NRS 432B.393 requires that the agency that provides child welfare services make reasonable efforts to keep the child safely in the home before consideration is made to place the child outside of the home.

Item 2 addresses the services needed to mitigate safety concerns and/or the risk of child abuse or neglect. The goal of these services is to prevent foster care placement and ensure children can safely remain in their home, with an alternative caregiver, or return home safely from a temporary placement. NAC 432B.240 states that agencies providing child welfare services have a responsibility to preserve families and prevent children's placement outside their homes when possible and appropriate, and to achieve this, they must provide a range of services and commit resources.

Nevada maintains its commitment to CQI through ongoing CFSR. Case review data as of March 2025 is available in Table 2.

Table 2: CFSR/Statewide Quality Improvement Review Data

Performance Item	National Standard	CFSR Round 3 Initial	CFSR Round 3 Completion	Nevada CQI Review	Nevada CQI Review	Overall Rating Movement
Time Period		2018	September 2022	2023 - 2024	March 2025	
Item 2: Services to Families to Protect Children in Home and Prevent Removal or Re-Entry into Foster Care	90%	71.88%	84.09%	85.00%	71.43%	↓
Cases Reviewed		80	84	71	65	

Source: OMS state rating summary reports based on strength ratings.
CFSR Round 3 Initial = State Rating Summary which includes Quality Improvement Review Data for WCHSA, CCFS, and DCFS-RR data pulled in 2018.
Nevada CFSR Round 3 Completion = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QTR 9, DCFS-RR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, & Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.
Nevada CQI Review (2023-2024) = Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2023, November 2023, February 2024, and April 2024)], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.
Nevada CQI Review = PUR Start Date(s): [Jul 01, 2023, Jan 01, 2024], Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2024, Sep 2024, Jan 2025, Feb 2025, Mar 2025], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.

The overall federal performance expectation for Item 2 'Services to Family to Protect Children in the Home and Prevent Removal or Re-Entry into Foster Care' is 90%. Nevada's strength rating for this item was 71.43% statewide as of March 2025.

To understand trends related to strengths and areas for improvement, the DCFS FPO analyzed Item 2 rationales. The identified strengths included thorough documentation that evidenced:

- In-home safety planning.
- Communication with safety providers regarding safety threats and their commitment to ensuring child safety.
- Consistent check-ins with safety providers as outlined in the safety plan.
- Identification and participation in treatment services for parents.
- Adherence to the safety plan.
- Safe in-home plans, both at the onset of the case and after a return to in-home care.
- For children entering care during the period under review (PUR), documentation demonstrating that all other options were exhausted, and removal was unavoidable.

The identified areas needing improvement included deficiencies in thorough documentation that evidenced:

- Some cases were identified where a formal safety plan was not implemented which resulted in obtaining a warrant for removal.
- Lack of understanding of the federal expectation regarding the interpretation of safety services vs. case planning services.
- Failure to adjust the safety plan in response to a new allegation of maltreatment and a subsequent maltreatment incident.

To bring Nevada into alignment with the federal interpretation of safety planning versus case planning in Item 2, Nevada DCFS will articulate the differences more clearly in the updated CFSR reviewer training. The training will emphasize Item 2 ratings should be based on safety services provided to families prior to removal to ensure children remain in the home, not on case plan specifics.

Caseworkers who conduct investigations were asked about barriers or strengths in obtaining services for families to protect child(ren) in their home and prevent their removal. 42 caseworkers statewide completed this survey and nearly every respondent identified “insufficient or inadequate community services” (n = 32 participants), especially mental health and parenting programs, as a critical barrier. “Lack of family support/involvement and lack of financial/material resources” are also seen as major barriers, highlighting both social and economic vulnerabilities. “Delays in accessing services” were also a common concern; 34 participants indicated they encountered challenges in coordinating services. Communication breakdowns among agencies were noted by one-third of participants, pointing to systemic inefficiencies.

Item 3: Risk and Safety Assessment and Management

Per NAC 432B.150, when an agency which provides child welfare services receives a report made pursuant to NRS 432B.220, or from law enforcement, an initial evaluation must be conducted to determine if the situation or condition of the child makes child welfare services appropriate.

If an agency assigns the report for investigation, a safety assessment is required to be completed upon the initial face-to-face contact with the alleged child victim pursuant to NAC 432B.185. In addition, NAC 432B.185 requires the development of a safety plan to ensure the immediate protection of a child while safety threats are being addressed. A Safety Assessment is required to be completed at case milestones as outlined in NAC 432B.185. Statewide policies 0508 Nevada Initial Assessment (NIA), 0509 Alternative Nevada Initial Assessment, and 0510 Nevada Safety Assessment address this information.

As part of the most recent PIP, a statewide team created two safety assessment reports that track the initial and ongoing safety assessments statewide. During a recent statewide discussion with CQI teams from the jurisdictions it was learned that the reports are not being used consistently.

Nevada revised the 0510 Nevada Safety Assessments policy in 2024 to provide clear guidance to workers for when safety assessments are required during a case, from case initiation to case closure. Nevada utilizes the Action 4 Child Protection child welfare model. This policy identifies all assessments in this model that are considered safety assessments, helping workers recognize and understand their dual purpose. The policy differentiates between formal and informal safety assessments and what observations workers should make during informal safety assessments to ensure sufficient information is gathered by the caseworker that will inform the child's safety.

Nevada continues to conduct statewide reviews after the CFSR Round 3 completion. Table 3.1 is the most current case review data for Item 3. Nevada has seen a slight decrease in Item 3 strength ratings since the completion of its last PIP in September of 2022.

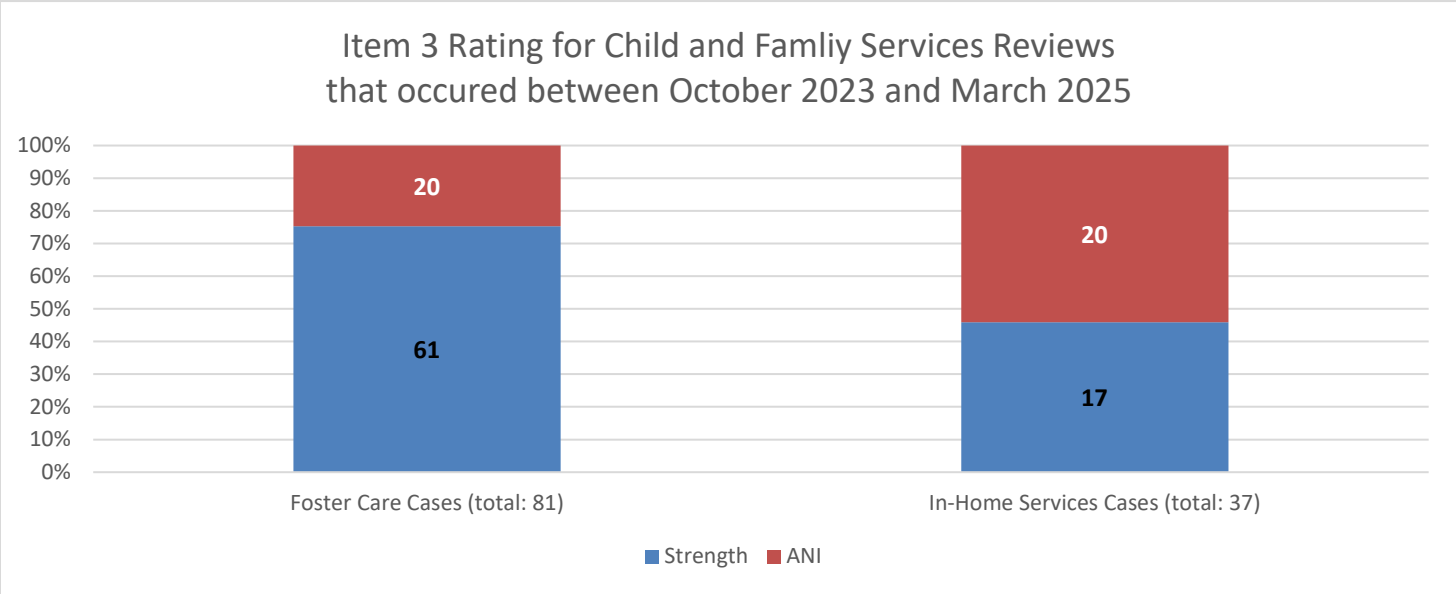
Table 3.1: CFSR Data

Performance Item	National Standard	CFSR Round 3 Initial	CFSR Round 3 Completion	Nevada CQI Review	Nevada CQI Review	Overall Rating Movement
Time Period		2018	September 2022	2023 - 2024	March 2025	
Item 3: Risk Assessment and Safety Management	90%	46.25%	70.59%	73.24%	69.23%	↓
Cases Reviewed		80	84	71	65	

Source: OMS state rating summary reports based on strength ratings.
CFSR Round 3 Initial = State Rating Summary which includes Quality Improvement Review Data for WCHSA, CCFS, and DCFS-RR data pulled in 2018.
Nevada CFSR Round 3 Completion = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QTR 9, DCFS-RR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, & Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.
Nevada CQI Review (2023-2024) = Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2023, November 2023, February 2024, and April 2024)], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.
Nevada CQI Review = PUR Start Date(s): [Jul 01, 2023, Jan 01, 2024], Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2024, Sep 2024, Jan 2025, Feb 2025, Mar 2025], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.

Nevada has completed deeper data exploration to identify trends in cases where Item 3 was rated as an area needing improvement. Nevada reviewed item rating summaries for Item 3 in the last 118 case reviews completed between October 2023 and March 2025.

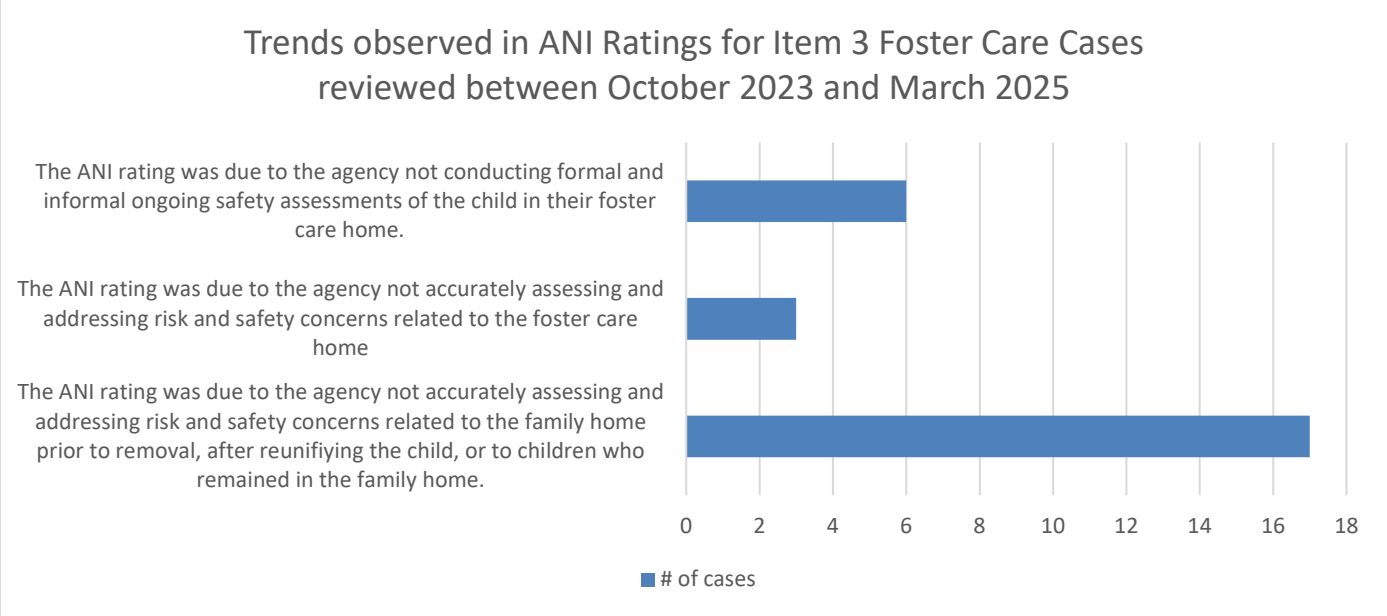
Figure 3.2: Item 3 Rating for Child and Family Services Reviews



Source: OMS item rating summary reports.

Figure 3.2 illustrates the Item 3 rating for case reviews completed between October 2023 and March 2025.

Figure 3.3: Trends observed in ANI Ratings for Item 3 Foster Care Cases



Source: OMS item rating summary reports.

Figure 3.3 illustrates trends identified in area needing improvement (ANI) ratings for foster care case reviews completed between October 2023 and March 2025.

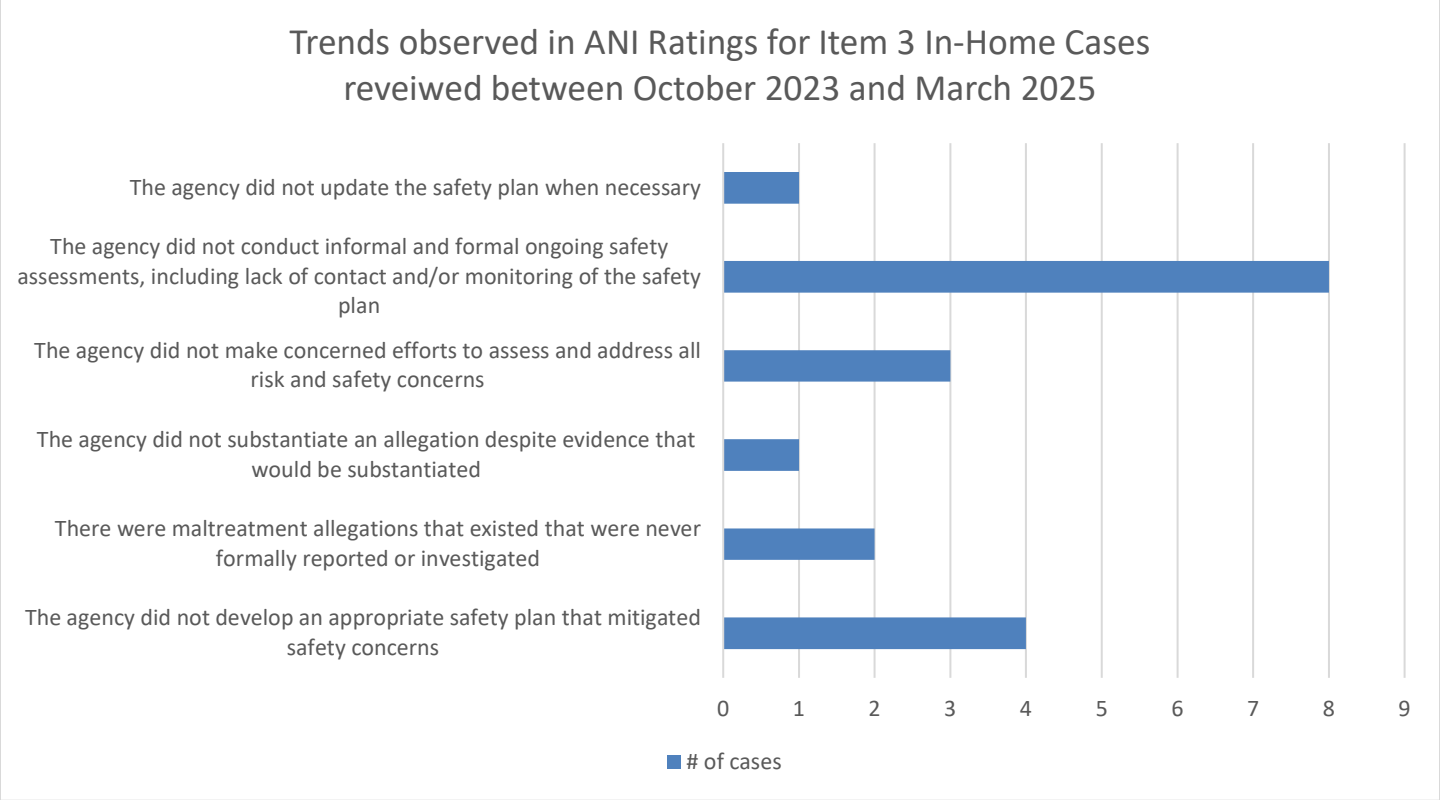
Of the foster care cases reviewed where Item 3 was rated as an area needing improvement, it was determined to be related to the family home and not the foster care home:

- 6 cases were due to the agency not making concerted efforts to assess and address risk and safety concerns of the child(ren) prior to removal.

- 5 cases were due to the agency not making concerted efforts to assess and address risk and safety concerns to the child(ren) who remained in the family home.
- 2 cases were due to the child(ren) being reunified with the parent(s), not all safety issues being addressed, and there were still risks to the child(ren).
- 2 cases were due to no safety assessment being completed before reunifying the child(ren) with their parent(s).

Of the ANI ratings related to the target child in foster care, informal and formal assessments were not completed, including lack of monthly contacts with the target child, not meeting with the target child alone, or not asking questions pertaining to the child's safety.

Figure 3.4: Trends observed in ANI Ratings for Item 3 In-Home Cases



Source: OMS item rating summary reports.

Figure 3.4 illustrates trends identified in ANI ratings for in-home case reviews completed between October 2023 and March 2025.

Nevada does well in assessing and addressing all risk and safety concerns for children in foster care. Many of the ANI ratings for foster care cases stem from times in the case when the child had not yet been removed from the home or when there were children remaining in the family home. A trend noted with in-home cases is ongoing assessments of safety are not occurring either due to lack of regular contact with the family and/or lack of monitoring the safety plan.

The overall federal performance expectation for Item 3, 'Risk and Safety Assessment and Management' is 90%. Nevada's rating is 69.23% as of March 2025.

Permanency Outcomes 1 and 2

Permanency outcomes include: (A) children have permanency and stability in their living situations; and (B) the continuity of family relationships is preserved for children.

Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations

Results listed in the tables below outline case reviews conducted at the onset of CFSR Round 3, CFSR Round 3 Completion, and ongoing reviews, with the most recent assessment period which reviewed 65 cases occurring in September 2024, January 2025, February 2025, and March 2025. This data is included for CFSR items 1-18. The overall rating is based on the last two assessment periods.

Item 4: Stability of foster care placement

NRS and NAC support the placement stability of children in foster care by requiring child welfare agencies to assess the individual needs of the child, and to place that child in the least restrictive environment that is consistent with the identified needs. NRS 432B.390 specifically mandates that relatives of the child within the fifth degree of consanguinity be given preference for placement, when removal from the parents' home is necessary for the child's safety. Child welfare agencies are also required to place siblings together when possible. Policy requires the agency to provide the foster care provider with appropriate information about the child's family, medical, and behavioral history, as well as discuss the child's plan for permanency, and any needs prior to placement. The purpose of sharing such information is to identify and provide for the most appropriate matched foster home (NRS 424.038(1), NRS 432B.390, NAC 424.465, policy 0207 Health Services).

NAC further requires information about the child's situation and needs to be continually shared by the child welfare agency and the foster care providers in a timely manner, thereby ensuring the child's needs are continually addressed with appropriate services. An additional requirement of child welfare agencies is to provide a program of respite for the foster care providers (NAC 424.810, NAC 424.805). NAC supports placement stability by requiring a foster care provider provide the child welfare agency with 10 working days' notice of any request for the removal of the child from that home unless they have a contrary agreement, or if there are immediate and unanticipated safety issues, thus giving the agency time to respond to issues that may have caused the instability (NRS 424.018, NAC 424.478, policy 1304 Respite).

NRS 424.042 requires the DCFS to periodically review the placement of children in specialized foster care homes and develop corrective action plans when placements are not appropriate. The child welfare agencies have internal processes to review individual cases and the appropriateness of placements. The DCFS Program and Evaluation Unit (PEU) collects data on demographics and clinical evaluations of children placed in specialized foster care homes.

Other statewide policies require caseworkers to visit children in foster care once every month and direct a portion of this monthly visit to assess the child's adjustment to the placement and the stability of the placement. The caseworkers must also meet with the foster care provider and discuss the service needs of the child or provider to support the placement (policy 0205 Caseworker Contacts).

Item 4 was supported by PIP activities during CFSR Round 3. Nevada developed trainings for designated staff in both Motivational Interviewing and Trauma Informed Communication. Placement stability is supported as placements with relatives have proven to be more stable long term, and better for the youth's well-being. Key activities required updates to the KinGAP policy to soften the language,

provide more flexibility, and additionally focused on improvements to the diligent search process.

Nevada has continued to conduct statewide reviews after the CFSR Round 3 completion. The following table (Table 4.1) is the most current case review data for item 4. Nevada has seen a decrease in Item 4 strength ratings since the completion of its last PIP, in Sept of 2022.

Table 4.1: CFSR Data

Performance Item	National Standard	CFSR Round 3 Initial	CFSR Round 3 Completion	Nevada CQI Review	Nevada CQI Review	Overall Rating Movement
Time Period		2018	September 2022	2023 - 2024	March 2025	
Item 4: Stability of Foster Care Placement	90%	72.73%	77.19%	80.85%	76.6%	↓
Cases Reviewed		80	84	71	65	

Source: OMS state rating summary reports based on strength ratings.
CFSR Round 2 Initial = State Rating Summary which includes Quality Improvement Review Data for WCHSA, CCFS, and DCFS-RR data pulled in 2018.
Nevada CFSR Round 3 Completion = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QTR 9, DCFS-RR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, & Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.
Nevada CQI Review (2023-2024) = Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2023, November 2023, February 2024, and April 2024)], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.
Nevada CQI Review = PUR Start Date(s): [Jul 01, 2023, Jan 01, 2024], Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2024, Sep 2024, Jan 2025, Feb 2025, Mar 2025], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.

The overall federal performance expectation for Item 4 Stability of Foster Care Placement is 90%. The results reflected the state achieved a strength rating for Item 4 in 76.6% of cases reviewed. This performance reflects a decrease from the CFSR Round 3 PIP completion in September 2022, however, this is still an increase from the onset of the Round 3 CFSR.

CFSR Placement Stability Findings per Jurisdiction:

- In Clark County, in reviewing 21 specific case examples, the total number of reported placements was 35, resulting in an average of approximately 1.67 placements per child during the PUR.
- For the DCFS – Rural Region, in reviewing 19 specific case examples, the total number of reported placements was 43, resulting in an average of approximately 2.26 placements per child.
- In Washoe County, in reviewing 11 specific case examples, the total number of reported placements was 18, resulting in an average of approximately 1.64 placements per child.

The samples suggest the DCFS – Rural Region sample had a slightly higher average number of placements per child during the review period compared to the samples from Clark and Washoe Counties.

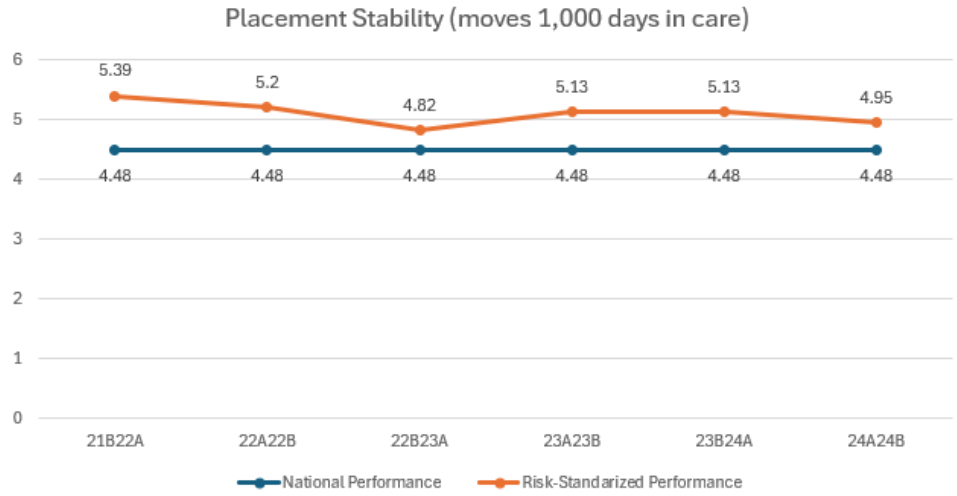
Across all three regions, several key reasons were identified for placement changes or disruptions:

- A very common reason is when the foster parent or caregiver requested the child leave or gave notice. This is often due to the caregiver stating they could no longer handle the child's behaviors or cited incompatibility. Specific behaviors mentioned include unmanageable, aggressive, or defiant actions, not following instructions, throwing items, calling profane names, destroying property, or inappropriate touching.

- Disruptions occurred due to a lack of available resources. This includes moves to temporary placements such as emergency shelters when suitable placements were not immediately available.
- Placements ended when the prospective or current placement determined they were not able to meet the child's needs or were not ready to provide long-term permanency, even if it was a relative or fictive kin placement initially.

Common reasons for disruption across regions highlight challenges related to caregiver capacity to manage complex needs, systemic issues with placement availability and timely planning, and caregivers' readiness for long-term commitment.

Figure 4.2: Number of placement moves per day of Nevada children who entered care in a 12-month period experienced during that year



Source: CFSR Round 4 Statewide Data Indicators provided by ACF on 03/11/2025

Figure 4.2 illustrates Nevada performance on 'Placement Stability (moves/1,000 days in care)'. As shown, the number of placement moves per day of children who entered care in a 12-month period remained relatively stable, with a slight decrease in FFY22A22B and again in FFY24A24B. Nevada remains statistically worse than the national performance.

Item 5: Permanency goal for child

NRS 432B.393, NRS 432B.540, NRS 432B.553, NRS 432B.580 and NRS 432B.590 require agencies that provide child welfare services to adopt a plan for permanency in accordance with the requirements and timeframes in the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA); including periodic case review by the Courts. NAC 423B.013, NAC 423B.1364, NAC 423B.1366, NAC 423B.160, NAC 423B.180, NAC 423B.185, NAC 423B.190, NAC 423B.200, NAC 423B.210, NAC 423B.240, NAC 423B.261, NAC 423B.2625 and NAC 423B.263 provide the authority and requirements for assessing a child's safety needs, child and family strengths/needs, and risk factors to determine the most appropriate permanency goal(s).

Statewide policies provide the foundation for the development of permanency planning, 0204 Permanency and Case Planning and 0508 Nevada Initial Assessment (NIA). The case plan should include a statement addressing goals and objectives; a description of the home or institution where the child is placed; a description of the safety and appropriateness of the placement in order to ensure proper care and accomplishment of case plan goals; and a description of the manner in which the

agency ensures services are provided to the child and foster parents, which address the needs of the child. The agencies are further required to document all progress towards permanency, and if termination of parental rights is necessary, agencies are required to identify and document the obstacles to permanent placement of the child and specific steps required to find a stable and permanent home (NRS 432B.553; NAC 432B.400; NAC 432B.2625).

Statewide policy 0501 ASFA – Reasonable Efforts specifically directs development of an appropriate and comprehensive case plan to address the safe return of the child to the family when a child cannot remain safely in their home during a crisis period. The 1001 Diligent Search and Notice policy directs the child welfare agencies to conduct searches to identify, locate, and contact relatives regarding their interest in providing a temporary or permanent placement for or adopting a child prior to or when the child is placed in substitute care.

NRS 432B.590 mandates a court review of the progress toward achievement of the permanency goal at a minimum of six-month intervals. NRS 432B.590 requires that if a child has been placed outside of the home and has resided outside of the home pursuant to that placement for 14 months of any 20 consecutive months, the best interests of the child must be presumed to be served by the termination of parental rights. This is more stringent than the federal requirement of 15 out of 22 months.

Nevada was not on a PIP for this item during CFSR Round 3; however, several key activities during the PIP focused on updating statewide policy 0204 Permanency and Case Planning, 0508 Nevada Initial Assessment, and created a Concurrent Planning Guide as the foundation for the development of permanency planning.

Nevada has continued to conduct statewide reviews after the CFSR Round 3 completion. Table 5.1 is the most current case review data for Item 5. Nevada has seen an increase in Item 5 strength ratings since the completion of its last PIP.

Table 5.1: CFSR Data

Performance Item	National Standard	CFSR Round 3 Initial	CFSR Round 3 Completion	Nevada CQI Review	Nevada CQI Review	Overall Rating Movement
Time Period		2018	September 2022	2023 - 2024	March 2025	
Item 5: Permanency Goal for Child	90%	41.82%	63.16%	85.11%	70.21%	↑
Cases Reviewed		80	84	71	65	

Source: OMS state rating summary reports based on strength ratings.
CFSR Round 2 Initial = State Rating Summary which includes Quality Improvement Review Data for WCHSA, CCFS, and DCFS-RR data pulled in 2018.
Nevada CFSR Round 3 Completion = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QTR 9, DCFS-RR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, & Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.
Nevada CQI Review (2023-2024) = Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2023, November 2023, February 2024, and April 2024)], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.
Nevada CQI Review = PUR Start Date(s): [Jul 01, 2023, Jan 01, 2024], Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2024, Sep 2024, Jan 2025, Feb 2025, Mar 2025], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.

The overall federal performance expectation for Item 5 Permanency Goal for Child is 90%. Nevada conducts CQI case reviews utilizing the federal Onsite Review Instrument (OSRI) and mimics other aspects of the federal CFSR. The results reflected the state achieved a strength rating for Item 5 in 70.21% of cases reviewed. This performance reflects a continual increase from the onset of Round 3 CFSR completed in 2018. Nevada's Court Improvement Program (CIP) utilizes the Judicial, Court, and

Attorney Measures of Performance (JCAMP) to collect data on the court's performance in child welfare cases. 68 review and permanency court hearings were observed, and the court discussed the child's permanency goal at 97% of these hearings (Source: JCAMP Data).

Item 5 is most frequently rated as a strength. The analysis of these case review results indicates that when Item 5 is considered a strength, it is consistently attributed to the timely establishment of appropriate permanency goals for the child, matching their needs and the case circumstances. In many of these cases, even if the child had been in care for 15 of the most recent 22 months, either a timely Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) petition was filed, or specific exceptions to the TPR filing requirement applied, often related to the child being cared for by a relative or compelling reasons being documented. Nevada believes the decrease in strength ratings is due to the failure to file the TPR petition in a timely manner. Another contributing factor to the ANI ratings is when the chosen permanency goal is deemed inappropriate given the duration of the child's time in care, lack of progress by parents, or the child's expressed wishes.

Item 6: Achieving reunification, guardianship, adoption, or other planned permanent living arrangement.

Achieving permanency is supported by NRS, NAC, and statewide policy by encouraging child welfare agencies to attain permanency timely. State laws and regulations require that the agencies adopt a plan for the permanent placement of the child. This plan is to be monitored by the court at the time the youth is placed in foster care and annually thereafter. The plan for permanent placement or case plan is to include a statement addressing goals and objectives; a description of the home or institution wherein the child is placed; and a description of the safety and appropriateness of the placement to ensure proper care and accomplishment of case plan goals; and, a description of the manner in which the agency ensures services are provided to the child and foster parents, which address the needs of the child. The agencies are further required to document all progress towards permanency, and, if termination of parental rights is necessary, agencies are required to identify and document the obstacles to permanent placement of the child and specific steps required to find a stable and permanent home (NRS 432B.553, NAC 432B.400, NAC 432B.2625, Policy 0204 Permanency and Case Planning, Policy 1004 Termination of Parental Rights).

Reunification: NRS 432B.393 requires agencies to make reasonable efforts to prevent a child's removal from the parents' home, or if removal is necessary, reasonable efforts to make their safe return possible. If the removal of a child from the physical custody of their parents is deemed necessary, NRS 432B.540 requires the child welfare agency to develop a plan designed to achieve placement of the child in a safe setting as near to the residence of their parent as possible and consistent with the best interests and special needs of the child. NAC 432B.190, NAC 432B.200, NAC 432B.210, and NAC 432B.220 outline case planning requirements with an emphasis on the ways the agency will engage the family and their existing community of support to strengthen parental capacities.

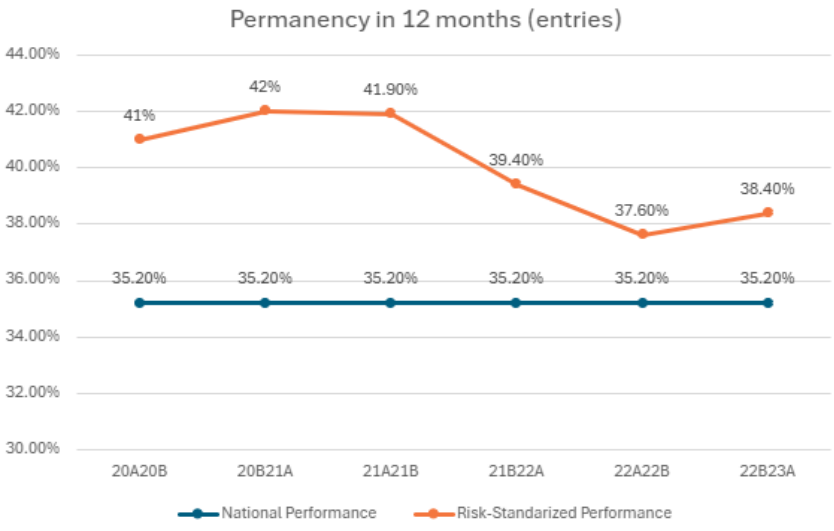
Guardianship: NRS 432B.466 through NRS 432B.468 allow for guardianship as a permanency option. The statewide policy 1010 Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KinGAP) was revised to allow fictive kin to be considered for guardianship.

Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA): Nevada statutes and policy require that a written case plan be developed for children with this permanency goal and that the plan includes programs and services designed to assist older youth in transitioning out of care. NAC 432B.410

requires child welfare services develop a plan to ensure that each child in foster care who is eligible for services related to independent living has a written plan for transitional independent living based on the assessment of the youth's skills. Statewide policy 0801 Youth Independent Living Program was developed to address the needs of youth who were likely to remain in care until their 18th birthday and to prepare them for transition into adulthood. This policy requires agencies that provide child welfare services to establish self-sufficiency goals for youth beginning at age 14. The planning process must be youth focused and driven with an emphasis on the youth's expressed interests, needs, and priorities.

Adoption: NRS 432B.390 specifically mandates that relatives of the child within the fifth degree of consanguinity, or fictive kin, be given preference for placement, when removal from the parents' home is necessary for the child's safety. NRS 432B.553 requires agencies which provide child welfare services to adopt a plan for the permanent placement of the child for review by the court. NRS 432B.580 requires a semi-annual court review for the child's placement. NAC 432B.2625 requires the agency to identify and document the obstacles to placement of the child, and to specify the steps needed to find an appropriate home for the child in a report to the court if a child has not been placed into an adoptive home within 90 days after the termination of parental rights. Statewide policies, 0204 Permanency and Case Planning and 0103 Adoption of Children aged 12 and over, indicate that adoption is the preferred permanency goal when it is determined that a child cannot be reunited with their birth family. The 1001 Diligent Search Process and Notice policy directs agencies to begin search activities and identification of family members during the initial contact with the family and requires that they are initiated no later than at the time the Safety Plan is completed. Statewide policy 1004 Termination of Parental Rights (TPR), in compliance with ASFA, requires adoption proceedings be completed within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (in alignment with ASFA) and requires permanency-planning decisions involving adoption to be timely, consistent with state and federal time frames, and consider the best interest of the child.

Figure 6.1: Number of children who entered foster care that achieved permanency within 12 months of entering foster care

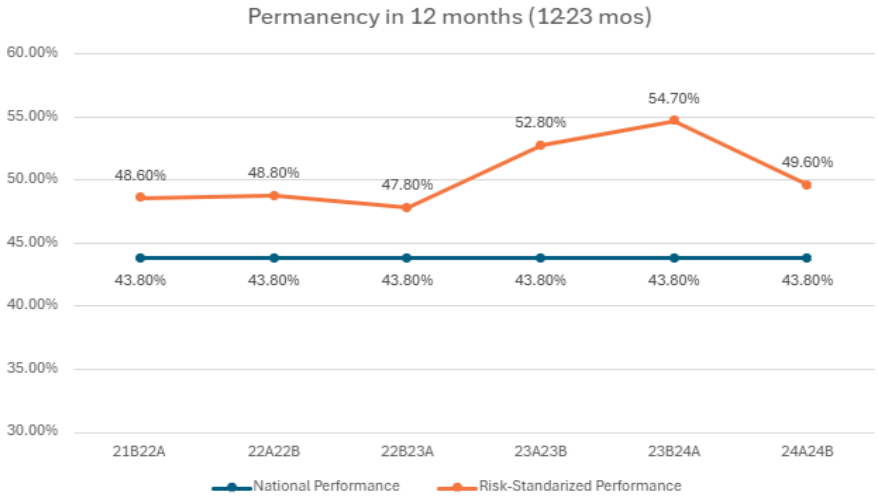


Data Source: CFSR Round 4 Statewide Data Indicators provided by ACF on 03/11/2025.

Figure 6.1 illustrates Nevada Performance on Permanency in 12 months (entries). As shown, permanency in 12 months from the time of entry saw an increase during FFY20B21A, however, has

decreased in subsequent submissions until FFY22B23A which saw a slight increase. Nevada remains statistically better than the national performance.

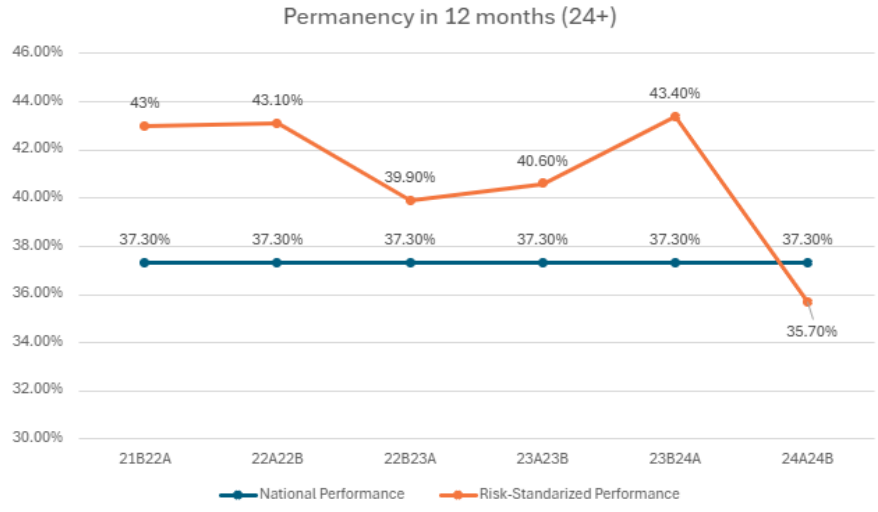
Figure 6.2: Number of children in care for 12-23 months at the start of the 12-month period who exited to permanency in the subsequent 12 months



Data Source: CFSR Round 4 Statewide Data Indicators provided by ACF on 03/11/2025.

Figure 6.2 illustrates Nevada Performance on Permanency in 12 months (12-23 months). As shown, permanency in the subsequent 12 months for children who had been in care for 12-23 months at the start of the 12-month period saw an increase during FFY23A23B and FFY23B24A and then a decrease in FFY24A24B. Nevada remains statistically better than the national performance.

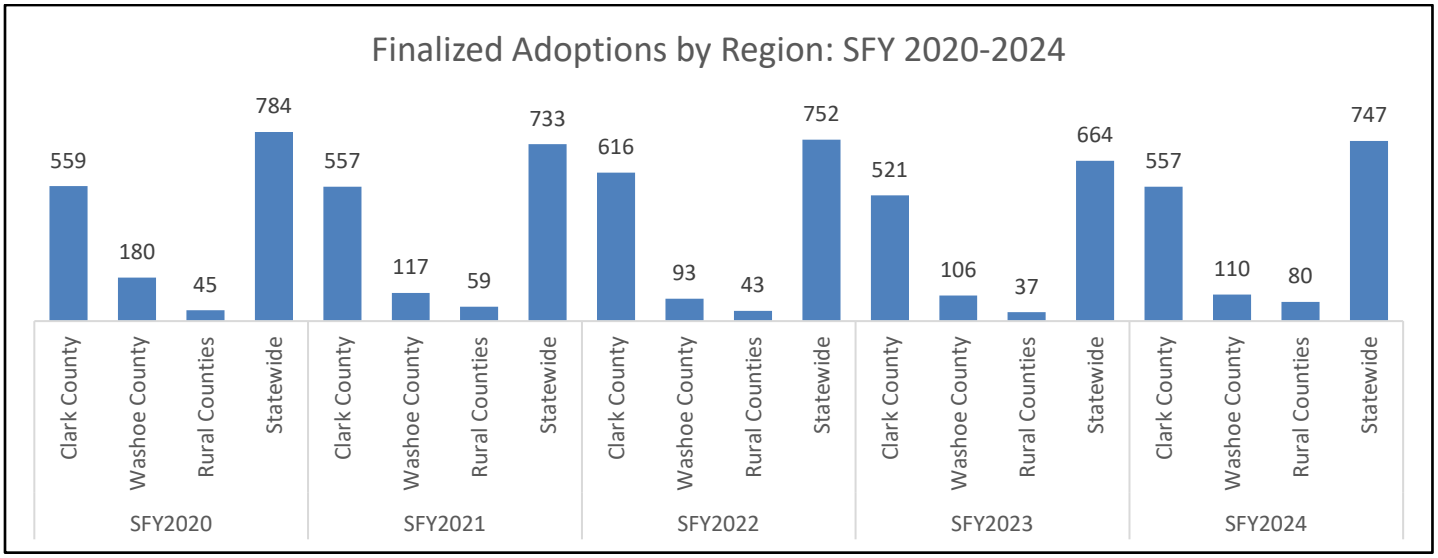
Figure 6.3: Number of children in care for 24 months or more at the start of the 12-month period who exited to permanency in the subsequent 12 months



Data Source: CFSR Round 4 Statewide Data Indicators provided by ACF on 03/11/2025.

Figure 6.3 illustrates Nevada Performance on Permanency in 12 months (24+ months). As shown, permanency in the subsequent 12 months for children in care for 24+ months at the start of the 12-month period saw a decrease during FFY22A22B followed by an increase during FFY23A23B and FFY23B24A. Nevada experienced a sharp decrease during the most recent submission for FFY24A24B resulting in being statistically no different than the national performance.

Figure 6.4: Finalized Adoptions by Region



Source: UNITY database

Figure 6.4 illustrates a 4.8% decrease statewide in finalized Adoptions comparing SFY2020 to SFY2024. Data is exclusively provided for adoptions facilitated by child welfare agencies and does not encompass those from private adoption agencies.

Table 6.5: Adoptions in Less than 24 Months

	Adoptions with a Custody Date in UNITY	Custody to Adoption Average Months	Number Adopted in less than 24 Months	Percentage Adopted in less than 24 Months
Adoption in Less than 24 Months ***July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2021***	1,517	33	433	25%
Adoption in Less than 24 Months ***July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2022***	1,485	34	367	26%
Adoption in Less than 24 Months ***July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023***	1,416	34	349	25%
Adoption in Less than 24 Months ***July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2024***	1,406	32	414	30%

Source: UNITY Report CFS732

Table 6.5 illustrates the percentage of children adopted in less than 24 months with an increase of approximately 5% of children being adopted in less than 24 months in the most recent review period. Please note that Nevada measures the average months to adoption from the date of removal on UNITY report CFS732.

Nevada's Court Improvement Program (CIP) utilizes the JCAMP to collect data on the court's performance in child welfare cases. 68 review and permanency court hearings were observed, and the court discussed the child's permanency goal at 97% of these hearings (Source: JCAMP Data).

Table 6.6: Finalized Reunifications by Region

	Reunification									
	July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020		July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021		July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022		July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023		July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Clark	1,346	81%	1,289	79%	1,170	78%	1,224	80%	1,220	85%
Rural	131	8%	118	7%	100	7%	104	7%	82	6%
Washoe	195	12%	223	14%	234	16%	193	13%	141	10%
Statewide	**1,672**	100%	**1,630**	100	**1,504**	100%	**1,521**	100%	**1,443**	100%

Source: AFCARS Report

Table 6.6 illustrates foster care cases closed due to reunification with parents:

- Clark County consistently accounted for the majority of successful reunifications statewide, with reunification rates ranging from 78% to 85% over the five-year period. After a slight dip in FY2022 (78%), the rate rose steadily, reaching a five-year high of 85% in FY2024. This trend indicates strong and improving efforts toward family reunification in the county.
- DCFS – RR had significantly lower reunification rates, holding steady at 7% to 8% from FY2020 to FY2023, then dropping slightly to 6% in FY2024. This persistent low rate highlights a gap in reunification outcomes in rural areas, suggesting a need for additional support or systemic review to address barriers to reunification.
- Washoe County showed a modest upward trend from 12% in FY2020 to a peak of 16% in FY2022, followed by a decline to 10% in FY2024. The recent downward trend may indicate emerging challenges in maintaining success of reunifications.

Statewide, reunification outcomes have been largely driven by Clark County, which represents the majority of reunified cases. Despite regional differences, the overall statewide trend reflects relative stability with a slight upward movement in reunification in recent years.

Table 6.7: Finalized Guardianships by Region

	Guardianship									
	July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020		July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021		July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022		July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023		July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Clark	184	88%	206	82%	204	78%	222	84%	226	82%
Rural	17	8%	29	12%	30	11%	20	8%	27	10%
Washoe	9	4%	16	6%	27	10%	23	9%	24	9%
Statewide	**210**	**100%**	**251**	**100%**	**261**	**100%**	**265**	**100%**	**277**	**100%**

Source: AFCARS report

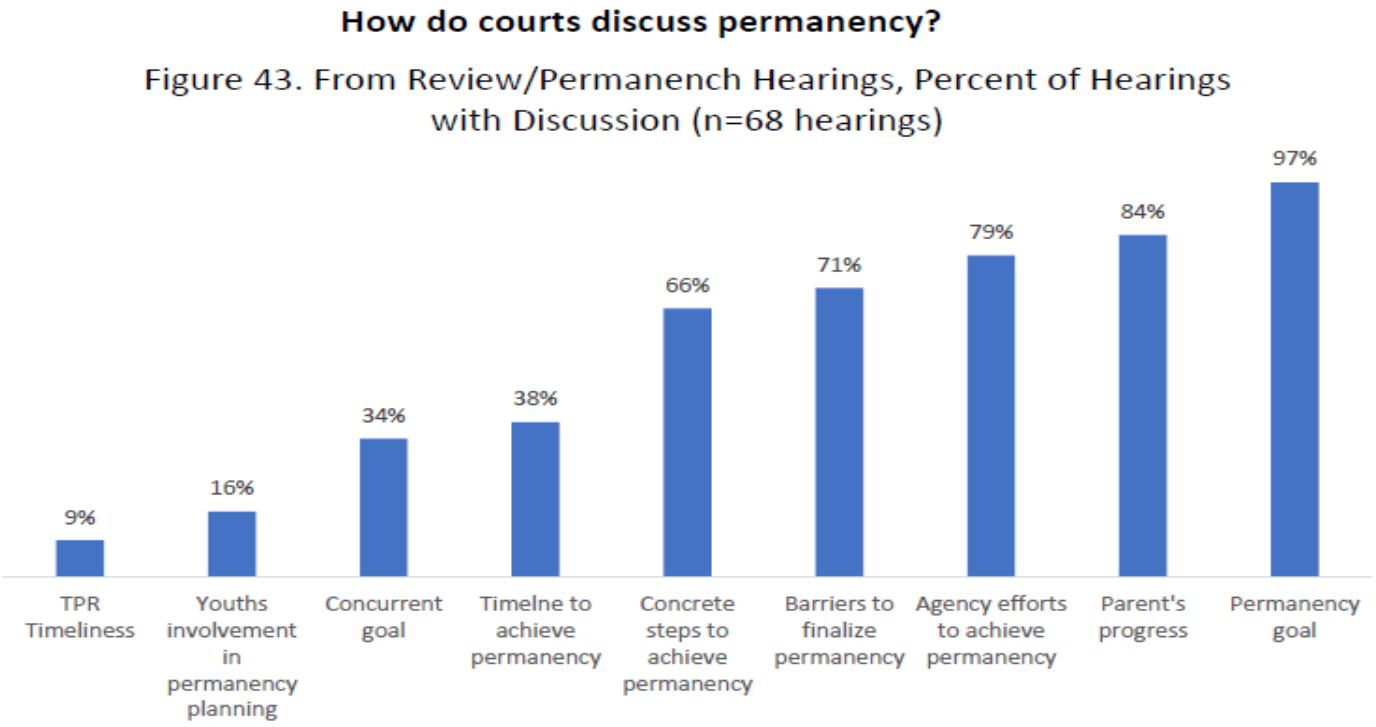
Table 6.7 illustrates a summary of the finalized guardianship rates:

- Clark County reported the highest percentage of foster care case closures through guardianship, with rates ranging from 78% to 88% over the five-year period. After a low of 78% in FY2022, the rate rebounded to 84% in FY2023 and held steady at 82% in FY2024.

- DCFS – RR reported lower guardianship closure rates, fluctuating between 8% and 12%. The most recent data for FY2024 shows a slight increase to 10%, following a dip to 8% in FY2023.
- Washoe County reported low guardianship closure rates, gradually increasing from 4% in FY2020 to 9% in both FY2023 and FY2024. The data suggests a slow but steady rise in guardianship outcomes over time.

Statewide, when combining all regions, data indicates Clark County is the primary driver of guardianship closures, accounting for the majority of such cases. While both Washoe County and the Rural Region have shown small gains, their contribution to the overall statewide percentage remains minimal. The statewide trend remains high and relatively stable, ranging from 78% to 88% over the five years.

Figure 6.8: How do courts discuss permanency



Source: JCAMP data

Figure 6.8 illustrates the percentage of observed court hearings (n=68) where each of these topics related to permanency achievement were discussed. TPR timeliness was the least discussed (9%) and permanency goal was the most discussed (97%).

Item 6 was supported by PIP activities during CFSR Round 3. Nevada increased the use of mediation to achieve timely permanency through training to the child welfare workforce, addressed concurrent planning, developed protocols and practice guides to improve the understanding of KinGAP as an alternate permanency plan, improved diligent search of relative caregivers, and initiated practice changes to streamline and expedite the termination of parental rights to reduce the time to permanency in adoption cases.

Nevada has continued to conduct statewide reviews after the CFSR Round 3 completion. Table 6.9 is the most current case review data for Item 6.

Table 6.9: CFSR Data

Performance Item	National Standard	CFSR Round 3 Initial	CFSR Round 3 Completion	Nevada CQI Review	Nevada CQI Review	Overall Rating Movement
Time Period		2018	September 2022	2023 - 2024	March 2025	
Item 6: Achieving Reunification, Guardianship, Adoption, or Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement	90%	18.18%	49.12%	61.70%	53.19%	
Cases Reviewed		80	84	71	65	

Source: OMS state rating summary reports based on strength ratings.
CFSR Round 2 Initial = State Rating Summary which includes Quality Improvement Review Data for WCHSA, CCFS, and DCFS-RR data pulled in 2018.
Nevada CFSR Round 3 Completion = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QTR 9, DCFS-RR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, & Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.
Nevada CQI Review (2023-2024) = Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2023, November 2023, February 2024, and April 2024)], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.
Nevada CQI Review = PUR Start Date(s): [Jul 01, 2023, Jan 01, 2024], Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2024, Sep 2024, Jan 2025, Feb 2025, Mar 2025], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.

The overall federal performance expectation for Item 6 Achieving Reunification, Guardianship, Adoption or Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement is 90%. Nevada conducts CQI case reviews utilizing the federal OSRI and mimics other aspects of the federal CFSR. Nevada conducts four reviews each year, three of which focus on Nevada's two largest Urban areas and one review specific to the DCFS Rural Region, to track the performance and progress on individual items for each child welfare agency. The results of case reviews conducted during assessment period (September 2024, January 2025, February 2025, and March 2025) included an assessment of 65 cases. Results show the state achieved a strength rating of 53.19% for Item 6. This performance reflects an increase from the onset of its Round 3 CFSR completed in 2018 followed by a decrease.

Compiled survey responses from Clark County, DCFS Rural Region, and Washoe County, management and ongoing worker staff, identified the following recurring barriers impacting the timely achievement of permanency for children. The top three trends or barriers identified were:

- **Court and Judicial Delays:** This was the most frequently cited barrier, encompassing delays in hearings, continuances, judges' actions or inactions (e.g., not signing orders, granting excessive time), and issues with attorneys. A total of 66 individuals reported this barrier (Clark County = 31, DCFS Rural Region = 23, Washoe County = 12).
- **Workload, Staffing, Paperwork, and Agency Process Issues:** This category combines frequently mentioned barriers related to high caseloads, insufficient staff, the time required to complete documentation (e.g., social summaries and TPR referrals), and other internal procedural delays. A total of 63 individuals reported this barrier (Clark County = 49, DCFS Rural Region = 11, Washoe County = 3).
- **Lack of Placements and Resources:** The difficulty in finding suitable placements (especially adoptive, foster, or long-term, and particularly for older children or sibling groups), and insufficient resources or services for families and children. A total of 44 individuals reported this barrier (Clark County = 23, DCFS Rural Region = 7, Washoe County = 14).

While Clark County and the DCFS Rural Region appear to report workload/staffing and court delays more frequently than Washoe County, all three jurisdictions indicate these systemic issues significantly impede progress towards permanency outcomes.

Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children

Results listed in the tables below outline case reviews conducted at the onset of CFSR Round 3, CFSR Round 3 Completion, and ongoing reviews, with the most recent assessment period which reviewed 65 cases occurring in September 2024, January 2025, February 2025, and March 2025. This data is included for CFSR items 1-18. The overall rating is based on the last two assessment periods.

Item 7: Placement with siblings

NRS 432B.580, NR432B.390, and statewide policy 1001 Diligent Search Process and Placement Decisions, requires that children be placed together unless there is justification for not doing so based on the best interest of the child. NRS 432B.3905 specifies that a child under the age of 6 may not be placed in a child care institution unless appropriate foster care is not available in the child's home county and reasonable efforts are made to place the child's siblings in the same location, or if placement in a child care institution is required for the child to access medical services or to avoid separating siblings. NRS 432B.550 creates a presumption that it is in the best interest of the child for siblings to be placed together and 432B.580(2)(b) requires that, if siblings are not placed together, there must be a report made to the court detailing the agency's efforts, including a visitation plan for approval by the court. NRS 432.525 – NRS 432.530 established a Sibling Bill of Rights. The state is committed to ensuring siblings are placed together.

Nevada was not on a PIP during CFSR Round 3 for this item but continued to work to improve sibling placements through protocols and practice guides to improve the understanding of KinGAP as an alternate permanency plan and improve diligent search of relative caregivers.

Nevada has continued to conduct statewide reviews after the CFSR Round 3 completion. Table 7.1 is the most current case review data for Item 7. Nevada experienced a slight decrease in Item 7 strength ratings since completion of its last PIP.

Table 7.1: CFSR Data

Performance Item	National Standard	CFSR Round 3 Initial	CFSR Round 3 Completion	Nevada CQI Review	Nevada CQI Review	Overall Rating Movement
Time Period		2018	September 2022	2023 - 2024	March 2025	
Item 7: Placement with Siblings	90%	87.5%	88.64%	93.33%	84.0%	↓
Cases Reviewed		80	84	71	65	

Source: OMS state rating summary reports based on strength ratings.
CFSR Round 3 Initial = State Rating Summary which includes Quality Improvement Review Data for WCHSA, CCFS, and DCFS-RR data pulled in 2018.
Nevada CFSR Round 3 Completion = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QTR 9, DCFS - RR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, and Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.
Nevada CQI Review (2023-2024) = Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2023, November 2023, February 2024, and April 2024)], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.
Nevada CQI Review = PUR Start Date(s): [Jul 01, 2023, Jan 01, 2024], Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2024, Sep 2024, Jan 2025, Feb 2025, Mar 2025], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.

The overall federal performance expectation for Item 7, Placement with Siblings, is 90%. Results reflected the state achieved a strength rating in 84% of cases reviewed. Nevada initially experienced

an increase after the completion of CFSR Round 3, but during most recent reviews, this item decreased.

Per recent CFSR reviews, there were 19 instances where a reason for separation or a lack of a valid reason was identified:

- In 3 cases, no valid reason documented by the agency.
- In 8 cases, meeting the child's or sibling's specific needs of requiring different or higher levels of care. This included unique mental health needs requiring intensive treatment, specific treatment needs like court-ordered restrictive placement, or individual needs requiring different levels of care due to cognitive/mental functioning or challenging behaviors of a child leading to placement disruption.
- In 10 cases, limitations of relative placements. Reasons included relatives being unable or unwilling to care for the entire sibling group due to capacity limits, lack of familial relations with certain siblings, or declining placement of a specific child.
- In 4 cases, there was a lack of sufficient foster family resources. This includes situations where there were not enough foster family resources available to accommodate large sibling groups or temporary lack of resources after a disruption.
- In 6 cases, placement disruption due to a specific incident. This includes temporary placement settings while awaiting a more appropriate placement, child's best interest and/or preference for stability in an existing placement, and runaway behaviors by some siblings.

Based on reasons cited in these case examples, the most frequently mentioned reasons for sibling separation tend to fall into two main categories:

- Placement Resource Limitations
- Meeting Specific Child/Sibling Needs

Item 8: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care

NRS 423B.550(3)(a) provides that a parent of a child that has been removed from the home retains the right to reasonable visitation with the child unless this right has been restricted by the court. The NAC 432B.400(2)(o) requires that the case plan specifically provides for family visitation, including, without limitation, visiting siblings if the siblings are not residing together. NAC 432B.220 requires an arrangement of regular and frequent visits with parents and siblings for a child who is placed outside of the home.

Statewide policy 0204 Permanency and Case Planning requires a plan for frequent and purposeful visitation with parents and siblings, for the purpose of family preservation, be included in the case planning documentation. Visitation between children and parents, and children and separately placed siblings, must be regular, frequent, and purposeful to facilitate family preservation. The caseworker shall not limit visitation as a sanction for the parent's lack of compliance with court orders or as a method to encourage a child to improve their behaviors. Visitation is determined by the best interest, health, safety, and well-being of the child. Visitation shall only be limited or terminated when the child's best interest, safety, health, or well-being is compromised. In addition, recommendations to limit or terminate visitation must be presented to the court.

Nevada was not on a PIP during CFSR Round 3 for this item; however, there were several PIP activities that supported continuous improvement in this area such as trauma training, motivational interviewing, increasing the quality and frequency of visits with children, and involving the family in case planning.

Nevada has continued to conduct statewide reviews after the CFSR Round 3 completion. Table 8.2 is the most current case review data for Item 8. Nevada experienced an increase in Item 8 strength ratings since the completion of its last PIP.

Table 8.2 CFSR Data

Performance Item	National Standard	CFSR Round 3 Initial	CFSR Round 3 Completion	Nevada CQI Review	Nevada CQI Review	Overall Rating Movement
Time Period		2018	September 2022	2023 - 2024	March 2025	
Item 8: Visiting with Parents and Sibling in Foster Care	90%	67.5%	65.22%	75.00%	70.0%	↓
Cases Reviewed		80	84	71	65	

Source: OMS state rating summary reports based on strength ratings.
CFSR Round 3 Initial = State Rating Summary which includes Quality Improvement Review Data for WCHSA, CCFS, and DCFS-RR data pulled in 2018.
Nevada CFSR Round 3 Completion = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QTR 9, DCFS-RR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, & Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.
Nevada CQI Review (2023-2024) = Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2023, November 2023, February 2024, and April 2024)], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.
Nevada CQI Review = PUR Start Date(s): [Jul 01, 2023, Jan 01, 2024], Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2024, Sep 2024, Jan 2025, Feb 2025, Mar 2025], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.

The overall federal performance expectation for Item 8, Visiting with Parents and Siblings in Foster Care, is 90%. The results reflected the state achieved a strength rating in 70.0% of cases reviewed. This performance reflects an improvement from 2018 when Nevada conducted its Round 3 CFSR, and an improvement from 2022 when Nevada completed its CFSR Round 3 PIP.

A key trend was a lack of consistent and proactive efforts to facilitate meaningful visitation across all jurisdictions except Washoe:

- Clark County's decrease is related to insufficient visitation support and frequency, evolving to include challenges with both father and mother visitation and quality.
- The DCFS Rural Region's decrease involved visitation frequency and quality, shifting to a lack of facilitation efforts and support for incarcerated parent visitations.
- Washoe County's decrease involved visitation frequency and quality, which were effectively addressed.

Item 9: Preserving connections

NRS 432B.390 requires that priority be given to family members for placement of children who are removed from their birth families unless doing so would not be in the best interest of the child. DCFS policy 1001 Diligent Search and 1003 Kinship Care requires workers to complete a diligent search for any possible adult family members. Once located, those identified family members are assessed for appropriateness in much the same manner as regular family foster care providers. NRS 432B.560 grants a reasonable right of visitation to grandparents. NRS 432.525-535 establishes a bill of rights for foster children that includes reasonable participation in extracurricular, cultural, and personal enrichment activities that are consistent with the age and developmental level of the child and to attend religious services of their choice. Statewide 0213 Visitation Policy supports efforts to maintain the continuity of family relationships and preserve connections for children.

NAC 424.495 requires foster homes to give children the opportunity to invite friends to the foster home and to visit in the homes of friends, if appropriate. State policy 0504 Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)

prioritizes the recognition of a child being an Indian child and assures that the child's Tribe be contacted immediately when an Indian child is taken into custody. The Tribe then becomes an active participant in any further court proceedings regarding the child. Through the Just in Time web-based foster parent training platform and the Quality Parenting Initiative program, Nevada offers training around fostering and nurturing family connections for children.

Nevada was not on a PIP during CFSR Round 3 for this item; however, there were several PIP activities which supported continuous improvement in this area such as motivational interviewing, increasing the quality and frequency of visits with children, and involving the family in case planning.

Nevada has continued to conduct statewide reviews after the CFSR Round 3 completion. Table 9.1 is the most current case review data for Item 9. Nevada experienced an increase in Item 9 strength ratings since the completion of its last PIP.

Table 9.1: CFSR Data

Performance Item	National Standard	CFSR Round 3 Initial	CFSR Round 3 Completion	Nevada CQI Review	Nevada CQI Review	Overall Rating Movement
Time Period		2018	September 2022	2023 - 2024	March 2025	
Item 9: Preserving Connections	90%	74.55%	80.70%	82.98%	80.85%	↓
Cases Reviewed		80	84	71	65	

Source: OMS state rating summary reports based on strength ratings.
CFSR Round 3 Initial = State Rating Summary which includes Quality Improvement Review Data for WCHSA, CCFS, and DCFS-RR data pulled in 2018.
Nevada CFSR Round 3 Completion = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QTR 9, DCFS-RR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, & Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.
Nevada CQI Review (2023-2024) = Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2023, November 2023, February 2024, and April 2024)], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.
Nevada CQI Review = PUR Start Date(s): [Jul 01, 2023, Jan 01, 2024], Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2024, Sep 2024, Jan 2025, Feb 2025, Mar 2025], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.

The overall federal performance expectation for Item 9, Preserving Connections, is 90%. The results reflected the state achieved a strength rating in 80.85% of cases reviewed. While Nevada's performance improved following its Round 3 CFSR in 2018, it has remained consistent since then.

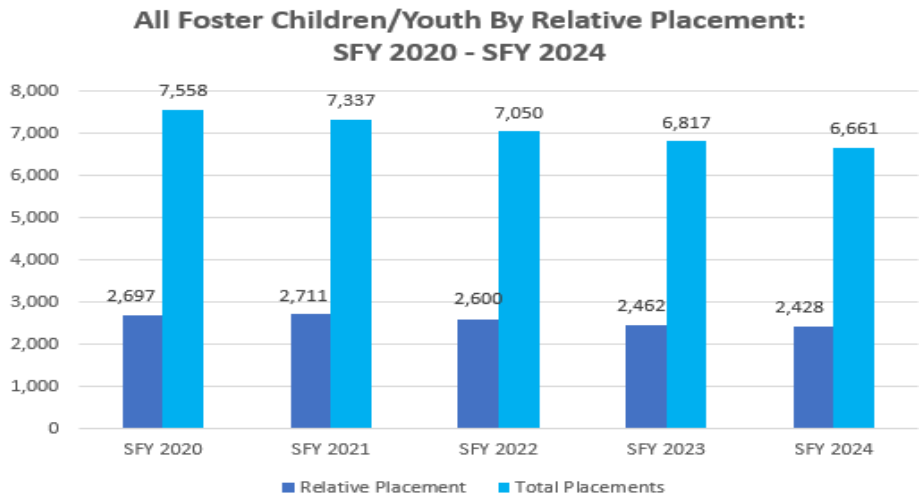
Item 10: Relative placement

NRS 432B.390 requires that priority be given to family members for the placement of children removed from their birth families unless doing so would not be in the best interest of the children. NRS 432B.550 requires placement preference with a relative within the fifth degree of consanguinity or fictive kin who is suitable and able to provide proper care and guidance. NRS 432B.510 requires relative notification when parents are unable to be found.

Statewide policies, 1001 Diligent Search and 1003 Kinship Care, require caseworkers to complete a diligent search for any possible adult family relatives and assess their interest in becoming a placement or permanent connection for the youth. Once located, those identified family members are assessed for appropriateness in much the same manner as regular family foster care providers.

Nevada was not on a PIP for this item during CFSR Round 3; however, several key activities during the PIP focused on improvement to the diligent search process and the extended use of KinGAP.

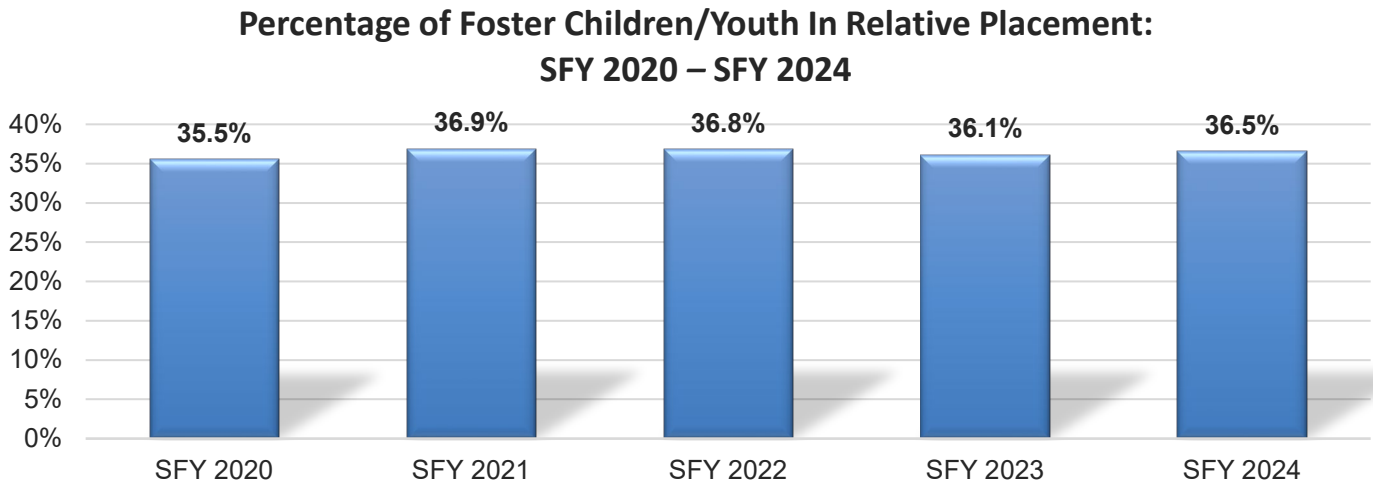
Figure 10.1: Total Foster Children/Youth and Relative Placement SFY2020-2024



Source: UNITY database

Figure 10.1 illustrates that while the number of foster children placed with relatives decreased each year, the overall foster child/youth population for Nevada has also decreased each year from SFY2020 through SFY2024.

Figure 10.2: Percentage of Foster Children/Youth with Relative Placements SFY2020 – SFY2024



Source: UNITY database

Figure 10.2 illustrates the percentage of foster children/youths living with relatives for SFY2020 through SFY2024. Since the last Statewide Assessment, there was an upward trend in this population. In SFY2017, 32.4% of foster children/youths were in relative placements. By SFY2020, 35.5% of foster children/youths were in relative placements, which has remained stable with a slight increase between SFY2020 and SFY2024, with SFY2024 having 36.5% of foster children/youths in relative placements.

Since that time, Nevada has experienced a 10% decrease in Item 10. The data above demonstrates that the percentage of children in foster care who are in relative placements remains stable. Nevada may need to further explore why there is a decrease in the strength ratings for Item 10 as this suggests there is a decrease in agency efforts to locate relatives for potential placement.

Table 10.3: CFSR Data

Performance Item	National Standard	CFSR Round 3 Initial	CFSR Round 3 Completion	Nevada CQI Review	Nevada CQI Review	Overall Rating Movement
Time Period		2018	September 2022	2023 - 2024	March 2025	
Item 10: Relative Placement	90%	52.73%	80.70%	82.22%	70.21%	↓
Cases Reviewed		80	84	71	65	

Source: OMS state rating summary reports based on strength ratings.
CFSR Round 2 Initial = State Rating Summary which includes Quality Improvement Review Data for WCHSA, CCFS, and DCFS-RR data pulled in 2018.
Nevada CFSR Round 3 Completion = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QTR 9, DCFS-RR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, & Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.
Nevada CQI Review (2023-2024) = Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2023, November 2023, February 2024, and April 2024)], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.
Nevada CQI Review = PUR Start Date(s): [Jul 01, 2023, Jan 01, 2024], Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2024, Sep 2024, Jan 2025, Feb 2025, Mar 2025], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.

The overall federal performance expectation for Item 10, Relative Placement, is 90%. Results show the State achieved a strength rating in 70.21% of cases reviewed. This performance reflects a decline from 2022 when Nevada completed its CFSR Round 3 PIP.

Item 11: Relationship of child in care with parents

While the State does not have a specific statute addressing parent-child relationship guidelines, there are several statutes that do infer the importance of maintaining such a relationship. NRS 432B.390.7C, NRS 432B.393, NRS 432B.397, and NRS 432B.190(k) require the following: that agencies that provide child welfare services adopt a plan to give preference to relatives of child in care; that efforts be made toward the preservation and reunification of a family of a child to prevent or eliminate the need for removal from the home before placement in foster care be made and to make a safe return to the home possible; a determination of whether reasonable efforts have been made; to conduct an inquiry to determine whether a child is an Indian child; and to plan for the permanent placement of a child. NAC 432B.190 provides requirements for case plans and agreements with parents and provides that when a child welfare case is opened, the caseworker must assume responsibility for planning the child welfare services to be provided whether the child remains in the home or not. Parents must be encouraged to participate in the development of a written agreement for services, which must be for a specified period to engage in the processes for receiving resources.

NRS 432.525-535 established a bill of rights for foster children that includes maintaining contact with parents and family. These statutes dictate a child's right to reasonable participation in extracurricular, cultural, religious, and personal enrichment activities that are consistent with the age and developmental level of the child.

Statewide policy, 1001 Diligent Search, emphasizes the need to preserve the parent-child relationship by requiring a diligent search for non-custodial parents when a child is removed from their home. Policy 0204 Permanency and Case Planning refers to the structured, solution-focused process of considering all the information gathered through the needs assessment process when developing a strength-based case plan for the family. Statewide policy 1011 Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard/Normalcy provides guidance to support normalcy for children through the reasonable and prudent parent standard in foster care by ensuring the status of being in foster care does not limit their ability to experience and participate in community, school, family, or social activities. Nevada's web-based ongoing foster parent training, Just in Time, which is part of the Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) program, includes training on fostering and nurturing familial connections.

Nevada was not on a PIP for this item during CFSR Round 3, although a key PIP activity was indirectly related to this item. Caseworkers received trauma informed training with the goal of increasing workers' understanding of the impact of parent-child separation.

Nevada has continued to conduct statewide reviews on this item. Table 11.1 is the most current case review data for Item 11. Nevada experienced a decrease since the completion of CFSR Round 3.

Table 11.1: CFSR Data

Performance Item	National Standard	CFSR Round 3 Initial	CFSR Round 3 Completion	Nevada CQI Review	Nevada CQI Review	Overall Rating Movement
Time Period		2018	September 2022	2023 - 2024	March 2025	
Item 11: Relationship of child in care with parents	90%	62.07%	69.23%	72.41%	57.14%	↓
Cases Reviewed		80	84	71	65	

Source: OMS state rating summary reports based on strength ratings.
CFSR Round 2 Initial = State Rating Summary which includes Quality Improvement Review Data for WCHSA, CCFS, and DCFS-RR data pulled in 2018.
Nevada CFSR Round 3 Completion = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QTR 9, DCFS-RR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, & Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.
Nevada CQI Review (2023-2024) = Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2023, November 2023, February 2024, and April 2024)], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.
Nevada CQI Review = PUR Start Date(s): [Jul 01, 2023, Jan 01, 2024], Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2024, Sep 2024, Jan 2025, Feb 2025, Mar 2025], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.

The overall federal performance expectation for Item 11, Relationship of Child in Care with Parents, is 90%. Results show the State achieved a strength rating in 57.14% of cases reviewed. Nevada initially had an increase in reviews after the CFSR Round 3 PIP was completed, however, in more recent reviews this performance reflects a decline.

Across all jurisdictions, there was a trend of either a slight decrease or a more significant decline. Washoe showed the most stable performance, while Clark and the DCFS Rural Region exhibited more notable declines:

- Washoe County experienced an increase in ANIs, from 22.22% to 25%. ANIs highlighted a lack of consistent efforts beyond visitation, and limited encouragement of parental involvement beyond visits and insufficient follow-up.
- Clark County experienced an increase in ANIs, from 25% to 43.75%. ANI's focused on insufficient mother involvement, and pointed to a lack of proactive engagement, support for diverse relationships, and engagement with incarcerated parents.
- The DCFS Rural Region experienced an increase in ANIs more than doubling from 37.5% to 75%. ANIs concerned mother involvement, and highlighted issues with engaging non-custodial and incarcerated parents and inconsistent support.

Well-Being Outcomes 1, 2, and 3

Well-being outcomes include: (A) families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs; (B) children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs; and (C) children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

Well-Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.

Results listed in the tables below outline case reviews conducted at the onset of CFSR Round 3, CFSR Round 3 Completion, and ongoing reviews, with the most recent assessment period which reviewed 65 cases occurring in September 2024, January 2025, February 2025, and March 2025. This data is included for CFSR items 1-18. The overall rating is based on the last two assessment periods.

Item 12: Needs and services of child, parents, and foster parents

NRS 432B.300 and 432B.393 require child welfare agencies to provide services to preserve families, prevent placement of children if possible, and, if not possible, provide a plan describing those services which would facilitate the safe return of the child. NAC 432B.190, NAC 432B.200, and NAC 432B.240 require agencies to provide case planning and agreements with parents using strengths and resources in planning and require the agency to provide a range of services to preserve the family. NAC 432B.400, NAC 432B.405 and NAC 432B.410 requires the agency to provide case planning and services to children in foster care and their parents. NAC 432B.1362, NAC 432B.1364, and NAC 432B.1366 provide provisions for provider agreements of child welfare services and assurances of conducting timely assessments to ensure adequate provision of services.

Several statewide policies are applicable to this item. 0502 Developmental Assessments and Services requires a referral for the developmental screening of children under age three. Policies 0508 Nevada Initial Assessment and 0211 Protective Capacity Family Assessment, guide initial assessments of parents and children. 0801 Youth Independent Living Program was developed to ensure youth aged 14 and older in foster care receive adequate case planning and services for transition to adulthood. Finally, 1301 Training, Assessment and Licensing of Foster, Relative, and Adoptive Homes covers the assessment of the appropriateness of potential foster families, licensed relatives, and adoptive families.

Nevada was on a PIP for this item during CFSR Round 3. Key PIP activity which affected this item include specific staff training in motivational interviewing, creation of a data report that targets visitation with parents and focus groups which identified the agency's failure to conduct quality assessments of the mother's and the father's needs and a need for caseworkers to connect appropriate services to identified needs, and to capture these services or concerted efforts in documentation.

The below data demonstrates Nevada has improved in assessing the needs of children and providing services to meet their needs, while the assessment of needs of parents and providing services to meet the parent's needs has decreased.

Nevada continues to conduct statewide CFSR on this item. Table 12.1 is the most current case review data for Item 12. Nevada experienced a decrease since the completion of CFSR Round 3.

Table 12.1: CFSR Data

Performance Item	National Standard	CFSR Round 3 Initial	CFSR Round 3 Completion	Nevada CQI Review	Nevada CQI Review	Overall Rating Movement
Time Period		2018	September 2022	2023 - 2024	March 2025	
Item 12: Identifying Needs and Services to Child, Parent and Foster Parent	90%	37.5%	52.94%	56.34%	46.15%	↓
Item 12A: Needs Assessment and Services to Children	90%	58.75%	77.65%	78.87%	87.69%	↑
Item 12B: Needs Assessment and Services to Parents	90%	41.07%	61.43%	58.18%	40.0%	↓
Item 12C: Needs Assessment and Services to Foster Parents	90%	73.08%	80.0%	81.82	80.0%	↓
Cases Reviewed		80	84	71	65	

Source: OMS state rating summary reports based on strength ratings.
CFSR Round 3 Initial = State Rating Summary which includes Quality Improvement Review Data for WCHSA, CCFS, and DCFS-RR data pulled in 2018.
Nevada CFSR Round 3 Completion = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QTR 9, DCFS-RR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, & Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.
Nevada CQI Review (2023-2024) = Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2023, November 2023, February 2024, and April 2024)], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.
Nevada CQI Review = PUR Start Date(s): [Jul 01, 2023, Jan 01, 2024], Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2024, Sep 2024, Jan 2025, Feb 2025, Mar 2025], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.

The overall federal performance expectation for Item 12 and subparts A, B, C, Needs and Services of Child, Parents, and Foster Parents, is 90%. Results show the State achieved a strength rating for Item 12 overall in 46.15% of cases reviewed. This performance reflects an improvement from 2018 when Nevada conducted its Round 3 CFSR, and a decrease from 2022 when Nevada completed its CFSR Round 3 PIP.

DCFS conducted an analysis for item 12B reviewing the last four case reviews to understand why the needs assessment and services to parents has decreased. There were variations by jurisdiction of why Item 12B received an ANI rating:

- Clark County: There were recurring deficiencies in maintaining consistent and quality contact with parents, contributing to 11 of the 15 ANI ratings across both foster care and in-home cases. Several foster care cases highlighted a lack of follow-up with incarcerated or recently reunified parents, and 6 of the 9 in-home cases lacked adequate engagement or updated assessments when circumstances changed. Even when parents were available, contact was often superficial or infrequent, leading to misaligned services or delays in goal progression. For example, in 4 foster care cases, fathers were not contacted at all, despite being identified and accessible.
- Washoe County: There were 7 ANI ratings out of 17 cases reviewed, with 6 in foster care and 1 in in-home. Reviews cited weak engagement with fathers in 4 of those foster care cases, often resulting in incomplete assessments and missed input during case planning. The one ANI in Washoe's in-home review involved no documented contact with the father and only sporadic, informal engagement with the mother. Casework tended to focus on surface-level compliance rather than long-term behavioral change or individualized services.

- DCFS Rural Region: There were 7 ANI ratings, 4 in foster care and 3 in in-home, driven largely by inconsistent assessment and failure to address critical needs such as substance use, mental health, and domestic violence. Three cases showed significant delays in service delivery, while two lacked accommodations for parental disabilities. Additionally, non-custodial parents, particularly fathers, were often not contacted at all, even when identified, contributing to disengagement and limited support planning.

Overall, across all regions, Nevada is struggling to consistently engage parents, particularly fathers, with 19 of 30 total ANI ratings (63%) tied to insufficient contact or poor assessment of parental needs. This indicates a statewide pattern of reactive rather than proactive casework, with missed opportunities for meaningful parental involvement and individualized service planning. This item also has correlation with items 13 and 15, both of which have seen decreases in the most recent round of case reviews completed. Additional analysis was completed for items 13 and 15 and included in those items.

Item 13: Child and family involvement in case planning

NAC 432B.190-220 encourages the participation of parents in the case planning process and requires engagement of the child's family in using its own strengths and resources throughout the process for planning services. This is implemented by fully exploring the needs of the child's family and alternatives to separation of the family, identifying each family member's strengths and using those strengths in the process of solving problems, developing individualized goals for services and treatment and time-limited steps to accomplish these goals, and by setting target dates for their evaluation and completion. Emphasis is given to promoting the right of a child to be with their family and fully exploring all alternatives to placement of the child outside the home.

The 0204 Permanency and Case Planning policy provides the basis that ties the findings of the child and family assessments to identification of the permanency goal(s) and the selection of a set of services including both formal and informal services. It is a collaborative, strength based, and solution-focused process empowering and motivating families to identify solutions which will remove barriers, increase functioning, and build protective capacity. Policy requires a working partnership between the case manager and the family, which is critical to successful assessment and case planning. The family is to be assisted in identifying the strengths, needs, supports and current resources which will affect its ability to achieve and maintain child safety, child permanency, and child and family well-being through a "strength"-based, family-centered, individualized case plan. In the event a parent is not available or refuses to participate in case planning, the case plan team (foster parents, extended relatives, other providers and child, if appropriate) must still be formed, and a plan developed. In all cases, every effort must be made and continue to be made to involve parents and children (if age appropriate) in the case planning process.

Nevada was on a PIP for this item during CFSR Round 3. Key PIP activity effecting this item included specific staff training in motivational interviewing, creation of a data report targeting visitation with parents, and focus groups which identified the agency's failure to conduct quality assessments of the mother's and the father's needs and a need for caseworkers to connect appropriate services to identified needs, and to capture these services or concerted efforts in documentation.

Nevada continues to conduct statewide CFSR on this item. Table 13.1 is the most current case review data for Item 13. Nevada experienced a decrease since the completion of CFSR Round 3.

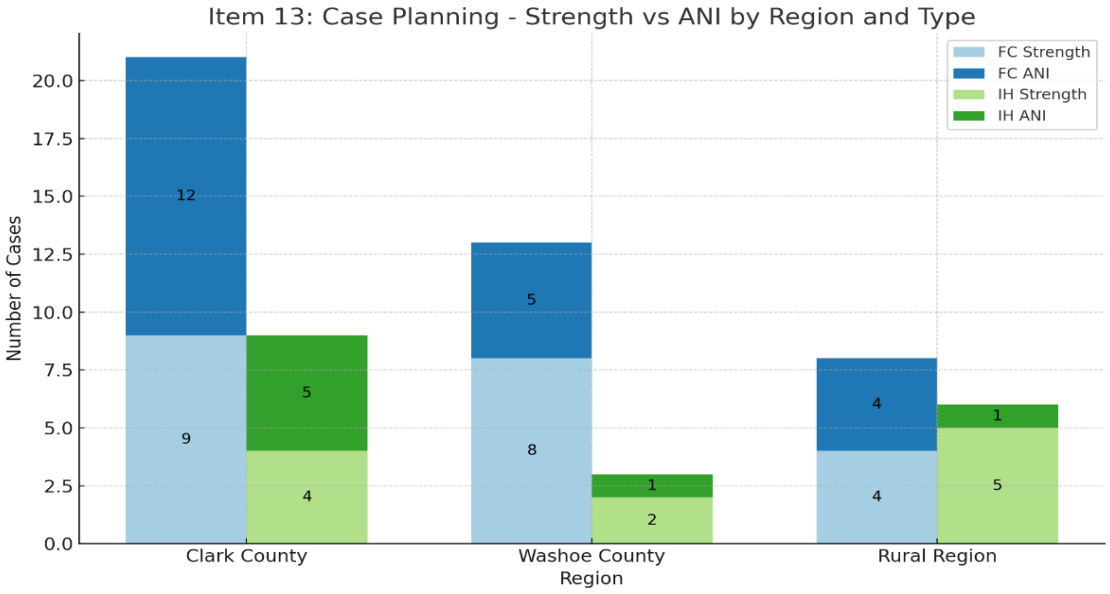
Table 13.1: CFSR Data

Performance Item	National Standard	CFSR Round 3 Initial	CFSR Round 3 Completion	Nevada CQI Review	Nevada CQI Review	Overall Rating Movement
Time Period		2018	September 2022	2023 - 2024	March 2025	
Item 13: Child and family involvement in case planning	90%	48.00%	56.79%	67.19%	59.68%	↓
Cases Reviewed		80	84	71	65	

Source: OMS state rating summary reports based on strength ratings.
CFSR Round 3 Initial = State Rating Summary which includes Quality Improvement Review Data for WCHSA, CCFS, and DCFS-RR data pulled in 2018.
Nevada CFSR Round 3 Completion = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QTR 9, DCFS-RR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, & Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.
Nevada CQI Review (2023-2024) = Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2023, November 2023, February 2024, and April 2024)], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.
Nevada CQI Review = PUR Start Date(s): [Jul 01, 2023, Jan 01, 2024], Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2024, Sep 2024, Jan 2025, Feb 2025, Mar 2025], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.

The overall federal performance expectation for Item 13, Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning, is 90%. Results show the State achieved a strength rating for Item 13 in 59.68% of cases reviewed. This performance reflects an improvement from 2018 when Nevada conducted its Round 3 CFSR, and an improvement from 2022 when Nevada completed its CFSR Round 3 PIP.

Figure 13.2: Item 13: Case Planning – Strengths vs ANI by Region and Type



Source: CFSR OMS

Figure 13.2 displays the number of cases reviewed during the most recent round of case reviews (August 2024 through March 2025), categorized by region and type of case, Foster Care or In-Home. Each bar is further broken down to show whether the case was rated as a strength or an area needing improvement (ANI), providing a clear comparison of agency performance across jurisdictions and case types.

DCFS conducted analysis of Item 13 for the last four case reviews to understand why child and family involvement in case planning has decreased. There were variations by jurisdiction of why Item 13 received an ANI rating.

The ongoing trends noted in cases receiving ANI ratings include:

- Foster Care Cases: A significant number of foster care cases were rated as ANI due to inconsistent and insufficient engagement with parents and children in the case planning process. Common issues included infrequent contact, inadequate communication, and failure to involve all relevant parties in decision-making.
- In-Home Cases: In-home cases also exhibited ANIs, though to a lesser extent than foster care cases. Challenges often involved superficial discussions lacking depth and specificity regarding case plan goals, and disparities in engagement between mothers and fathers.
- Parental Engagement: Across both case types, engaging fathers proved particularly challenging, often due to unknown identity, incarceration, or minimal contact. Mothers' involvement varied, with some cases showing frequent engagement but lacking in quality and effectiveness.
- Child Participation: Efforts to involve children in case planning were inconsistent. While some cases demonstrated active engagement with children in discussing case goals and permanency plans, others showed lack of collaboration, leaving children uninformed about their case plans.

Jurisdiction-Specific Observations identified:

- Clark County: Notable challenges were observed in engaging parents, particularly those who were incarcerated, with limited contact attempts and lack of discussion about case planning. Additionally, inconsistencies were found in involving children in case planning, with some children unaware of their case goals.
- Washoe County: Notable challenges were observed in engaging parents which included infrequent contact and lack of discussion about case planning. However, the agency generally demonstrated active efforts to involve children in case planning, including regular discussions and involvement in goal creation.
- DCFS Rural Region: Significant challenges were noted in actively involving both children and biological parents, particularly fathers, in the case planning process. Communication regarding case plan goals and changes appeared inconsistent, with instances of parents not being informed or involved in developing plans that reflect the current permanency objective.

This analysis highlights the challenges in ensuring frequent and quality involvement of families and children in case planning, particular in foster care cases. While efforts to engage mothers and children were more frequent, the quality and consistency of the interactions varied, and father engagement remained notably limited across jurisdictions.

Item 14: Caseworker visits with child

45 CFR 1355.20 and NRS 432B require that children in foster care or children under the placement and care responsibility of a child welfare agency who are placed away from their parents must be visited by their caseworker (or other responsible party) at least once every calendar month. When a child is placed in foster care, this visit must occur where the child resides in at least 50% of those months. During caseworker visits with children, the caseworker (or other responsible party) must spend a portion of the visit with the child outside the presence of the care providers and a portion of the time alone with the care providers/foster parents if requested. NAC 432B.405 and statewide policy 0205 Caseworker Contact with Children, Parents, and Caregivers require that each child in foster care will be visited by the caseworker (or other responsible party) at least once every calendar month. A "visit" is defined as a face-to-face in-person contact between the child and the child's caseworker (or other responsible party).

Nevada has two methods for the evaluation of progress toward this item. The first measurement is a compliance report extracted from UNITY that counts the number of visit months expected during a period under review and then determines the number of visit months during the period under review in which at least one qualifying visit occurred. This data report provides administration with an evaluation of compliance toward a projected goal; however, questions regarding the quality of visits cannot be answered by this report alone, and the data report only captures caseworker visits with foster children. To evaluate the quality of visits between caseworkers and children, including those children served in their homes, Nevada conducts case reviews throughout the State.

Table 14.1: Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) Data

(PSSF): Caseworker Visit with Children monthly	FFY2021	FFY2022	FFY2023	FFY2024
Statewide	**95.40%**	**95.5 %**	**95.6%**	**92.59%**
CCFS	95.5%	96.30 %	96.20%	93.70%
WCHSA	95.5%	95.4 %	96.20%	92.25%
DCFS Rural Region	94.30	90.0 %	91.0%	84.24%

Source: UNITY RPT7D7 – Compliance of Monthly Caseworker Visits with Children FFY 2024 (October 01, 2023, to September 30, 2024)

Table 14.1 presents the results for the State's compliance with the monthly caseworker visit requirement for the last four Federal Fiscal Years (2021-2024). The federal standard was met during FFY 2021, 2022, and 2023, The federal standard was not met statewide during FFY 2024.

Nevada was on a PIP for this item during CFSR Round 3. Key PIP activities included the caseworker contact and visitation policy be updated to streamline expectations between families, caseworkers, and community partners, developed feedback loops for caseworkers and supervisors to learn from the CFSRs, a focus on improving quality in family engagement, and evaluating the quality of existing data reports. Nevada was conducting CQI activities related to this item after the CFSR Round 3 PIP that included extracting the compliance report on a quarterly basis and reporting out the information statewide and by jurisdiction at the Statewide Quality Improvement Committee (SQIC) meeting.

Nevada continues to conduct statewide CFSR on this item. Table 14.2 is the most current case review data for Item 14. Nevada experienced an increase since the completion of CFSR Round 3.

Table 14.2: CFSR Data

Performance Item	National Standard	CFSR Round 3 Initial	CFSR Round 3 Completion	Nevada CQI Review	Nevada CQI Review	Overall Rating Movement
Time Period		2018	September 2022	2023 - 2024	March 2025	
Item 14: Caseworker visits with child	90%	55.00%	72.94%	78.87%	80.0%	↑
Cases Reviewed		80	84	71	65	

Source: OMS state rating summary reports based on strength ratings.
CFSR Round 3 Initial = State Rating Summary which includes Quality Improvement Review Data for WCHSA, CCFS, and DCFS-RR data pulled in 2018.
Nevada CFSR Round 3 Completion = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QTR 9, DCFS-RR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, & Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.
Nevada CQI Review (2023-2024) = Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2023, November 2023, February 2024, and April 2024)], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.

Nevada CQI Review = PUR Start Date(s): [Jul 01, 2023, Jan 01, 2024], Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2024, Sep 2024, Jan 2025, Feb 2025, Mar 2025], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.

The overall federal performance expectation for Item 14 is 90%. Results show the State achieved a strength rating in 80% of cases reviewed. While there was an increase in the CFSR rating during the most recent review period, the data for all monthly caseworker visits with children statewide decreased in FFY2024 compared to the previous three FFYs in which the State was in compliance. Specific activity for reporting out compliance with caseworker and child contacts at the SQIC has since concluded, the state is exploring resuming these report outs, as data suggests higher conformity when this information is regularly discussed within a statewide forum.

Item 15: Caseworker visits with parents

DCFS policy 0205 Caseworker Contact requires that caseworker contacts focus clearly on case planning, service delivery, safety, strengths and needs of the child and family, family progress and identification of resources and services the family needs to achieve case plan goals.

Nevada was on a PIP for this item during CFSR Round 3. Key PIP activities included the caseworker contact and visitation policy be updated to streamline expectations between families, caseworkers, and community partners, developed feedback loops for caseworkers and supervisors to learn from the CFSRs, a focus on improving quality in family engagement, and creating new data reports and evaluating the quality of existing ones.

Nevada continues to conduct statewide CFSR on this item. Table 15.1 is the most current case review data for Item 15. Nevada experienced a decrease since the completion of CFSR Round 3.

Table 15.1: CFSR Data

Performance Item	National Standard	CFSR Round 3 Initial	CFSR Round 3 Completion	Nevada CQI Review	Nevada CQI Review	Overall Rating Movement
Time Period		2018	September 2022	2023 - 2024	March 2025	
Item 15: Caseworkers Visits with Parents	90%	46.3%	56.52%	56.60%	43.75%	↓
Cases Reviewed		80	84	71	65	

Source: OMS state rating summary reports based on strength ratings.
CFSR Round 3 Initial = State Rating Summary which includes Quality Improvement Review Data for WCHSA, CCFS, and DCFS-RR data pulled in 2018.
Nevada CFSR Round 3 Completion = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QTR 9, DCFS-RR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, & Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.
Nevada CQI Review (2023-2024) = Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2023, November 2023, February 2024, and April 2024)], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.
Nevada CQI Review = PUR Start Date(s): [Jul 01, 2023, Jan 01, 2024], Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2024, Sep 2024, Jan 2025, Feb 2025, Mar 2025], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.

The overall federal performance expectation for Item 15, Caseworker Visits with Parents, is 90%. Results show this item initially remained stable after completion of CFSR Round 3 (at 56%) but decreased to 43.75% during the most recent round of reviews.

The State conducted surveys with ongoing caseworkers to inquire about barriers for caseworkers in visiting with parents. The top three most frequently reported barriers affecting the outcome of caseworker visits were:

- Parent availability, unwillingness, and engagement.

- Caseload size and time constraints (Clark County only).
- Difficulty locating and contacting parents.

Due to limited availability and time constraints, participation in the surveys was restricted, resulting in a lower response rate. A total of 29 responses were received from ongoing staff, with the following regional breakdown: Clark County (n=21), DCFS Rural Region (n=4), and Washoe County (n=4). Additionally, the parent survey received a total of 6 responses: Clark County (n=1), DCFS Rural Region (n=1), and Washoe County (n=4). Of the six parents who completed the survey only one from Washoe county cited a "lack of visits from workers and updates about my case". This was the only notation about caseworker visits. It should be noted that the survey did not address the number, frequency, or quality of visits. This single statement was made in the "barriers" narrative offered by the parent.

While existing policy includes procedures for frequent and quality parent contacts, there is little direction about caseworker requirements when parents are unavailable or unwilling to engage (beyond diligent search efforts). Policy also does not describe the CFSR requirements and explaining the expectation of the CFSR either through policy or training and what steps caseworkers must take when faced with situations where parents are not readily available and willing to meet may improve this item. During Round 4, Nevada identified that parent contacts should only be considered when it is a face-to-face visit. Historically, Nevada included telephone and email contact as sufficient parental contact. Nevada believes this also contributed to the decrease in the overall rating.

Well-Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.

Results listed in the tables below outline case reviews conducted at the onset of CFSR Round 3, CFSR Round 3 Completion, and ongoing reviews, with the most recent assessment period which reviewed 65 cases occurring in September 2024, January 2025, February 2025, and March 2025. This data is included for CFSR items 1-18. The overall rating is based on the last two assessment periods.

Item 16: Educational needs of child

NRS chapter 388E Education of Children in Foster Care and NAC chapter 388E Program of School Choice for Children in Foster Care, authorizes the legal guardians or custodians of children in foster care to apply to the Department of Education to participate in a program allowing children to choose the school of their choice, or to remain at the school they were attending prior to being removed from their caregiver. NRS 432B.540 requires educational records be provided to the court. NRS 432B.580 requires a copy of an academic plan or any other education records for the child per NRS chapter 388E be included in a report to the court prior to any hearing for review of placement. NRS 432B.462 establishes an educational decision maker for all children in foster care. The decision maker shall meet with the child, address disciplinary issues, ensure the child receives a free and appropriate education, has access to special programs, and if the child is over 14, ensure they participate in transition planning. The decision maker can serve as a surrogate parent for children on an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). NRS 432.535 establishes a bill of rights related to education and vocational training for foster children.

NAC 432B.400 requires every case plan for a child receiving foster care will include a statement indicating the proximity of the school in which the child is enrolled at the time that they were placed in foster care and if it was considered as a factor in the selection of the placement for foster care. The case plan must also include the child's education records, to the extent available, containing the names

and addresses of educational providers, the grade level at which the child performs, and other educational information concerning the child as the agency determines is necessary.

Policy 0204 Permanency and Case Planning requires that a child's educational needs be addressed in the case plan including guidelines to support educational stability and to ensure foster parents receive needed child educational records. Statewide policy 0205 Caseworker Contact requires caseworkers visit the youth and caregiver a minimum of once per month and, during those visits, discuss the educational progress and needs of the youth.

Nevada was not on a PIP during CFSR Round 3 for this item but continued to ensure children received appropriate services to meet their educational needs.

Nevada continues to conduct statewide CFSR on this item. Table 16.1 is the most current case review data for Item 16. Nevada experienced improvement since the completion of CFSR Round 3.

Table 16.1: CFSR Data

Performance Item	National Standard	CFSR Round 3 Initial	CFSR Round 3 Completion	Nevada CQI Review	Nevada CQI Review	Overall Rating Movement
Time Period		2018	September 2022	2023 - 2024	March 2025	
Item 16: Educational Needs of the Child	90%	72.31%	74.51%	84.09%	77.78%	↓
Cases Reviewed		80	84	71	65	

Source: OMS state rating summary reports based on strength ratings.
CFSR Round 3 Initial = State Rating Summary which includes Quality Improvement Review Data for WCHSA, CCFS, and DCFS-RR data pulled in 2018.
Nevada CFSR Round 3 Completion = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QTR 9, DCFS-RR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, & Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.
Nevada CQI Review (2023-2024) = Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2023, November 2023, February 2024, and April 2024)], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.
Nevada CQI Review = PUR Start Date(s): [Jul 01, 2023, Jan 01, 2024], Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2024, Sep 2024, Jan 2025, Feb 2025, Mar 2025], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.

The overall federal performance expectation for Item 16, Educational Needs of the Child, is 90%. Results show the State achieved a strength rating in 77.78% of cases reviewed. This item saw an increase immediately following the completion of the CFSR Round 3 but decreased during the most recent case review. Nevada has not conducted analysis to determine why there was a decrease.

Well-Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

Results listed in the tables below outline case reviews conducted at the onset of CFSR Round 3, CFSR Round 3 Completion, and ongoing reviews, with the most recent assessment period which reviewed 65 cases occurring in September 2024, January 2025, February 2025, and March 2025. This data is included for CFSR items 1-18. The overall rating is based on the last two assessment periods.

Item 17: Physical health of child

Nevada statutes outline the purpose of a child welfare agency's involvement with families including planning and coordinating the provision of services to support families. NAC 432B.400 addresses the requirements of the child welfare agency to have a case plan that includes plans for the coordination and provision of services to children and families who need assistance relating to the care, welfare, mental and physical health of children.

Statewide policy 0207 Health Services supports these mandates by outlining processes to ensure physical, developmental, and mental health needs of custodial children are identified and diagnosed through Early Periodic Screening Diagnostic Treatment (EPSDT) standardized, periodic screenings. Children not requiring immediate medical attention or mental health treatment receive a Nevada Medicaid Healthy Kids screening exam (EPSDT) within 30 days of entering custody. EPSDT screening exams are preventative and diagnostic services designed to evaluate the general physical and mental health, growth, development, and nutritional status of children. The Medicaid Healthy Kids program encourages providers to follow the recommended periodicity schedule set forth by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Statewide policy 0502 Developmental Services and Assessments requires, as part of the CAPTA Part-C Requirement for Custodial and Non-Custodial Children, that all children under the age of three receive a developmental assessment where there is a diagnosed physical or mental condition that has a high probability of resulting in a delay. Section 422(b) (15) (a) of the Social Security Act requires states to develop a plan for the ongoing oversight and coordination of health care services for children in foster care.

Nevada was not on a PIP during CFSR Round 3 for this item but continued to ensure children received appropriate services to meet their physical health needs.

Nevada continues to conduct statewide CFSR on this item. Table 17.1 is the most current case review data for Item 17. Nevada experienced improvement since the completion of CFSR Round 3.

Table 17.1: CFSR Data

Performance Item	National Standard	CFSR Round 3 Initial	CFSR Round 3 Completion	Nevada CQI Review	Nevada CQI Review	Overall Rating Movement
Time Period		2018	September 2022	2023 - 2024	March 2025	
Item 17: Physical Health of the Child	95%	51.52%	66.67%	78.57%	75.44%	↓
Cases Reviewed		80	84	71	65	

Source: OMS state rating summary reports based on strength ratings.
CFSR Round 3 Initial = State Rating Summary which includes Quality Improvement Review Data for WCHSA, CCFS, and DCFS-RR data pulled in 2018.
Nevada CFSR Round 3 Completion = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QTR 9, DCFS-RR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, & Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.
Nevada CQI Review (2023-2024) = Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2023, November 2023, February 2024, and April 2024)], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.
Nevada CQI Review = PUR Start Date(s): [Jul 01, 2023, Jan 01, 2024], Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2024, Sep 2024, Jan 2025, Feb 2025, Mar 2025], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA

The overall federal performance expectation for Item 17, Physical Health of the Child, is 95%. Results show the State achieved a strength rating in 75.44% of cases reviewed. This performance saw an increase following the CFSR Round 3 Completion and a small decrease following the most recent case reviews.

Item 18: Mental/behavioral health of child

NRS 432.011 indicates DCFS' purpose is to provide a comprehensive state system for the coordination and provision of services to children related to their mental health.

NRS 432B.197 states that each agency that provides child welfare services shall establish appropriate policies to ensure that children in the custody of the agency have timely access to and safe administration of clinically appropriate psychotropic medication. The policies must include, without limitation, the following:

- The use of psychotropic medication in a manner that has not been tested or approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration, including, without limitation, the use of such medication for a child who is of an age that has not been tested or approved or who has a condition for which the use of the medication has not been tested or approved.
- Prescribing any psychotropic medication for use by a child who is less than four years of age.
- The concurrent use by a child of three or more classes of psychotropic medication.
- The concurrent use by a child of two psychotropic medications of the same class.
- The criteria for nominating persons who are legally responsible for the psychiatric care of children in the custody of agencies which provide child welfare services pursuant to NRS 432B.4681 to 432B.469, and the policies adopted pursuant to this section.

Statewide policies 0508 Nevada Initial Assessment (NIA) and 0211 Protective Capacity Family Assessment, guide initial assessments of parents and children. Policy 0207 Health Services supports these mandates by outlining processes to ensure that physical, developmental, and mental health needs of custodial children are identified and diagnosed through EPSDT standardized, periodic screenings. Children also receive a trauma screening within 48 hours of coming into care. Statewide policy 0209 Psychiatric Care and Treatment states that the child welfare agency will nominate a person legally responsible for the psychiatric care of a child to be appointed by the court, for any child entering custody, or currently in custody, with a prescription for psychotropic medication, or who the child welfare agency determines may need. The statewide policy captures the statutory requirements listed above. Additionally, statewide policy 0214 Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children requires that all children involved with the agency, aged 10 years and older, will be screened using the Nevada Rapid Indicator Tool (NRIT) to assess if a child is 1) a confirmed victim of commercial sexual exploitation, 2) at high risk of commercial exploitation, or 3) no indicators apply to this youth at the time of the screening.

Nevada was not on a PIP during CFSR round 3 for this item but continued to ensure children receive appropriate services to meet their mental health needs.

Nevada continues to conduct statewide CFSR on this item. Table 18.1 is the most current case review data for Item 18. Nevada experienced a decrease since the completion of CFSR Round 3.

Table 18.1: CFSR Data

Performance Item	National Standard	CFSR Round 3 Initial	CFSR Round 3 Completion	Nevada CQI Review	Nevada CQI Review	Overall Rating Movement
Time Period		2018	September 2022	2023 - 2024	March 2025	
Item 18: Mental/Behavioral Health of the Child	90%	66.66%	71.11%	73.17%	70.0%	↓
Cases Reviewed		80	84	71	65	

Source: OMS state rating summary reports based on strength ratings.
CFSR Round 3 Initial = State Rating Summary which includes Quality Improvement Review Data for WCHSA, CCFS, and DCFS-RR data pulled in 2018.
Nevada CFSR Round 3 Completion = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QTR 9, DCFS-RR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, & Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.
Nevada CQI Review (2023-2024) = Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2023, November 2023, February 2024, and April 2024)], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.
Nevada CQI Review = PUR Start Date(s): [Jul 01, 2023, Jan 01, 2024], Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2024, Sep 2024, Jan 2025, Feb 2025, Mar 2025], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA

The overall federal performance expectation for Item 18, Mental/Behavioral Health of the Child, is 90%. Results show this item remained steady around 70% since CFSR Round 3 completion.

Section IV: Assessment of Systemic Factors

A. Statewide Information System

Item 19: Statewide Information System

How well is the statewide information system functioning statewide to ensure that, at a minimum, the state can readily identify the status, demographic characteristics, location, and goals for the placement of every child who is (or within the immediately preceding 12 months, has been) in foster care?

Relevant Procedure:

45 CFR § 1355.51 – 1355.58
NRS 392.327

Procedure Summary:

NRS 392.327 requires agencies providing child welfare services to maintain information in compliance with federal law as a condition for federal funding and highlights the importance of maintaining accurate and accessible records.

The UNITY system serves as Nevada's CCWIS or case management tool that holds the official case record for all children and families served by child welfare agencies in the state. The UNITY system is antiquated and ineffective. While it functionally can collect federally required data (e.g., data for AFCARS, NCANDS, and NYTD) the system is cumbersome to use. Work/window flow is not streamlined and thereby not user friendly. Nevada is assessing how to replace the system. The UNITY system includes automated functions to support data quality and implement certain bi-directional data exchanges. UNITY can identify the status, demographics, location, and goals of every child who is or within the last preceding 12 months was in foster care.

In accordance with Nevada's statewide child welfare policies, all caseworkers are required to document case activity in the UNITY system within five business days of any contact or receipt of pertinent information. This standardized documentation protocol applies across all child welfare programs to ensure consistency, accountability, and timely information sharing. Entries in UNITY must reflect professional, fact-based observations and exclude personal, political, or religious commentary unless such details are directly relevant to the case, such as when they impact child safety, violate a court order, or conflict with the case plan. Required documentation elements include the location of the caseworker's contact, the frequency of interactions between the caseworker and key individuals (including the child, parents, and caregivers), and the quality of those interactions. This information helps evaluate the child's safety, permanency, and well-being, and supports the monitoring of progress toward case goals.

AFCARS error reports, which flag issues with placement locations and permanency goals, are disseminated to each child welfare agency regularly. Multiple data reports were developed and are currently utilized to monitor regional and statewide performance in different program areas, with new initiatives, and with child and family outcomes. DCFS works with the Department's data team on requests for ad hoc reports which can be created in response to specific needs or priorities.

Round 3 Performance and Background:

In Round 3 of the CFSR, Nevada's performance for Item 19 was an area needing improvement. Information identified in the Statewide Assessment and confirmed during interviews with stakeholders indicated that although Nevada's information system can identify the status, demographics, location, and goals of every child in foster care, there are data input errors and mapping problems with no validation of data accuracy. Stakeholders said the time that passes between a change in placement and data entry documenting the change results in delays of accurate placement location data in all jurisdictions.

Nevada took proactive steps to address documentation and data integrity barriers through Round 3 PIP activities. These efforts included the establishment of clear documentation requirements across statewide policies and the strategic use of data reports to identify and correct data entry errors, which included inaccuracies in demographics, AFCARS elements, placement locations, and legal statuses. To further strengthen data reliability, placement forms or teams are utilized to ensure accurate and timely data representation, and the state conducted semi-annual statewide spot checks to verify that permanency goals recorded in UNITY align with corresponding court orders. Additionally, the UNITY system has been enhanced to support caseworkers through automated alerts that flag missing data or upcoming expirations, such as those related to permanency goals, thereby promoting timely and accurate data maintenance.

Analysis:

To evaluate how well the system is readily able to identify the status, demographic characteristics, location and goals for the placement of every child who is (or within the immediately preceding 12 months, has been) in foster care, the state identified all children who were in foster care on October 01, 2024 and any children who were in care in the preceding 12 months (October 01, 2023 – September 30, 2024) and included their ethnicity, race, current placement location, case plan goal and jurisdiction. Figure 19.1 illustrates Nevada's compliance with AFCARS submissions. This table identifies Nevada has been compliant 100% of the time over the past two years.

Figure 19.1: AFCARS Submission 05/12/2023-11/13/2024

File ID	Program Type	Report Period	Submi...	Status	Records	All Elements ...
File 6581	AFCARS - Out of Home Care	2024B	11/13/2024	Active	5,272	Compliant
File 6866	AFCARS - Adoption Assistance	2024B	11/13/2024	Active	9,461	Compliant
File 5319	AFCARS - Out of Home Care	2024A	05/01/2024	Active	5,249	Compliant
File 5317	AFCARS - Adoption Assistance	2024A	05/01/2024	Active	9,246	Compliant
File 4012	AFCARS - Adoption Assistance	2023B	11/09/2023	Active	9,102	Compliant
File 3960	AFCARS - Out of Home Care	2023B	11/09/2023	Active	5,423	Compliant
File 3961	AFCARS - Out of Home Care	2023A	11/09/2023	Active	5,324	Compliant
File 1963	AFCARS - Adoption Assistance	2023A	05/12/2023	Active	8,962	Compliant

Source: Nevada's AFCARS submission profile

Tables 19.2 through 19.6 illustrate that the state demonstrates strong compliance in ensuring required case information is entered into the system across jurisdictions. In key demographic categories such as ethnicity and race, the percentage of missing or "Unable to Determine" entries remain low. For ethnicity, only 1.4% of entries are marked as "Unable to Determine" (n=91 out of 6,469), and for race,

the proportion is similarly low at approximately 0.88% (n=57 out of 6,469). This reflects a statewide commitment to maintaining accurate, comprehensive data collection. Likewise, placement and case plan goal data also show relatively low missing rates overall, with placement data missing for only 0.57% of children (n=37 of 6,469) and case plan goals missing for 19.3% (n=1,247 of 6,469).

Table 19.2: Sample Count of Children by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	*Total*
Clark	5,112
Rural	498
Washoe	859
Total	6,469

Source: UNITY database, AFCARS Report (RPT785) and NCANDS Extracts

Table 19.3: Sample Count of Children by Ethnicity and Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	*Hispanic*	*Non-Hispanic*	*Unable to Determine*	*Total*
Clark	1,555	3,503	54	5,112
Rural	81	413	4	498
Washoe	202	624	33	859
Total	1,838	4,540	91	6,469

Source: UNITY database, AFCARS Report (RPT785) and NCANDS Extracts

Table 19.4: Sample Count of Children by Race and Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	*Amer Indian*	*Asian*	*Black*	*Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander*	*White*	*Unable to Determine*
Clark	113	151	2,441	124	3,047	35
Rural	34	1	32	3	467	4
Washoe	35	14	169	13	696	18
Total	182	166	2,642	140	4,210	57

Source: UNITY database, AFCARS Report (RPT785) and NCANDS Extracts

Table 19.5: Sample Count of Children by Current Placement Location and Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	*Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)*	*Foster Family Home (Relative)*	*Group Home*	*Institution*	*Pre-Adoptive Home*	*Run-away*	*Supervised Independent Living*	*Trial Home Visit*	*Missing*	*Total*
Clark	1,755	2,209	6	380	0	41	42	650	29	5,112
Rural	245	150	7	26	0	0	10	56	4	498
Washoe	355	192	43	23	88	9	14	131	4	859
Total	2,355	2,551	56	429	88	50	66	837	37	6,469

Source: UNITY database, AFCARS Report (RPT785) and NCANDS Extracts

Table 19.6: Sample Count of Children by Case Plan Goal and Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	*Adoption*	*Guardianship*	*Live with Other Relative(s)*	*Long Term Foster Care*	*Reunify with Parent(s) or Principal Caretaker(s)*	*Missing*	*Total*
Clark	1,267	50	252	217	2,253	1,073	5,112
Rural	213	3	29	15	150	88	498
Washoe	271	7	23	26	446	86	859
Total	1751	60	304	258	2849	1247	6469

Source: UNITY database, AFCARS Report (RPT785) and NCANDS Extracts

When comparing jurisdictions, data entry appears consistent with no significant anomalies. Clark County, as the largest jurisdiction, maintains comparable or better completion rates relative to the smaller Rural Region and Washoe counties. For example, the “Unable to Determine” rate for ethnicity in Clark is 1.1%, slightly below Washoe’s 3.8%. Similarly, missing placement location data is minimal across all jurisdictions – Clark (0.57%), Rural (0.8%), and Washoe (0.47%). The only notable variation is in case plan goal data, where Clark has a higher percentage of missing goals (21%) compared to Washoe (10%) and Rural (17.6%). Overall, the data suggests a robust and consistent approach to data management across jurisdictions, with no evidence of systemic issues. This data does not verify the accuracy of information entered, only that it has been entered into the system.

The State has various processes for data entry and correction. Assessment workers are the initial staff who may enter a child’s information into the system. They are expected to inquire about demographic characteristics which are entered at the time of intake.

All child welfare staff, including intake, assessment, and permanency caseworkers utilize UNITY as their primary information system. Washoe County has issued an Instructional Memorandum (IM) to ensure that staff are completing data elements. This IM requires caseworkers to complete a form and provides instruction on how to update the information in UNITY. Washoe County has issued an additional IM requiring caseworkers to complete a placement change form, within 24 hours of the placement change. That form is provided to designated staff who update the child’s placement in UNITY. Accurate statewide data is necessary to ensure proper payment of placements. If placements are not updated accordingly an issue with payments will occur.

UNITY is designed to automatically alert caseworkers anytime a placement location or permanency goal is missing or expired. The alert will continue to show up for the caseworker in UNITY until they correct or update the information. The system is also designed to alert caseworkers when a permanency goal for a child is going to expire soon as the permanency goal is part of the child’s case plan which also has an expiration date. UNITY time stamps certain activities, including status, location, and goals. When an activity is created and last modified/approved are viewable in the system.

ACFARS error reports are sent out monthly to allow child welfare agencies to clean up missing or incorrect data on a regular basis. Each agency has developed internal processes to ensure successful completion of correcting AFCARS errors, resulting in fewer overall.

To support continued improvement, Information Services (IS) and data team staff actively participate in various workgroups to facilitate bi-directional communication, promote information sharing, and establish formal feedback loops. The state remains committed to enhancing data quality and supporting the accuracy and reliability of the data by conducting reviews consistently and providing ongoing

monitoring of data. Collaborative efforts with the child welfare agencies will continue to ensure that data quality issues are promptly addressed.

State Response [to Rating]:

Nevada has determined this item to be a strength based on strong compliance with data entry requirements across all three child welfare jurisdictions. The statewide child welfare information system, UNITY, supports this performance by automatically alerting caseworkers to missing or expired placement locations and permanency goals. It also allows staff to readily identify the status of a case, including the demographic characteristics, current location, and permanency goals for every child in care. AFCARS error reports are distributed monthly, and each jurisdiction has established internal processes for correcting identified errors, contributing to ongoing improvements in data quality. Data entry is consistently accurate and timely across Clark, Washoe, and the DCFS Rural Region, with no notable anomalies, reflecting the system's effectiveness in capturing and maintaining essential child welfare information.

B. Case Review System

Item 20: Written Case Plan

How well is the case review system functioning statewide to ensure that each child has a written case plan that is developed jointly with the child's parent(s) and includes the required provisions?

Relevant Procedure:

NRS 432B.540; .553; .580
NAC 432B.190
Policy 0204 – Permanency and Case Planning
Policy 0205 – Caseworker Contact
Policy 0211 – Protective Capacity Family Assessment Policy
Policy 0212 – Protective Capacity Progress Assessment

Procedure Summary:

Statewide policy 0204 Permanency and Case Planning requires that all cases open for on-going services must have a written case plan and that the plan must be developed in cooperation with family, children (when appropriate), and any natural supports named by the family. The child welfare agencies hold Child and Family Team (CFT), Protective Capacity Progress Assessment (PCPA), and Protective Capacity Family Assessments (PCFA) meetings to make decisions regarding the desired outcomes, goals, actions, and timelines. The PCFA provides the framework from which the parent case plan is drafted. The PCPA policy requires ongoing monitoring of the case plan progress and requires ongoing meetings with the parents.

NRS 432B.540, NRS 432B.553, and NRS 432B.580 were adopted in accordance with the requirements of the Adoption and Safe Family Act of 1997 (ASFA), which obligate child welfare agencies to create a plan for permanency when a child is placed in foster care. This plan must include a description of the type of placement, safety and appropriateness of the home or institution including, without limitation, that the home or institution will comply with the provisions of NRS 432B.3905. Included is the plan for ensuring the child's proper care, a description of the child's needs, and a description of the services to be provided to meet those identified needs. The plan must also provide a description of the services to

be provided to the parents to facilitate the child's return to the parents' custody or to ensure the child's permanent placement.

NAC 432B.190 requires that all children in foster care within Nevada have a written case plan that identifies barriers to the provision of a safe environment for the child, clarifies responsibilities of the case participants involved to help overcome those barriers, and defines the goals of the case. This includes step-by-step actions each participant must take in a designated timeframe covered by the plan. The initial case plan must be developed within 45 days of removal or the agency's decision to provide in-home services to the family. All case plans must be reviewed and approved by the supervisor at least once every six months. Each case plan must clearly state the plan's goals, objectives and, include who is responsible for each action item. Case plans must be case specific and related to each family's individual situation, resources, and capacities, as well as safeguarding the child. Case plans should assist the parents in improving their protective and caregiving abilities while being flexible to allow for changes in circumstances or the family situation. Service selection is considered based upon an on-going evaluation of the best interest of the child. Parents must be encouraged to be active participants in the creation of their case plan and engage in processes for receiving services and assistive resources. Case planning is a family-centered process that identifies family strengths and resources to assist the family or other caregivers in enhancing protective capacity and improving overall family functioning.

To ensure case plans are completed with the required elements, UNITY is designed to provide error messages and will not allow a case plan to be submitted for supervisor approval until all required elements are completed. The case plan in UNITY requires an effective end date, the child's permanency goal, information on the child's well-being, placement information, service coordination, and the parent's goals and services. Upon the current case plan nearing the end date, UNITY will alert the caseworker to update the case plan in UNITY.

Round 3 Performance and Background:

Nevada received an overall rating of area needing improvement for Item 20 based on information from Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews. This information showed that Nevada does not develop timely initial case plans because of conflicting timelines within the state's safety model. Information in the statewide assessment also showed that case plans are not routinely developed jointly with the child's parents, as parent involvement is lacking in case planning and the agency does not consistently conduct a diligent search for parents.

During the CFSR Round 3 PIP, root cause discussions occurred and primary contributors to lack of parent involvement included that parents believed the agencies and courts were adversaries; parents did not receive initial and ongoing clear information to be successful; there was poor communication among parents and professionals involved in the case (child welfare agencies, attorneys, court staff, etc.); and lack of requisite time and resources across the dependency system to adequately engage parents. Activities completed during CFSR Round 3 PIP aimed at improving case plan involvement with parents included child welfare staff and court stakeholders completing training on trauma-focused communication and engagement techniques for parents, relatives, and children.

Analysis:

Nevada continues to conduct CFSR reviews regarding the child and parent's involvement in case planning, related to Item 13. Item 13 determines the frequency and quality of child(ren) and family engagement in case planning. For Item 20, the parent's engagement is assessed. For the CFSR round immediately following successful completion of the Round 3 CFSR PIP, the State experienced

continued improvements in the engagement of mothers and fathers in case planning. During the most recent state CFSR round, completed in March 2025, the state experienced a decrease of parental engagement in case planning in Clark and Washoe counties, noting an increase in the percentage of mothers engaged in case planning in the DCFS Rural Region.

Item 13 analysis was conducted using the ratings of the most recent case review round.

Jurisdiction-Specific Observations identified:

- Clark County: Notable challenges were observed in engaging parents, particularly those who were incarcerated, limited contact attempts and lack of discussion about case planning.
- Washoe County: Notable challenges were observed in engaging parents which included infrequent contact and lack of discussion about case planning.
- DCFS Rural Region: Significant challenges were noted in actively engaging parents, particularly fathers, in the case planning process. Communication regarding case plan goals and changes appeared inconsistent, with instances of parents not being informed or involved in developing plans that reflect the current permanency objective.

This analysis highlights the persistent challenges in ensuring frequent and quality involvement of parents in case planning. While efforts to engage mothers were more frequent, the quality and consistency of the interactions varied, and father engagement remained notably limited across jurisdictions.

Table 20.1 illustrates the ratings for engaging mothers and fathers in case planning from Item 13 of the CFSR for case reviews completed between August 2023 and April 2024.

Table 20.1: 2023 – 2024 Nevada CFSR Data

Performance Item	**Statewide**			**Clark County**			**Washoe County**			**DCFS Rural Region**		
Item 13 Child and Family involvement in Case Planning – **Mother**	**76%**			81%			77%			67%		
Performance Item Ratings	**S**	**ANI**	**NA**	S	ANI	NA	S	ANI	NA	S	ANI	NA
	35	**11**	**25**	17	4	11	10	3	5	8	4	4
Item 13 Child and Family involvement in Case Planning – **Father**	**83%**			77%			82%			91%		
Performance Item Ratings	**S**	**ANI**	**NA**	S	ANI	NA	S	ANI	NA	S	ANI	NA
	29	**6**	**36**	10	3	19	9	2	7	10	1	5

Source: OMS state rating summary reports.

Table 20.2 illustrates the ratings for engaging mothers and fathers in case planning from Item 13 of the CFSR for case reviews completed between August 2024 and March 2025.

Table 20.2: 2024 – 2025 Nevada CFSR Data

Performance Item	Statewide			Clark County			Washoe County			DCFS Rural Region		
Item 13 Child and Family involvement in Case Planning – **Mother**	**65%**			67%			50%			80%		
Performance Item Ratings	**S**	**ANI**	**NA**	S	ANI	NA	S	ANI	NA	S	ANI	NA
	30	**16**	**19**	16	8	8	6	6	4	8	2	4
Item 13 Child and Family involvement in Case Planning – **Father**	**52%**			44%			67%			57%		
Performance Item Ratings	**S**	**ANI**	**NA**	S	ANI	NA	S	ANI	NA	S	ANI	NA
	15	**14**	**36**	7	9	16	4	2	10	4	3	7

Source: OMS state rating summary reports.

Limitations:

Nevada conducted surveys statewide to gather insight from parents about whether they felt the agency included them in case planning. Survey responses were extremely limited and is not a representative sample with only six respondents – Clark County (n=1), the DCFS Rural Region (n=1) and Washoe County (n=4). Of those, three responded they did not feel included in the case planning process; one indicated sometimes, and two believed they were included in case planning.

State Response [to Rating]:

Nevada has determined this item to be an area needing improvement. Written case plans are completed with required provisions; however, they are not always created jointly with the child's parents.

Item 21: Periodic Reviews

How well is the case review system functioning statewide to ensure that a periodic review for each child occurs no less frequently than once every 6 months, either by a court or by administrative review?

Relevant Procedure:

NRS 432B.580
NAC 432B.420

Procedure Summary:

NRS 432B.580 mandates the court to conduct a review hearing at least semiannually and within 90 days after a request by a party to any of the prior hearings. The contents of the hearing must include evaluations and assessments of progress in carrying out the case plan goals for the child in care (NAC 432B.420) and address ASFA requirements on reasonable efforts.

Round 3 Performance and Background:

During the CFSR Round 3, Nevada received an overall rating of strength for Item 21 based on information from Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews. This information showed that Nevada ensures periodic review hearings are held no less frequently than every 6 months. Jurisdictions

closely tracked the timeliness of periodic review hearings and stakeholders said that strong scheduling protocols contributed to the jurisdictions' adherence to the 6-month deadlines.

Analysis:

In Nevada, a permanency hearing is held annually for every child in care, with a periodic hearing occurring six months later. These hearings ensure the court system maintains continuous oversight of child welfare cases every six months. The data below reviews both periodic and permanency hearings to determine if these six-month reviews are consistently happening.

Table 21.1 illustrates compliance with the requirement of having a periodic or permanency hearing every six months across the Judicial Districts in Nevada. The table includes all children in foster care from January 01, 2024, through December 31, 2024. Of the identified 5,089 cases across all districts, approximately 38.2% (n=1,944) had a periodic or permanency hearing every six months. A higher percentage, 60.8% (n=3,095), did not have hearings every six months. A small percentage, 1.0% (n=50), had no hearings recorded. Several judicial districts reported 0% compliance with the six-month hearing requirement, meaning all reviewed cases exceeded the six-month timeframe. These districts include Storey (1st), Esmeralda (5th), Eureka and Lincoln (7th), and Lander and Mineral (11th). The Judicial Districts for Washoe County (2nd) and Clark County (8th), which represent the largest volume of cases statewide, showed compliance rates of 39.5% and 39.2%, respectively, closely aligning with the overall statewide average. The highest compliance rate was observed in the Judicial District of White Pine (7th), with 50% of cases meeting the six-month hearing requirement. The data reveals that a significant majority of cases across Nevada's Judicial Districts are not meeting the requirement of having periodic or permanency hearings every six months, with notable disparities in compliance rates among individual districts.

The CFS775 Report used by the child welfare agencies and Court Improvement Programs statewide currently calculates the number of children in custody in each judicial district and whether the children have their first permanency hearing by the time they have been in custody for 365 days.

Table 21.1: Number and percentage of kids who had a periodic or permanency hearing every 6 months throughout their foster care episode among those served during 2024

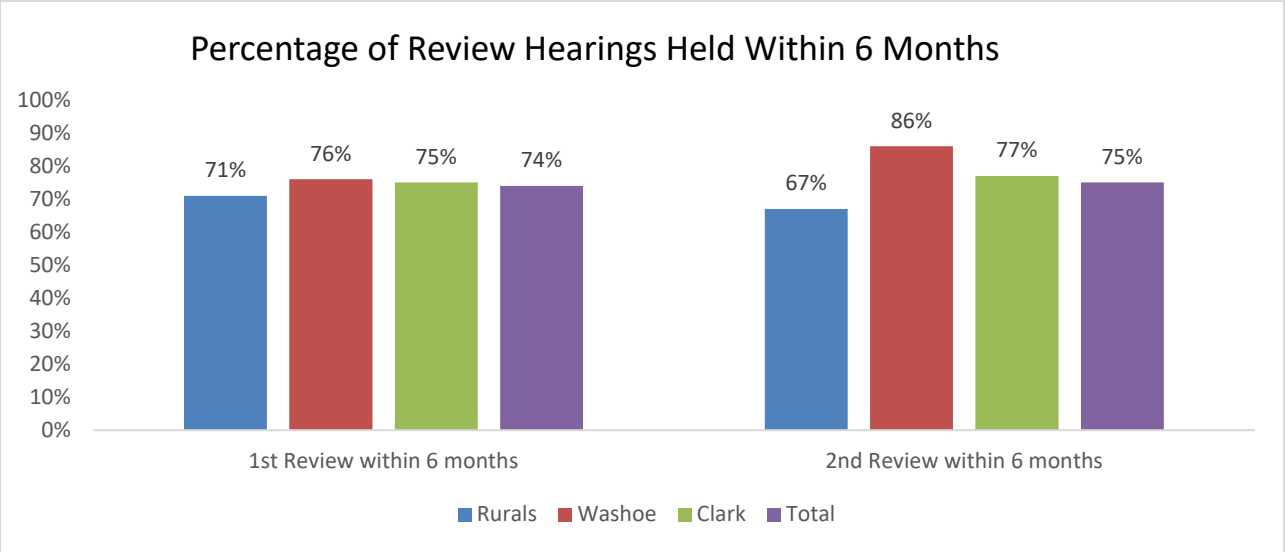
Had a Periodic or Permanency Hearing every 6 Months							
	Yes		No		No Hearings		Total
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
1st JD - Carson	40	48.2%	42	50.6%	1	1.2%	**83**
1st JD - Storey	0	0.0%	2	100.0%	0	0.0%	**2**
2nd JD - Washoe	288	39.5%	438	60.0%	4	0.5%	**730**
3rd JD - Lyon	11	23.9%	35	76.1%	0	0.0%	**46**
4th JD - Elko	13	22.4%	44	75.9%	1	1.7%	**58**
5th JD - Esmeralda	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	**1**
5th JD - Nye	18	17.6%	83	81.4%	1	1.0%	**102**
6th JD - Humboldt	2	4.8%	39	92.9%	1	2.4%	**42**
7th JD - Eureka	0	0.0%	3	100.0%	0	0.0%	**3**
7th JD - Lincoln	0	0.0%	2	100.0%	0	0.0%	**2**
7th JD - White Pine	7	50.0%	7	50.0%	0	0.0%	**14**
8th JD - Clark	1,547	39.2%	2,360	59.8%	42	1.1%	**3,949**
9th JD - Douglas	1	16.7%	5	83.3%	0	0.0%	**6**
10th JD - Churchill	14	41.2%	20	58.8%	0	0.0%	**34**
11th JD - Lander	0	0.0%	6	100.0%	0	0.0%	**6**
11th JD - Mineral	0	0.0%	2	100.0%	0	0.0%	**2**
11th JD - Pershing	3	33.3%	6	66.7%	0	0.0%	**9**
Total	**1,944**	**38.2%**	**3,095**	**60.8%**	**50**	**1.0%**	**5,089**

Source: UNITY Database

A structured case file review was conducted as part of the CIP's JCAMP assessment. It included a random sample of recently closed child welfare cases (cases closed in 2023 and 2024). The sample included 168 randomly selected cases representing four judicial districts (1st, 2nd, 6th, and 8th). These four jurisdictions make up 95% of the child welfare population in the state, including the two urban and two rural sites.

Of the cases reviewed, 74% held a review hearing within 6 months of removal and 75% held a second review (or permanency hearing) within 6 months of the first.

Figure 21.2: Percentage of Review Hearings Held Within 6 Months

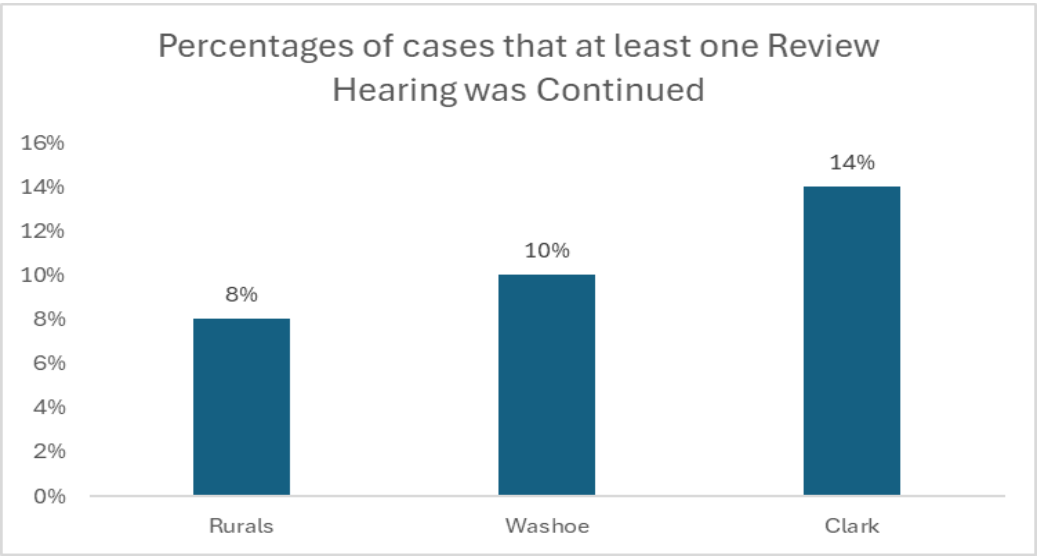


Source: JACAMP Data

Figure 21.2 illustrates the percentage of cases reviewed where the periodic review hearing occurred within six months and the percentage of cases where a second periodic review hearing occurred within six months.

Of the 125 cases with at least one review hearing, 14% had at least one continuance for review hearings. 30% were because a parent's attorney was unavailable, 25% were due to COVID-19, 10% were due to reports missing, parents unavailable, and court conflict. Other reasons included service not perfected (5%) and time to meet with counsel (5%). Clark County tracked the timeliness of reviews across the life of the case and found that in 40% of cases the reviews were held timely. On average across the life of a case, 73% of reviews were held within 6 months of removal or previous hearing.

Figure 21.3: Percentage of cases reviewed by jurisdiction where at least one review hearing was continued



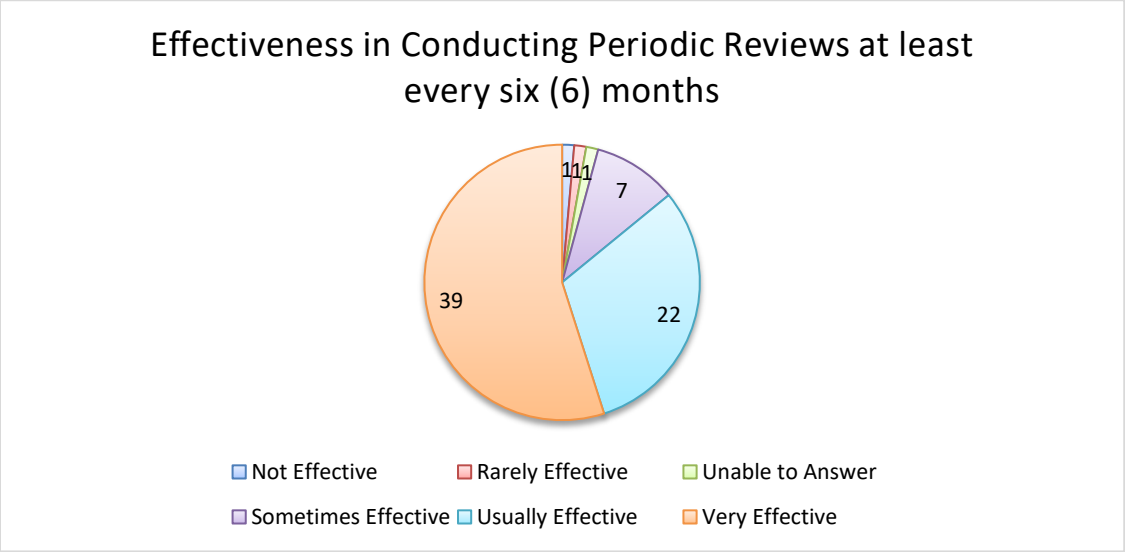
Source: JACAMP Data

The reasons for continuances were mostly similar, however, Washoe County was most likely to have COVID-19 as a reason for a continuance. Clark County and one of the rural counties had court reports missing as a reason. The other reasons (attorney unavailable, parent unavailable, etc.) were similar across sites or only happened once.

DCFS utilized the statewide sample of children in custody for 365 days or longer during the 2024 calendar year to analyze if the children also received ongoing periodic review hearings every six months.

The state conducted surveys of child welfare management (supervisory level and above) and judicial stakeholders assessing whether periodic reviews occur at least every six months.

Figure 21.4: Effectiveness in Conducting Periodic Reviews at least every 6 months



Source: Stakeholder Survey, 2025

Figure 21.4 illustrates child welfare agency management and judicial stakeholders' perceptions of the agency's effectiveness in conducting periodic reviews at least every six months based on a combined total of 71 responses.

Based on 42 survey responses from child welfare management (supervisory level and above), most respondents (57%) rated the agency as *Very Effective* in conducting periodic reviews at least every six months, followed by 36% who selected *Usually Effective*, and 7% who chose *Sometimes Effective*. Notably, no respondents indicated the agency is *Rarely or Not Effective*.

Among 29 judicial stakeholders, 52% (n=15) rated the agency as *Very Effective*, 24% (n=7) as *Usually Effective*, 14% (n=4) as *Sometimes Effective*, 3% selected *Rarely Effective* (n=1) and *Not Effective* (n=1), and one respondent indicated they were *Unable to Answer* (3%).

- Clark County: Judicial respondents consisted of CASAs and Deputy District Attorneys. When asked what processes are in place to ensure periodic reviews occur every 6 months, there was a consensus that Clark County schedules the next court hearing at the current court hearing. All respondents indicated there were no barriers to ensuring periodic review hearings occur every six months.
- DCFS Rural Region: Respondents consisted of judges, district attorneys, and CASAs. There were also several juvenile justice, police officer/school resource officer, and social workers who completed this survey. Of those familiar with the court processes, there was consensus that the

next periodic review hearing is scheduled at the current court hearing. 47% of respondents said 'yes' there are barriers to ensuring that period review hearings occur every six months. Reasons included scheduling dates that work for all parties, court calendar availability, scheduling conflicts, and difficulty in scheduling if by chance the next hearing was not scheduled at the current one.

- Washoe County: There were no respondents to the judicial stakeholder survey from Washoe County.

Results of the child welfare management survey and the judicial stakeholder survey, taken together, show a generally strong perception, particularly among agency leadership, that periodic reviews are being conducted in a timely manner and in accordance with federal standards. However, judicial feedback indicates a slightly broader range of views, highlighting areas for potential improvement in consistency and communication across systems.

Limitations:

Nevada identified limitations with collecting and reviewing data that demonstrates periodic review hearings happen every six months. The existing CFS775 only provides data on whether children who have been in care for 365 days or more have had a permanency hearing and does not provide data for periodic review hearings. As there is no report readily available, the DHS Office of Analytics needs time to do an accurate data pull, making real time data on periodic reviews challenging to receive. DCFS relied on JCAMP data, which provided helpful insights for whether these hearings are happening and if not, why they are not, however, this was limited to a sample of cases. DCFS would like to modify and expand the CFS775 report used by the CIP and court systems statewide to include whether children are having periodic review hearings every six months.

State Response [to Rating]:

Nevada has identified Item 21 as an area needing improvement. Currently, the state faces limitations in its data collection capabilities. The existing CFS775 report, for instance, does not readily provide real-time data on if periodic review hearings are occurring every six months. While sampled data from the JCAMP assessment offers valuable insights, it doesn't paint a complete picture of compliance across all judicial districts. Nevada needs to modify and expand its data systems to accurately track and evaluate the timeliness and frequency of these crucial hearings statewide. Addressing these data challenges will help align the effectiveness reported by child welfare management and judicial stakeholders with actual practice, ultimately leading to more consistent oversight and improved outcomes for children in foster care.

Item 22: Permanency Hearings

How well is the case review system functioning statewide to ensure that, for each child, a permanency hearing in a qualified court or administrative body occurs no later than 12 months from the date the child entered foster care and no less frequently than every 12 months thereafter?

Relevant Procedure:

NRS 432B.590
NAC 432B.420

Procedure Summary:

NRS 432B.590 mandates the court to conduct a hearing no later than 12 months after the initial removal from the home of the child and annually thereafter. The contents of the hearing must include evaluations and assessments of progress in carrying out the case plan goals for the child in care (NAC 432B.420) and address ASFA requirements on reasonable efforts. When reasonable efforts are not required, pursuant to NRS 432B.393, a permanency hearing must occur within 30 days of the judicial finding. In compliance with ASFA, DCFS policies 0206 Court Hearing Notification and 1004 Termination of Parental Rights (TPR), require agencies to make and finalize permanency plans by no later than 12 months after the child's removal and provide notice by certified mail to all the parties to any of the prior proceedings and parents and "any persons planning to adopt the child, relatives of the child, or providers of foster care who are currently providing care to the child."

Round 3 Performance and Background:

Nevada received an overall rating of strength for Item 22 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews. This information showed that Nevada ensures permanency hearings are held no less frequently than 12 months from the date the children enter foster care and no less frequently than every 12 months thereafter.

Analysis:

The CFS775 Report is a UNITY data report used by the child welfare agencies and Court Improvement Program. Data calculated by the agency and presented to the court quarterly for analysis. The data includes all children in custody for 365 days between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024. Data indicates that in Nevada, 98% of children in care more than 365 days had a permanency hearing. Due to the constraints of the report, it could only be determined if the court hearing was held, not if the hearing was held timely. DCFS is unable to provide additional data from previous years within a reasonable timeframe.

Statewide programs currently track the number of children in custody within each judicial district and whether they receive their first permanency hearing within 365 days of entering custody. DCFS utilized the statewide sample of children in custody for at least 365 days during the 2024 calendar year to analyze if the children received a permanency hearing at 12 months. A total of 63 children (1.9%) statewide identified to be in custody for at least 365 days during 2024 did not have their first permanency hearing. The remaining children in custody for at least 365 days during 2024 (n=3, N=323; 98.1%), had their first permanency hearing. Statewide, the median number of days until the first permanency hearing is 353. In 2023, 87% of 1st permanency hearings took place within 365 days of removal, compared to 85% in 2022.

The Court Improvement Program (CIP) Coordinator and the DHS Office of Analytics worked together over the last year to make improvements to the CFS775. The previous version of the report was difficult to interpret, and formulas lacked documentation and historical context resulting in inaccuracies. Data for certain children was also misaligned or incomplete, contributing to data entry errors. The CIP and Office of Analytics team worked diligently to refine the report using feedback from Court Improvement Council (CIC) stakeholders. Some of the updated data elements will now be distributed on a quarterly basis to the CIC stakeholders.

Table 22.1: Court Performance among children in custody for 365 days or more

Court	Number of children in custody for at least 365 days and have had their first permanency hearing	Number of children in custody for at least 365 days and have not had their first permanency hearing	Percentage of children in custody for at least 365 days and have not yet had their first permanency hearing
1st / Carson	62	0	0
2nd / Washoe	539	0	0
3rd / Lyon	36	1	2.7%
4th / Elko	41	0	0
5th / Esmeralda	0	0	0
6th / Humboldt	37	1	2.6%
7th / Eureka	2	0	0
8th / Clark	2,478	61	2.4%
9th / Douglas	5	0	0
10th / Churchill	26	0	0
11th / Lander / Mineral / Pershing	8	0	0
Statewide Total	3,323	63	1.9%

Source: CFS775 Report

Table 22.1 illustrates the court performance among children in custody for 365 days or more between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024. This includes the number of children in custody for 365 days or more and had or did not have their first permanency hearing and the percentage of children who were in custody for 365 days who did not have their first permanency hearing. DCFS is unable to provide additional data from previous years within a reasonable timeframe.

The Office of Analytics provided data regarding the performance of Nevada's Judicial Districts in holding a second permanency hearing within two years of a child's removal from their home, specifically for children who completed their second year of foster care in 2024. The data identifies if there were two permanency hearings held for the children within 24 months of their entry. DCFS is unable to provide additional data from previous years within a reasonable timeframe.

Table 22.2: Number and percentage of kids who had their second permanency hearing within 2 years of removal and completed their second year of foster care during 2024

Had second permanency hearing within 2 years of removal					
	Yes		No		Total
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N
1st JD - Carson	5	100.0%	0	0.0%	5
1st JD - Storey	0	0	0	0	0
2nd JD - Washoe	91	95.8%	4	4.2%	95
3rd JD - Lyon	7	100.0%	0	0.0%	7
4th JD - Elko	2	66.7%	1	33.3%	3
5th JD - Esmeralda	0	0	0	0	0
5th JD - Nye	29	93.5%	2	6.5%	31
6th JD - Humboldt	6	85.7%	1	14.3%	7
7th JD - Eureka	0	0	0	0	0
7th JD - Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0
7th JD - White Pine	1	33.3%	2	66.7%	3
8th JD - Clark	508	87.3%	74	12.7%	582
9th JD - Douglas	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	1

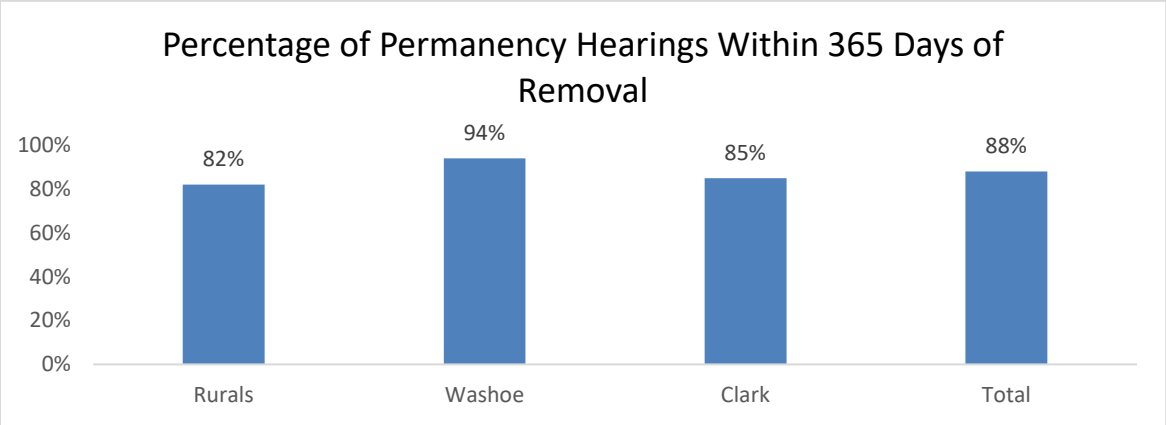
Had second permanency hearing within 2 years of removal					
	Yes		No		Total
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N
10th JD - Churchill	9	100.0%	0	0.0%	9
11th JD - Lander	1	50.0%	1	50.0%	2
11th JD - Mineral	0	0	0	0	0
11th JD - Pershing	0	0	0	0	0
Total	660	88.6%	85	11.4%	745

Source: UNITY Database

Table 22.2 illustrates that Nevada demonstrates strong compliance with this requirement. 88.6% (660 out of 745) of children who completed their second year in foster care during 2024 had their second permanency hearing within two years of removal. Several districts, including 1st – Carson, 3rd – Lyon, 9th – Douglas, and 10th – Churchill, achieved 100% compliance in this area. 2nd – Washoe and 5th – Nye also showed high compliance rates of 95.8% and 93.5% respectively. While overall performance is strong, a few districts show lower compliance or limited data: 7th – White Pine had the highest rate of non-compliance among districts with data, at 66.7%. 4th – Elko (33.3%) and 6th – Humboldt (14.3%) also fall below the statewide average. 11th – Lander is at 50% compliance. Several districts reported zero cases in this category, meaning no children in their jurisdiction met the criteria for this specific measure during 2024. Median days to the second permanency hearing for the state was undetermined.

A structured case file review was conducted as part of the CIP's JCAMP assessment. It included a random sample of recently closed child welfare cases (cases closed in 2023 and 2024). The sample included 168 randomly selected cases representing four judicial districts (1st, 2nd, 6th, and 8th). These four jurisdictions make up 95% of the child welfare population in the state and include the two urban and two rural sites. Of the 105 cases open long enough to have a permanency hearing, 88% held a permanency hearing within 365 days of removal of the child.

Figure 22.3 Percentage of Permanency Hearings within 365 Days of removal



Source: UNITY Database

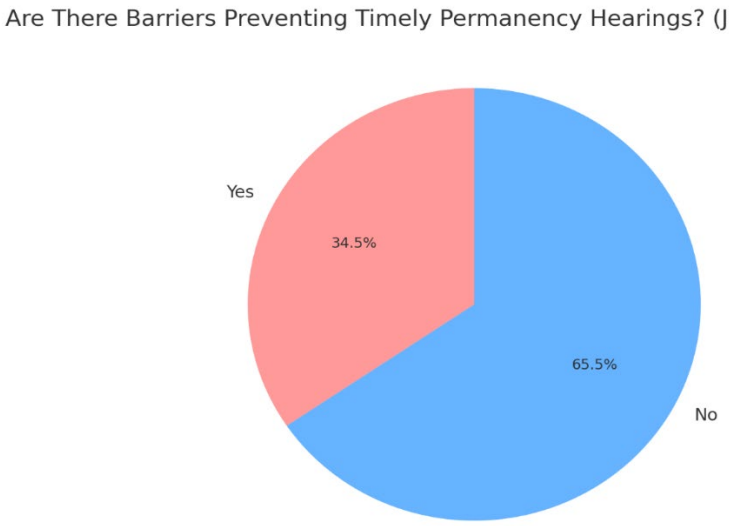
Figure 22.3 illustrates the percentage of cases reviewed where permanency review hearings occurred within 365 days of a child's removal.

From the case file review, 6% of the permanency hearings were continued. Continuance reasons varied and included COVID-19, parent needs an attorney, report not timely, failed to arrange transport for incarcerated parent, and new information discovered.

Surveys:

Surveys were provided to child management (supervisory level and above) and judicial stakeholders. There were 42 respondents for management and 29 respondents for judicial stakeholders.

Figure 22.4 Illustrates if there are identified barriers preventing timely permanency hearings.



Source: Agency and Judicial Surveys

Figure 22.4 shows 34% of judicial stakeholders reported barriers to timely permanency hearings, while 66% did not, indicating that most see the process as timely, though some concerns remain (N=71).

Several respondents noted barriers to timely permanency hearings, primarily related to court scheduling conflicts, attorney availability, and limited court calendar space. In some jurisdictions, hearings are not scheduled at the conclusion of the previous one, leading to delays. A few also cited judicial postponements and ineffective case management as contributing factors. While many respondents reported no barriers or personal experience with delays, these comments suggest that inconsistencies in scheduling practices and coordination issues can impact timeliness in certain areas.

Limitations:

A limitation of the existing CFS775 data report is that it provides data for children in care for 365 days or more and have had permanency hearing, but it does not provide data on whether those children had their permanency hearing by 365 days in care. DCFS would like to modify and expand the CFS775 report used by the CIP and court systems statewide to include whether children had their first permanency hearing by 365 days in care and includes whether they had their second permanency hearing by 730 days (or 24 months) in care.

State Response [to Rating]:

Nevada has determined Item 22 to be an area needing improvement. There is a notable difference between the UNITY report data (98.1%) and the JCAMP case file review data (88%) regarding the percentage of timely first permanency hearings. This discrepancy highlights a need for further investigation to understand the reasons for this difference, which may stem from varying methodologies, sampling techniques, or reporting parameters. Ongoing monitoring and proactive strategies are essential to address the root causes of hearing delays, such as continuances, which can

impact timely permanency for children. Focusing efforts on understanding and mitigating these factors will further enhance the consistency of permanency outcomes.

Item 23: Termination of Parental Rights

How well is the case review system functioning statewide to ensure that the filing of termination of parental rights (TPR) proceedings occurs in accordance with required provisions?

Relevant Procedure:

NRS 128 – Termination of Parental Rights
NRS 432B.393
NRS 432B.553
NRS 432B.590
NRS 432B.630
1004 Termination of Parental Rights Policy

Procedure Summary:

NRS 432B.590 mandates that no later than 12 months after the initial removal of the child from their home and annually thereafter, a hearing shall be held concerning the permanent placement of the child. At the hearing the court reviews the plan for permanent placement of the child and determines whether the reasonable efforts required have been made. NRS 432B.553 requires, if a child is not living at home and has been in foster care for 14 or more of the immediately preceding 20 months, the agency must include the termination of parental rights (TPR) in the permanent placement plan. The only exceptions are if the agency determines that 1) the child is in the care of a relative; 2) the plan for the child requires the agency to make reasonable efforts to reunify the family of the child and the agency has not provided the family, consistently with such services as the agency deems necessary for the safe return of the child to the home; or 3) there are compelling reasons, which are documented in the plan for the child, for concluding that the filing of a petition to TPR to the child would not be in the child's best interests. NRS 432B.630 requires action be taken to terminate parental rights on a newborn child who is delivered to a provider of emergency services, absent parent contact with the child welfare agency. NRS 432B.393 also identifies those circumstances in which the agency is not required to make reasonable efforts for reunification.

Statewide policy 1004 Termination of Parental Rights provides guidance to ensure permanency-planning decisions involving adoption are made timely, made in the best interests of the child, and comply with state and federal timelines. Once a court orders the permanency plan of adoption, caseworkers have 60 days to file a TPR referral with their legal counsel who is then responsible to file a petition for the TPR. There is no statutory timeframe in Nevada that directs legal counsel when to file a TPR petition.

NRS Chapter 128 details the process of TPR, specifically who files the petitions, procedures for TPR on ICWA cases, notice of hearings (publication), testimony, appointment of attorneys, specific considerations to various circumstances, and restoration of parental rights in certain situations.

Round 3 Performance and Background:

Nevada received an overall rating of area needing improvement for Item 23 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. This Information failed to demonstrate that Nevada files TPR petitions in accordance with the provisions of the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA). Delays in filing were

attributed to a lack of resources at the prosecutors' offices; court decisions to provide parents with additional time to comply with service plans; agency difficulties in locating parents; lack of provision of services to parents; backlogs in the courts; and an insufficient number of adoptive parents.

During the Round 3 PIP the state further refined UNITY windows and provided training to caseworkers aimed at solving barriers to completing UNITY windows when TPR petitions are filed and educating the workforce on how to correctly document TPR petitions in UNITY.

A report was created to support and assist child welfare agency staff and CQI teams in identifying youth whose case plan goals are something other than reunification and will identify if a TPR petition has been filed.

A field practice guide was also developed with the Capacity Building Center for States that was distributed to casework staff and provided information on what TPR is, when TPR should occur, and when compelling reasons to not file a TPR is appropriate. The guide also included examples of what are compelling reasons and what are not compelling reasons.

Analysis:

Of the 168 case files reviewed, using JCAMP Data, 25 had a termination of parental rights petition filed. Of these, 92% had the TPR petition filed within 15 months of removal and 96% within 15 months of entry into care. The median time between the goal change to TPR/Adoption and a TPR filing was 78 days. This was a targeted sample for a mediation study. CIP randomly selected mediated and non-mediated cases in the 8th and 2nd judicial district that had completed a TPR and had closed. All cases were child welfare related. The sample only included children in care and no in-home cases were assessed. At this time, Nevada does not have the ability to provide additional data for the percentage of children in foster care who had a TPR that was filed timely when considering the total eligible population of children who have been in care for 15 out of 22 months. Nevada has not consistently tracked the dates that TPR petitions are filed within the CCWIS system. For the year 2024, UNITY report COG815, determined Nevada had a total of 200 children who had been in care for 15 out of the last 22 months. The statewide breakdown includes Clark County had 139 children, Washoe County had 47 children and the DCFS Rural Region had 14 children.

In March 2025, a survey involving 72 participants examined perceptions regarding the timely filing of TPR petitions in Nevada when a child was in foster care for 15 of the past 22 months. The survey participants include 42 agency management representatives and 29 judicial stakeholders. Both groups identified several key barriers to timely TPR filings which include gaps in staff knowledge regarding compelling reasons for TPR, high caseloads compounded by frequent staff turnover, delays from the agency's attorneys, court scheduling challenges, and a lack of coordination between the agency and judicial systems. Additionally, miscommunication among legal parties, including the agency's attorneys and attorneys representing children and families, was cited as a significant contributing factor. To improve the timeliness and effectiveness of TPR filings, there is a clear need for enhanced staff training, better interagency collaboration, streamlined legal processes, and improved communication and scheduling alignment between the agency and judicial partners.

State Response [to Rating]:

Nevada determined Item 23 to be an area needing improvement. Nevada identified substantial delays between the filing of Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) petitions and referrals to the prosecuting attorney. This could be due to Nevada not having a specific timeframe outlined in law. While JCAMP data shows TPR petitions are filed promptly once the process begins, a considerable delay, sometimes

spanning months, occurs between the agency's initial TPR referral and the subsequent filing of the petition. During round 3, Nevada developed a report to enhance TPR tracking; however, this report has yet to be fully utilized. To resolve this area needing improvement, Nevada must strengthen communication and tracking mechanisms between the child welfare agency and the court system statewide.

Item 24: Notice of Hearings and Reviews to Caregivers

How well is the case review system functioning statewide to ensure that foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers of children in foster care are notified of, and have a right to be heard in, any review or hearing held with respect to the child?

Relevant Procedure:

NRS 432B.580
0206 Court Notification Policy

Procedure Summary:

NRS 432B, NAC 432B, and statewide policy 0206 Court Notification mandate that proper notification of court hearings and court reviews regarding the status of a child in the custody of a child welfare agency be provided and is necessary to ensure active involvement and participation of caregivers (pre-adoptive, foster parents, relative, fictive-kin, etc.) in the child's safety, permanency and well-being. While internal policies and procedures regarding court notification requirements and protocols may differ between child welfare agencies, formal written notification, for annual and semi-annual court hearings to the aforementioned caregivers, must be supplied pursuant to NRS 432B.580(6)(a)(b): Notice of the hearing must be given by registered or certified mail to all parties to any of the prior proceedings, parents, any persons planning to adopt the child, and relatives of the child or providers of foster care who are currently providing care to the child. A caregiver is to be notified of the court hearing date, time, and location verbally, within a reasonable timeframe. NRS 432B.470 instruct notices for hearings that occur within 72 hours to be provided as soon as practically possible. NRS 432B.530 and NRS 432B.590 instruct notice for other hearings must be provided no less than seven days prior to the hearing. The child welfare agency is responsible for court notifications. Notifications can be provided via in-court notification or formal written notification. In-court notification is permissible on a case-by-case basis, provided that all involved parties agree to such immediate notification. This agreement is typically documented in the court record to affirm its validity. Written notification is typically provided via certified mail to the last known address of all relevant parties, ensuring a verifiable record of service.

Round 3 Performance and Background:

Nevada received an overall rating of area needing improvement for Item 24 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. Nevada agreed with this rating and believed additional information collected during stakeholder interviews had not affected the rating. Nevada did not have a statewide process and did not provide notice to caregivers of hearing and their right to be heard. The failure of notices arriving timely; limited time for court hearings; high caseloads for caseworkers; and the practices of some caseworkers discouraging caregiver attendance were identified as challenges.

During Round 3 of the PIP, the State of Nevada conducted educational sessions for child welfare agency staff to enhance understanding of the TPR process. As part of this initiative, the PIP team developed a standardized document to be included with the caregiver's notice of hearing. This

document informs caregivers of their right to be heard in court and provides guidance on the type of information the court seeks regarding the child's well-being. Additionally, it serves as a hard-copy form that caregivers may complete and return to the court if they are unable to attend the hearing in person.

Analysis:

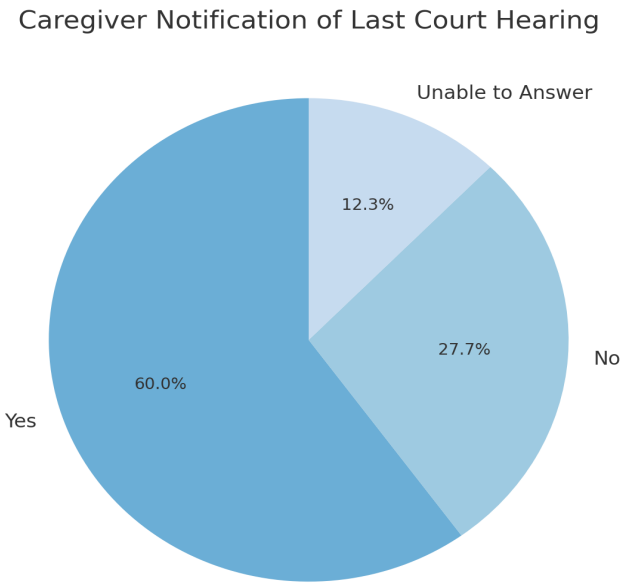
In March 2025, a total of 65 caregivers participated in a survey. Of these, 60% of caregivers (n=39) reported they received notice of the most recent court hearing for the children in their care. However, 28% of caregivers (n=18) indicated they did not receive notice, and 12% caregivers (n=8) were unable to answer, due to the child just being placed in their care and no court hearing has been held or choose not to answer.

Regarding the effectiveness of the agency in ensuring notifications, 32% of caregivers (n=21) rated it as 'Usually Effective', 20% (n=13) as 'Very Effective', 32% (n=21) as 'Sometimes Effective', 12% (n=8) as 'Rarely Effective', and 18% (n=12) as 'Not Effective'.

When asked if the notice included information on how to exercise their right to be heard, only 23% of caregivers (n=15) said 'Yes', 43% (n=26) said 'No', and 37% (n=24) were unable to answer.

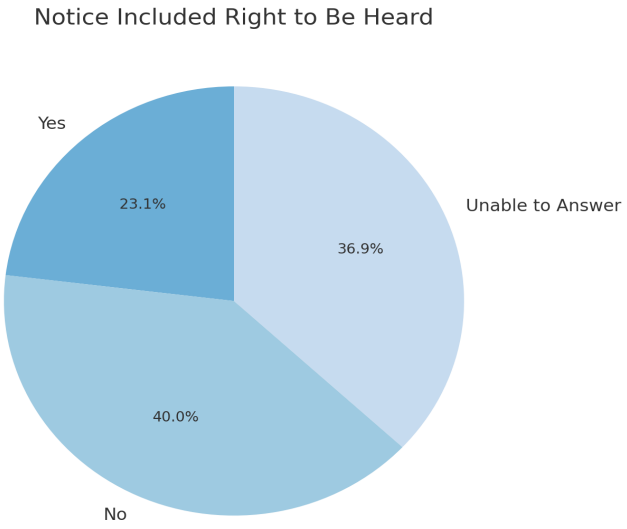
These results indicate that while most caregivers do receive notice, there are clear gaps in the clarity and consistency of communications, especially around caregivers' rights to be heard. This emphasizes the need for improved outreach, standardized processes, and consistent follow-up to ensure full caregiver engagement in court proceedings.

Figure 1: Caregiver Notification of Last Court Hearing



Source: March 2025 caregivers participation survey

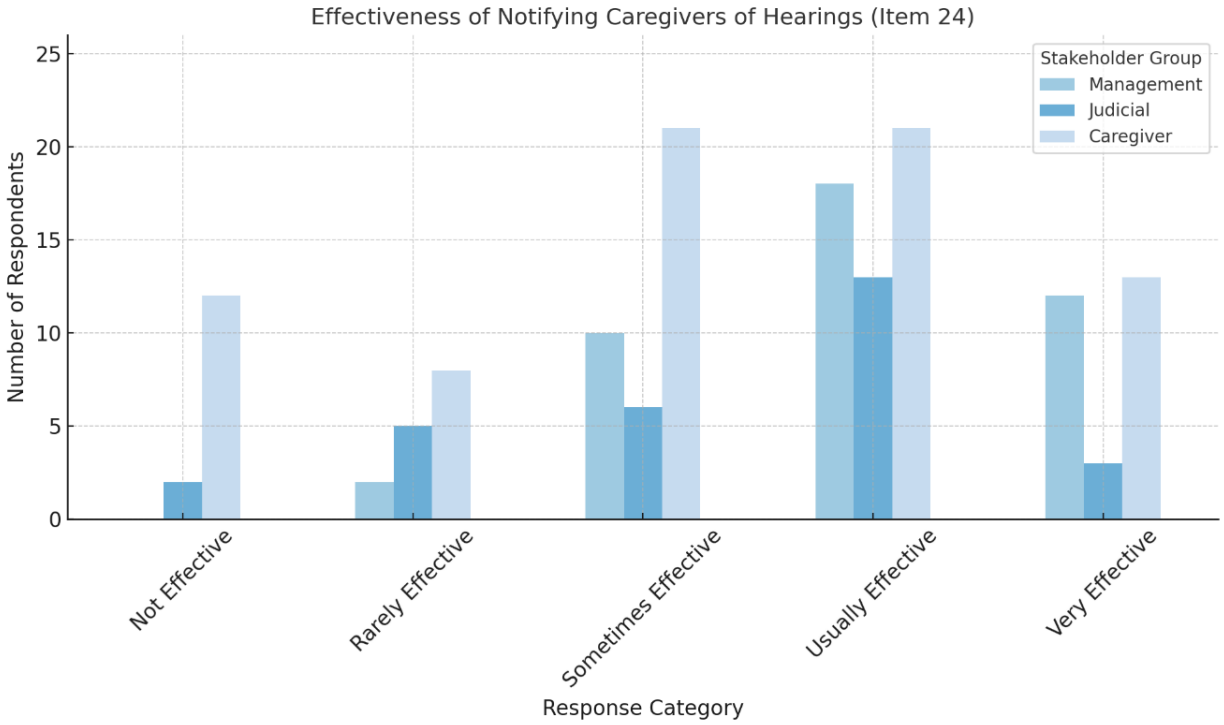
Figure 2: Notice Included Right to Be Heard



Source: March 2025 caregivers participation survey

Figure 3 illustrates that 'Usually Effective' and 'Very Effective' were the most common ratings across all groups. Judicial respondents showed slightly more variability, with several reporting 'Rarely' or 'Sometimes Effective.' A notable number of caregivers reported 'Not Effective' (n=12), highlighting inconsistencies in notification practices.

Figure 3: Effectiveness of Notifying Caregivers of Hearings



Source: March 2025 caregivers participation survey

Currently, caregiver notice information is tracked through UNITY case notes, with no automated system in place. Due to Nevada having a non-unified court system, court districts' practices are not

standardized. Some districts notify caregivers electronically, in person at the court hearing, or via mail. As a result, verification relies solely on manual documentation and review. Nevada makes concerted efforts to ensure caregivers are consistently informed of their right to be heard and their right to attend review hearings for the children in their care. However, improvements in data tracking and the notification process are needed to meet compliance expectations for this item.

Limitations:

Nevada conducted surveys statewide to gather insight from caregivers, agency staff, and judicial stakeholders about whether they believed caregiver notifications were provided timely and efficiently. The questions were to determine how well the case review system is functioning to ensure caregivers are given notice of, and have a right to be heard in, any review or hearing held with respect to a child. Given the distribution method and the limited timeframe for survey completion, it is not possible to ascertain the total number of stakeholders who received the survey. Consequently, it cannot be determined if the response rate is sufficient or assess its potential effect on the findings. Survey responses were extremely limited as only 65 caregivers participated statewide. Additionally, the survey did not indicate variation in whether the notice provided to caregivers was in-court notification or formal written notification.

State Response [to Rating]

Nevada has determined that Item 24 is an area needing improvement. Currently, the state lacks the capacity to accurately track whether all parties in a child welfare case, particularly caregivers, are properly notified of court hearings and reviews. While JCAMP data was considered as part of the assessment, it did not specifically track notifications to caregivers. Additionally, limited survey data showed that only 60% of caregivers reported receiving notice of the most recent court hearing for the children in their care.

C. Quality Assurance System

Item 25: Quality Assurance System

How well is the quality assurance system functioning statewide to ensure that it is:

1. Operating in the jurisdictions where the services included in the CFSP are provided,
2. Has standards to evaluate the quality of services (including standards to ensure that children in foster care are provided quality services that protect their health and safety),
3. Identifies strengths and needs of the service delivery system,
4. Provides relevant reports, and
5. Evaluates implemented program improvement measures.

Relevant Procedure:

NRS 432B.180
NRS 432B.2155
NAC 432B.030

Procedure Summary:

NRS 432B.180 outlines the responsibilities of DCFS, encompassing the administration of federal grants, seeking legislative appropriations for child welfare, and managing block grants for larger

counties. DCFS is also tasked with monitoring the performance of child welfare agencies in counties exceeding 100,000 residents, while directly providing or arranging services in smaller counties. Furthermore, the Division coordinates efforts with law enforcement, courts, and other social service organizations to prevent, identify, and treat child abuse and neglect, actively involving communities in improving child welfare services. A crucial duty involves evaluating all child welfare services statewide, taking corrective action if agencies fail to comply with laws or policies, and assisting in the recruitment, training, and licensing of foster care providers.

Building upon the authority granted in NRS 432B.180, NAC 432B.030 specifies the requirements for evaluating child welfare services, mandating audits of each child welfare agency to ensure compliance with NRS 432B, other applicable state and federal laws, and written agreements. These evaluations are conducted by audit teams, reinforcing the broader framework of oversight and compliance established in NRS 432B.180.

NRS 432B.2155 details the process for addressing non-compliance by child welfare agencies: if an agency is found to be violating federal or state child welfare laws, DCFS must notify them of the specific non-compliance, requiring a corrective action plan within 30 days. DCFS then has 30 days to approve or deny the plan, with an additional 30 days granted for resubmission if denied. Failure to implement an approved plan or take required corrective action within 90 days allows DCFS to impose various consequences.

Nevada conducts quarterly statewide reviews of child welfare services, encompassing both its two most populous urban areas and its 15 rural counties. These reviews analyze roughly 70 cases annually, selected through a random sampling methodology that allocates cases based on population size: 70% for Clark County, 20% for Washoe County, and 10% for the remaining 15 counties. The findings from these reviews are then disseminated to the respective child welfare agencies through the SQIC. Child welfare agencies are also empowered to independently review and analyze their own case findings, utilizing these ratings for internal program improvement and staff training initiatives.

Round 3 Performance and Background:

During the CFSR Round 3, Item 25 was identified as an area needing improvement. This determination stemmed from the State's inability to adequately determine the strengths and needs, and Nevada was placed on a PIP. During this period, the state undertook a comprehensive CQI Self-Assessment, conducted with technical assistance from the Capacity Building Center for States. This self-assessment served as the foundation for developing a targeted CQI Action Plan, specifically designed to enhance the systemic factor of quality assurance. To monitor and assess its performance on child and family outcomes, Nevada continued the quarterly case review process. This process was structured to mirror the federal CFSR case review methodology, including the direct application of the OSRI. These state-conducted reviews were further supported by an integration of existing data reports from UNITY, ad hoc data requests submitted to the Department's Office of Analytics, federal data reports, and regional data compiled directly by the child welfare agencies.

Analysis:

Nevada has actively participated in the CFSR process since 2004. The state conducts these reviews on a quarterly basis, with dedicated Quality Assurance (QA) teams leveraging the OSRI. Each review is collaboratively undertaken by peer reviewers and QA teams drawn from the CQI Units of various child welfare agencies. The review also includes interviews with families and children to gain their perspective and lived experience. This approach is integral to ensuring the safety, permanency, and well-being of children across the state.

Jurisdiction Operation:

Nevada uses a county-operated, state supervised structure for the management of child welfare services, except in the rural counties of the state, where DCFS operates the child welfare services in the 15 rural counties. DCFS, under the umbrella of the DHS, provides oversight to child welfare agencies and direct child welfare services. The DCFS FPO provides oversight of the CQI systems for all three child welfare agencies and the state-conducted case review process. Each child welfare agency has dedicated staff for local CQI activities, but the CQI system is not consistent or uniform across the state.

Evaluation Standards:

Nevada's child welfare evaluation system adheres to federal standards, primarily utilizing the OSRI. This foundational tool ensures a consistent and comprehensive assessment across the state. A component of Nevada's review process involves additional review from the Children's Bureau up to 100% of cases after being processed by Nevada's QA teams. The subsequent feedback provided by the Children's Bureau enhances the skills and confidence of the State's QA staff.

The integrity of these reviews is upheld by carefully selected and trained staff. The QA teams, when conducting CFSR reviews, strategically pair with peer reviewers. These peer reviewers are often drawn from employees across all three jurisdictions and can also include judicial and training partners, fostering a broad and collaborative approach. Prior to participating in any on-site review, all QA teams and identified peer reviewers are mandated to complete required training. This includes specialized modules offered through the Children's Bureau Online E-Training Platform, as well as the New Reviewer/Refresher training provided by DCFS FPO. QA teams undertake additional, specific training requirements, further refining their expertise in quality assurance methodologies.

New reviewers receive a survey upon completing their training, prior to their initial case review, to gather preliminary insights. Upon the conclusion of each review, an additional survey is disseminated to both reviewers and QA staff. Reviewer surveys are designed to elicit feedback on their observations during the review, their experience collaborating with review partners, and their interaction with QA staff, also serving to pinpoint any gaps in learning or necessary tool enhancements. Surveys for QA staff focus on general observations of the review process and any emerging trends, while also serving as a mechanism to evaluate the skill level and tool mastery of individual reviewers. This multi-faceted feedback collection is further supplemented by a debriefing session held with all case review participants at the conclusion of every review, creating a collaborative space for additional feedback and the sharing of results.

The comprehensive evaluation standards embedded within the OSRI cover critical aspects of child welfare. These include thorough assessments of child safety, permanency, and the overall well-being of children and families. The instrument also delves into the effectiveness of services provided, ensuring they adequately meet the identified needs of each family.

Strengths and Needs:

Following the comprehensive primary and secondary review processes, case findings are categorized as either strengths or areas needing improvement, based on supporting evidence. To ensure localized accountability and foster improvements, child welfare agencies conduct their own dedicated debriefing sessions with case review participants, supervisors, and leadership within their respective jurisdictions. The jurisdictions may complete manual reviews using additional data from UNITY to consider root cause analysis or further data exploration. Additional data may include case notes, specific UNITY

screens and UNITY data reports. The manual reviews may identify missing data, incorrect documentation, and when applicable data correction is completed. Nevada further promotes CQI and process transparency through the SQIC, which convenes monthly to examine statewide data, analyze emerging trends, discuss new initiatives, review court improvement activities, and coordinate child welfare training. The purpose of this process is to promote consistency in case reviews and provide feedback to the jurisdictions. While the SQIC effectively serves as a forum for discussing statewide quality improvement efforts, data, and reports, it has not yet fully realized its potential as a mechanism for driving substantial program improvement or widespread practice change across the state. Achieving this would necessitate significant capacity building, focusing on program improvement planning, development, and implementation. This involves cultivating staff resources possessing the knowledge, skills, and abilities to independently lead strategic planning initiatives, alongside fostering an organizational culture that supports continued performance enhancement.

Reporting:

Nevada's child welfare system leverages the Online Management System (OMS) for its comprehensive case review processes. Following each review cycle, a tailored debrief is provided to every child welfare agency, emphasizing localized results and actionable recommendations. This approach provides both the DCFS FPO team and agency CQI teams with detailed reports on case ratings and overall performance data. These reports encompass foster care and in-home services, offering insights at both statewide and jurisdictional levels, supplemented by additional review data.

While the system efficiently produces numerous performance metrics, such as counts of investigations, removals, protective referrals, adoptions, and children in foster care, a notable gap exists in the generation of statewide reports that comprehensively measure outcomes for performance reporting. To address this, Nevada primarily relies on the CFSR data profile, generated twice a year by the Children's Bureau, for federal performance measurement. Furthermore, the DCFS FPO team is currently dependent on the broader DHS Office of Data Analytics, which serves multiple divisions. The absence of a dedicated data and reporting unit specifically for child welfare presents a challenge in streamlining data analysis unique to DCFS needs.

However, the state maintains a dynamic listing of UNITY reports specifically designed for child welfare, updated and managed by dedicated IS personnel. These reports recently underwent a conversion to a new reporting system. This transition provided a valuable opportunity to verify report functionality, streamline report specifications and descriptions, rectify any missing information or data, and decommission obsolete reports, ultimately enhancing data integrity and accessibility.

Program Improvement:

Nevada state law mandates the DCFS ensure child welfare agencies implement corrective actions to address non-compliance with statutes or statewide policies. Each agency providing child welfare services is required to submit a two-year improvement plan, complete with specific performance targets aimed at enhancing services for children in their care. Annually, these agencies must provide DCFS with data demonstrating progress toward these established targets. Concurrently, DCFS administers an incentive payment program designed to reward agencies based on documented improvements in performance targets. DCFS is further obligated to submit an annual report, due by January 31st, to both the Governor and Legislature, detailing these improvement plans and the incentive program's outcomes. However, this process is not linked to the Nevada case reviews or the identified areas of performance improvement that each child welfare agency would like to focus on over the two-year period. While DCFS CQI provides feedback to stakeholders and leadership on case reviews and

identifies the programmatic changes needed to improve services, the results are not used to develop improvement plans based on the standards of the state's case reviews. Since case review samples are small there is still hesitation that case review results are not significant enough to identify and target areas needing improvement.

State Response [to Rating]:

Nevada has determined this item to be an area needing improvement. An area needing improvement is identified in the disconnect between the state's case review findings and its mandated agency improvement planning process. The process currently lacks a direct link to identified CFSR systemic strengths and needs. While quarterly case reviews identify specific areas for programmatic change, the SQIC has yet to fully translate these ratings into statewide program improvement or practice change, partly due to the perceived limitation of small case review samples and the absence of dedicated capacity for strategic planning and implementation within the quality assurance framework.

D. Staff and Provider Training

Item 26: Initial Staff Training

How well is the staff and provider training system functioning statewide to ensure that initial training is provided to all staff who deliver services pursuant to the CFSP that includes the basic skills and knowledge required for their positions?

Relevant Procedure:

NRS 432B.195
NRS 432B.397
NAC 432B.090
1402 Child Welfare Training Requirements

Procedure Summary:

NRS 432B.195, NRS 432B.397, and NAC 432B.090 require the state to provide a full staff development and training program which includes a minimum of 40 hours of training related to the principles and practices of child welfare services. This includes specific training related to the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

Statewide policy 1402 Child Welfare Training Requirements specifies the pre-service training requirements for all case-carrying child welfare staff and direct supervisors in the first year of employment. Pre-service training is accomplished through the Title IV-E funded Nevada Partnership for Training (NPT). Pre-service training is provided statewide by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) and the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) who partner with the child welfare jurisdictions to deliver specific content along with coordinating on-the-job-training. This partnered approach to facilitate the training of new caseworkers allows for the integration of theory, jurisdictional agency policy, practical information, skill demonstration, and simulated skill practice. Content is delivered in a modular format along the trajectory of the life of a family through the system, and trainees complete pre- and post-tests at each module, along with satisfaction surveys. In addition, efforts were made to provide a standardized assessment and feedback structure for written assignments and simulation experiences.

For Clark County, the South Academy is an 11-week program delivered through UNLV. UNLV provides foundational knowledge and state practices, while Clark County complements this with specific on-the-

job training (OJT) focused on local policies, procedures, and practices. This comprehensive training includes a general curriculum before branching into two specialized tracks: one for assessment workers and another for permanency workers. In Washoe County and the 15 rural counties under the DCFS, UNR provides a 10-week model (5-week classroom and 5 weeks of OJT) where the NPT trainers do a week of classroom training and then the new workers return to their agencies for a week of mentoring and OJT on their agency-specific procedures.

To monitor the completion of training and to support the workforce, the state utilizes its Learning Management System (LMS), NPTLearn, which has been in use since 2018. NPTLearn is a software application for the administration, documentation, tracking, reporting, automation, and delivery of child welfare educational and training courses. Nevada uses this system to ensure that the state's requirements for initial training are met. The universities have been standardizing their systems in partnership with the child welfare agencies to maintain timely workforce data and host in-house training registration and maintain records. Nevada uses the peer/social networking and analytic capabilities of the system to bolster professional development beyond single training events and support transfer of learning outside the classroom.

Newly hired child welfare staff in Nevada are not assigned individual cases until they have successfully completed their respective training Academy, which are tailored to the specific needs of the different regions. During this foundational training period, new hires are paired with senior staff for shadowing opportunities, gaining practical experience, and OJT which complements classroom instruction. This structured approach ensures all incoming staff are well-prepared and proficient before assuming direct case responsibilities.

Staff training for agency and group homes is completed through the foster parent training program. See section *Item 28: Foster and Adoptive Parent Training* for more information regarding this process.

Round 3 Performance and Background:

Nevada received an overall rating of area needing improvement for Item 26 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews. In round 3, Nevada struggled to effectively track initial training completion for new child welfare staff due to a lack of robust monitoring systems. To address this, the state partnered with the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) in March 2017. In Spring 2018, the implementation of a new Child Welfare Learning Management System (LMS), Saba, was initiated. Saba, a cloud-based platform, offered features like blended learning and real-time reporting, enabling more efficient tracking of both initial and ongoing training needs. A dashboard and compliance reports were created in NPTLearn so executive leadership and managers could monitor the completion of post training activities and post training supports of their staff.

Analysis:

The Academy at University of Nevada, Reno (PRE-SERVICE TRAINING)

The NPT Trainers at the UNR launched their version of the Nevada Child Welfare Training Academy (North Academy) in October 2014. The WCHSA and DCFS Rural Region both have 2 levels of workers: case managers who have a bachelor's degree in a related field in social work and social workers who are licensed in the State of Nevada. Both the WCHSA and the DCFS Rural Region caseworkers must attend the UNR training.

The North Academy delivered a comprehensive series of foundational trainings to support the onboarding of new caseworkers. Distinct training modules were offered, covering essential topics such as court procedures, child interviewing techniques, present danger assessments, worker safety, and permanency planning. These modules are required for all case-carrying child welfare staff and their direct supervisors as part of the new hire training. Case-carrying child welfare staff and direct supervisors with any break in service should have an assessment by their agency supervisor within 90 days of re-hire for North Academy training needs. The North Academy must be completed within eight weeks and started within three months of hire. All North Academy training participants completed the needed training within the 8-week period. Most trainings were delivered through instructor-led sessions, with a few web-based components. Course completions ranged from 43 to 47 participants per session, demonstrating consistent participation across the North Academy and a continued commitment to equipping new caseworkers with the skills and knowledge required for effective practice. During the reporting period of April 1, 2024, to April 1, 2025, UNR had a total of 47 people start the North Academy with 43 completing the program (completion rate = 91%).

Table 26.1: North Academy Course Completions

Course Title	Class ID	Delivery	Course Completions
Court	NCWA100-02.32	Instructor-Led	47
Intro to the Safe Model - Intake	NCWA100-02.08-4.26.24	Web-Based	47
Motivational Interviewing: Skills Building	NCWA100-02.37-4.25.24	Instructor-Led	47
Overview of Child Welfare Practice in Nevada	CWA100-02.01-4.23.24	Instructor-Led	47
Self-Care	CWA100-02.06-4.22.23	Instructor-Led	47
The Role of Culture in Child Welfare Services	CWA100-02.02-4.23.24	Instructor-Led	47
Worker Safety	NCWA100-02.07-4.25.24	Instructor-Led	47
Identification of Maltreatment	NCWA100-02.04-4.24.24	Instructor-Led	46
Interviewing Children	NCWA100-02.14-2024	Instructor-Led	46
Interviewing Children/Simulation	NCWA100-02.15-2024	Instructor-Led	46
Nevada Initial Assessment	NCWA100-02.51	Instructor-Led	46
Present Danger Assessment and Planning	NCWA100-02.11-5.8.24	Instructor-Led	46
Present Danger Assessment Simulation/Lab	NCWA100-02.12-2024	Instructor-Led	46
Removal, Placement, and Visitation	NCWA100-02.39-2024	Instructor-Led	46
Substantiation	NCWA100-02.48-2024	Instructor-Led	46
Confirming Safe Environments and Quality Child Contact	NCWA100-02.13-2024	Instructor-Led	45
Drug Identification/Indicators of Use	NCWA100-02.56-4.24.24	Instructor-Led	45
Foster Parents Panel	NCWA100-02.29-2024	Instructor-Led	45
Foster Youth Panel	NCWA100-02.27-2024	Instructor-Led	45
Motivational Interviewing: Engaging Families Using a Trauma Lens	NCWA100-02.36-4.25.24	Instructor-Led	45
Permanency	NCWA100-02.24-2024	Instructor-Led	45
Permanency Child Simulation	NCWA100-05.00-2024	Instructor-Led	45
Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI)	CWA100-02.54-4.23.24	Instructor-Led	45
Safety Plan Determination and Conditions for Return	NCWA100-02.19-2024	Instructor-Led	45
Adoption	NCWA100-02.25-2024	Instructor-Led	43
Indian Child Welfare Act	NCWA100-02.55-2024	Web-Based	43
Protective Capacity Family Assessment (PCFA)	NCWA100-02.21-2024	Instructor-Led	43
PCFA Simulation/Lab	NCWA100-02.22-2024	Instructor-Led	43
PCFA: Case Planning	NCWA100-02.42-2024	Instructor-Led	43
Protective Capacity Progress Assessment (PCPA)	NCWA100-02.23-2024	Instructor-Led	43

Source: Nevada Partnership for Training - University of Nevada – Reno

Curriculum Effectiveness

Post-module evaluation data from the North Academy reveal consistently high participant satisfaction across all training topics delivered between April 1, 2024, and April 1, 2025. Trainees rated each module on five key dimensions: instructor engagement, applicability to their agency, balance of presentation and group involvement, quality of training materials, and overall evaluation. All modules exceeded the benchmark score of 4.0, with many scorings well above 4.5. Notably, the highest-rated sessions included 'Worker Safety' (overall rating of 4.79), 'The Role of Culture in Child Welfare' (4.74), and 'Substantiation' (4.67), reflecting strong alignment with workforce needs and effective instructional delivery. These evaluations affirm the quality and relevance of Nevada's caseworker onboarding curriculum.

Table 26.2: North Academy – Curriculum Effectiveness

	How well did the instructor engage all participants?	How applicable was the information in this module to your jurisdiction/agency?	How effective was the balance between presentation and group involvement?	How effective were the training materials (i.e., handouts, workbooks, guided notes, learning aids, etc.)?	What is your overall evaluation of this section?
Adoption (n=24)	4.51	4.59	4.32	4.31	4.48
Confirming Safe Environments and Quality Child Contact (n=31)	4.50	4.58	4.31	4.30	4.47
Court (n=28)	4.49	4.59	4.30	4.30	4.47
Drug Identification and Indicators of Use (n=16)	4.50	4.58	4.32	4.30	4.47
Indian Child Welfare Act (n=50)	4.50	4.59	4.32	4.30	4.48
Identification of Maltreatment (n=40)	4.54	4.61	4.37	4.33	4.51
Interviewing Children (n=29)	4.54	4.61	4.36	4.32	4.49
Intro to the Safe Model - Intake (n=49)	4.53	4.60	4.34	4.32	4.50
Motivational Interviewing - Engaging Families Using a Trauma Lens (n=29)	4.56	4.60	4.37	4.33	4.51
Motivational Interviewing - Skills Building (n=42)	4.54	4.58	4.34	4.30	4.49
Nevada Initial Assessment (n=24)	4.52	4.57	4.31	4.27	4.47
Overview of Child Welfare Practice in Nevada (n=33)	4.53	4.58	4.33	4.28	4.47

	How well did the instructor engage all participants?	How applicable was the information in this module to your jurisdiction/agency?	How effective was the balance between presentation and group involvement?	How effective were the training materials (i.e., handouts, workbooks, guided notes, learning aids, etc.)?	What is your overall evaluation of this section?
Protective Capacity Family Assessment (PCFA) (n=16)	4.54	4.57	4.33	4.28	4.46
PCFA Case Planning (n=8)	4.55	4.58	4.34	4.29	4.48
Protective Capacity Progress Assessment (PCPA) Change Focused Casework (n=31)	4.56	4.59	4.33	4.29	4.48
Permanency (n=19)	4.57	4.62	4.35	4.30	4.51
Present Danger Assessment and Planning (n=40)	4.58	4.62	4.37	4.31	4.52
Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) (n=30)	4.60	4.63	4.38	4.35	4.54
Removal Placement and Visitation (n=28)	4.66	4.64	4.44	4.38	4.58
Safety Plan Determination and Conditions for Return (n=23)	4.67	4.65	4.49	4.42	4.59
Self-Care (n=38)	4.69	4.66	4.55	4.48	4.64
Substantiation (n=23)	4.70	4.71	4.55	4.51	4.67
The Role of Culture in Child Welfare (n=37)	4.75	4.75	4.62	4.58	4.74
Worker Safety (n=39)	4.79	4.77	4.64	4.62	4.79
1 = None 3 = Moderate 5 = High Benchmark = 4.00+					

Source: Nevada Partnership for Training - University of Nevada – Reno
The UNR NPT training team is using a benchmark of "4" as the target for trainees understanding of content at the end of the training.

Level of Understanding Before and After Training

Data collected during the review period shows a clear and measurable increase in participants' understanding across all modules in the North Academy. For each training topic, participants rated their level of understanding both before and after the session. The average net gain in understanding ranged from 0.49 to 1.18 points on a 5-point scale, with the strongest gains observed in "Safety Plan Determination and Conditions for Return" (+1.18), "Substantiation" (+1.13), and "PCFA Case Planning" (+1.12). Several modules, including "Self-Care," "Worker Safety," and "The Role of Culture in Child Welfare," achieved average post-training understanding ratings above the benchmark target of 4.0.

Table 26.3: North Academy – Level of Understanding Before and After Training

Topic	April 2024 to April 2025		
	Level of understanding of topic prior to the training?	Level of understanding now?	Net Gain
Adoption (n=24)	3.00	3.79	0.79
Confirming Safe Environments and Quality Child Contact (n=31)	3.81	4.52	0.71
Court (n=28)	2.71	3.64	0.93
Drug Identification and Indicators of Use (n=16)	3.25	4.06	0.81
Indian Child Welfare Act (n=50)	3.02	3.90	0.88
Identification of Maltreatment (n=40)	3.20	4.10	0.90
Interviewing Children (n=29)	3.28	3.93	0.65
Intro to the Safe Model - Intake (n=49)	2.98	3.94	0.96
Motivational Interviewing - Engaging Families Using a Trauma Lens (n=29)	3.33	4.14	0.81
Motivational Interviewing - Skills Building (n=42)	3.34	4.10	0.76
Nevada Initial Assessment (n=24)	2.92	3.71	0.79
Overview of Child Welfare Practice in Nevada (n=33)	3.27	3.97	0.70
Protective Capacity Family Assessment (PCFA) (n=16)	2.75	3.75	1.00
PCFA Case Planning (n=8)	2.38	3.50	1.12
PCPA Change Focused Casework (n=31)	2.52	3.42	0.90
Permanency (n=19)	2.89	3.74	0.85
Present Danger Assessment and Planning (n=40)	3.10	3.95	0.85
Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) (n=30)	2.77	3.70	0.93
Removal Placement and Visitation (n=28)	2.93	3.86	0.93
Safety Plan Determination and Conditions for Return (n=23)	2.43	3.61	1.18
Self-Care (n=38)	3.69	4.37	0.68
Substantiation (n=23)	2.70	3.83	1.13
The Role of Culture in Child Welfare (n=37)	3.73	4.22	0.49
Worker Safety (n=39)	3.77	4.41	0.64
1 = None 3 = Moderate 5 = High		Benchmark = 4.00+	

Source: Nevada Partnership for Training - University of Nevada – Reno
The UNR NPT training team is using a benchmark of "4" as the target for trainees understanding of content at the end of the training.

Curriculum Updates

As part of ongoing efforts to enhance the North Academy, the NPT completed a series of significant curriculum updates. These updates include the development of a comprehensive curriculum map outlining learning objectives and content areas, directly addressing needs and gaps identified by both Washoe County and DCFS training offices. A revised classroom learning schedule was also created to improve the sequencing and conceptual flow of content delivery. Additionally, new learning activities

were incorporated to promote applied knowledge and skill development, paired with authentic assessment strategies reflective of real-world child welfare practice. To support consistent and high-quality instruction, the NPT also developed a robust collection of lesson plans, facilitator guides, and instructional materials.

The Academy at University of Nevada, Las Vegas and Clark County Family Services (PRE-SERVICE TRAINING)

Since the 2014 implementation of the Nevada Safety Model, Clark County's pre-service training Academy (South Academy) has been collaboratively delivered by the NPT at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and CCFS. The South Academy experience begins with Clark County's New Employee Orientation, followed by a series of foundational courses covering topics such as professional boundaries, ethics, trauma, and Nevada-specific maltreatment allegation protocols. The safety model training is anchored by a realistic, scenario-based progression, beginning with a simulated hotline call reporting an incident of child abuse or neglect. From there, trainees follow the same family throughout the full life of a case, offering a hands-on, integrated understanding of the safety model's application in real-world practice.

Table 26.4: South Academy Schedule

Week	Training Topics		
Week 1	Clark County New Employee Orientation, Child Welfare Overview, Role of Culture, Critical Thinking, Recognizing & Reporting Abuse & On-The-Job training		
Week 2	Implicit Bias, Ethics, Trauma Overview, Worker Safety, Motivational Interviewing, ICWA & On-the-Job Training		
Week 3	Nevada Safety Model, UNITY System Basics & On-the-Job Training		
Week 4	Grief & Loss, Compassion Fatigue, Nevada Allegations System, Intake & On-the-Job Training		
Nevada Initial Assessment (NIA) Track		**Permanency Track**	
Week 5	NIA Policy, Present Danger Assessment and Planning & On-the-Job Training	**Week 5**	Present Danger Assessment, Impending Danger Assessment & PERM UNITY
Week 6	Motivational Interviewing for Child Welfare, Self-Care, Interview Simulation, Documentation Skills & On-the-Job Training	**Week 6**	Safety Plan Determination, Conditions for Return, Documentation Skills, Confirming Safe Environments, Permanency Policy & On-the-Job Training
Week 7	Information Collection, Interview Simulation, Case Note Documentation, & Nevada Initial Assessment UNITY	**Week 7**	Assessing NIA Sufficiency for Case Transfer, Protective Capacity Family Assessment Modules (Overview, Introduction, Discovery)
Week 8	Assessing NIA Sufficiency, NIA Documentation Skills & On-the-Job Training	**Week 8**	Protective Capacity and Functioning Assessment Simulation, Case Planning, PCFA Documentation Skills & On-the-Job Training
Week 9	Safety Plan Determination, Out of Home Placement, Adoption Preparation, Conditions for Return & Suicide Prevention	**Week 9**	Court Prep & Warrant Training, Report & Disposition Documentation Skills, Suicide Prevention, Self-Care, Mock Court & On-the-Job Training
Week 10	Confirming Safe Environments, Court Prep & Warrant Training, Permanency Planning & On-the-Job Training	**Week 10**	Protective Capacity Progress Assessment (PCPA), Permanency Roundtables, PCPA Simulation, PCPA Documentation Skills & On-the-Job Training

Week	Training Topics		
Week 11	Mock Court, Case Transfer Process & Report to Unit	Week 11	Permanency Court Report Training & Report to Unit

Source: Nevada Partnership for Training - University of Nevada – Las Vegas

Following the initial phase of the South Academy, participants are assigned to one of two specialized tracks: the Nevada Initial Assessment (NIA) track or the Permanency track. This tracking model is designed to accelerate readiness by aligning trainees with the specific program area they will be entering; with the intent they are equipped with foundational knowledge relevant to their assigned role. When a staff member transfers to another program area, CCFS provides in-house OJT for the transfers. The training plan captures the new training requirements and provides additional policy and procedure components. The ongoing training team supports training staff.

Each week the South Academy focuses on a core casework process or practice area. During this time, NPT trainers deliver the standardized curriculum, while CCFS South Academy trainers supplement instruction with agency-specific content, including local policy and procedures, documentation protocols, and court expectations. This collaborative training model ensures participants gain both the broad competencies required in child welfare and the practical, agency-specific skills necessary for immediate effectiveness at CCFS.

The South Academy utilizes a comprehensive blended learning approach, incorporating:

- Instructor-led training
- Web-based/asynchronous modules
- Hybrid delivery formats
- On the job training
- Simulation exercises featuring standardized clients portrayed by trained actors from UNLV's Department of Theatre

To enhance the learning experience, CCFS South Academy trainers certified in the CoachNV coaching model are assigned to individual trainees and provide coaching throughout the academy timeframe to reinforce skill development and reflective practice.

The full South Academy experience must be completed over 11 weeks, culminating in trainees who are primed both theoretically and practically for fieldwork. This training is provided three times and year, and new hires must attend the first South Academy available after their hire date.

A part of the South Academy's design is the integration of OJT days. These sessions offer trainees an opportunity to observe and apply classroom learning in real-world environments under the guidance of experienced caseworkers. These activities are debriefed in the classroom by CCFS trainers, ensuring field experiences are meaningfully connected to ongoing instruction and reinforcing the transfer of learning into practice.

These modules are required for all case-carrying child welfare staff and their direct supervisors as part of new hire training. Case-carrying child welfare staff and direct supervisors with any break in service should have an assessment by their agency supervisor within 90 days of re-hire for South Academy training needs.

During the reporting period of April 1, 2024, to April 1, 2025, UNLV had a total of 84 people start the South Academy, with 72 completing the program (completion rate = 86%).

Pre-service Training Evaluation – CCFS

Pre- and post-tests were given to participants. The test and satisfaction information provided is for NPT training content only. CCFS also provides pre-and post-tests and satisfaction surveys for their content, but the NPT did not have access to the data for the review period.

- Pre-test scores ranged from 33% (Assessing NIA Sufficiency for Case Transfer) to 89% (Boundaries in Social Services), with an average score of 57% across all modules.
- Post-test scores ranged from 57% to 94%, with a mean score of 75% across the training catalog.
- On average, participants demonstrated a 17% increase in knowledge following instruction.

Table 26.5: South Academy – Pre/Post Test Results

Course Title	Course ID	Delivery	Pre-test scores		Post-test scores		Difference
			N	Mean	N	Mean	+
Assessing Nevada Initial Assessment Sufficiency for Case Transfer	ACP100-11	Instructor-led	37	33%	37	57%	23%
Boundaries in Social Services	ACA100-47	Instructor-led	61	89%	75	94%	5%
Case & Time Management	ACA100-21	Web-based	47	47%	47	57%	9%
Case Closure	ACA100-53	Web-based	46	67%	46	84%	17%
Compassion Fatigue	ACA100-22	Instructor-led	74	38%	74	58%	20%
Conditions for Return	ACA100-69	Hybrid	48	57%	46	80%	23%
Confirming Safe Environments	ACA100-04	Hybrid	72	65%	72	79%	14%
Ethics in Child Welfare	ETH300-08	Instructor-led	77	46%	78	55%	9%
Foundational Overview of Trauma	MHT200-11	Instructor-led	78	75%	77	88%	13%
Grief & Loss	ACA100-16	Instructor-led	71	66%	71	86%	20%
Human Development	multiple	Hybrid	77	58%	72	73%	15%
Impending Danger Assessment	ACP100-08	Instructor-led	39	56%	39	77%	21%
Information Collection & Interviewing	ACN100-02	Instructor-led	30	63%	31	65%	3%
Intake Assessment	ACA100-15	Hybrid	76	43%	75	77%	33%
Judging Sufficiency in Information Collection	ACN100-03	Instructor-led	38	58%	38	61%	3%
Nevada Juvenile Dependency Mediation Training	OTH900-11	Web-based	21	61%	17	91%	30%
Out of Home Placement	ACA100-13	Web-based	65	71%	59	79%	8%
Overview of Safety Model	ACA100-55	Instructor-led	77	54%	77	72%	18%
Parent/Child Visitation	ACA100-14	Web-based	63	63%	61	73%	10%
Protective Capacity Family Assessment (PCFA) 1: Overview, Preparation & Introduction	ACP100-01	Instructor-led	39	56%	40	69%	12%
PCFA 2: Discovery & Case Planning	ACP100-03	Instructor-led	37	52%	38	71%	19%
Protective Capacity Progress Assessment	ACP100-07	Instructor-led	35	42%	30	69%	28%
Perm 1: Present Danger Assessment /Present Danger Planning	ACP100-09	Instructor-led	39	57%	39	78%	21%
Perm 2: Safety Plan Determination/Conditions for Return	ACP100-10	Instructor-led	11	35%	11	66%	31%
Preparing for Adoption	ACA100-38	Web-based	46	55%	46	78%	23%
Present Danger Assessment & Present Danger Planning	ACN100-01	Hybrid	36	53%	38	79%	26%
Self-Care in Stressful Times	WFI200-01	Instructor-led	62	71%	62	81%	10%
Safety Plan Determination	ACA100-59	Instructor-led	38	60%	47	72%	12%

Course Title	Course ID	Delivery	Pre-test scores		Post-test scores		Difference
			N	Mean	N	Mean	+
Spirit & Skills of Motivational Interviewing	ACA100-30	Instructor-led	71	49%	71	82%	33%
Trauma, Court & Engagement	AMH300-13	Web-based	68	75%	59	87%	12%
Understanding & Engaging Family Systems	ACA100-29	Web-based	67	49%	62	66%	17%

Source: Nevada Partnership for Training - University of Nevada – Las Vegas

Satisfaction Surveys

For most instructor-led and hybrid training, satisfaction surveys are distributed to participants at the end of each training so they can self-report their abilities across training learning objectives, increase in understanding, curriculum effectiveness, and overall perception of the training.

The following trends were identified in data analysis:

- Participants' self-reported understanding of training content varied based on the nature of the material. For topics related to the Nevada Safety Model, such as present danger and impending danger, the average reported understanding was 3.6. In contrast, content not directly tied to the safety model, such as ethics and compassion fatigue, received a higher average of 4.1. This variation is expected given the technical complexity of the Nevada Safety Model and the fact that, for most participants, this training represents their first exposure to this specific approach to child protection. These findings highlight the critical need for continued support once participants transition from the South Academy to the field. Establishing a structured plan to monitor application and reinforce learning is essential to ensure participants not only retain the material but also develop the necessary proficiency to apply it effectively in practice.
- Participants' overall satisfaction with the training appears to be high, with all but two of the trainings meeting the benchmark of 4.

Table 26.6: South Academy – Level of Understanding Before and After Training

Course Title	Level of understanding of topic prior to the training?	Level of understanding now?	Net Gain
Compassion Fatigue	3.12	3.98	0.86
Conditions for Return	1.89	4.11	2.22
Confirming Safe Environments	2.45	3.81	1.36
Ethics in Child Welfare	2.86	4.1	1.24
Examining Implicit Bias	3.38	4.34	0.97
Grief & Loss	3.19	4.16	0.97
Information Collection & Interviewing	2.72	3.87	1.15
Intake Assessment	2.40	3.62	1.22
Judging Sufficiency in Information Collection	2.58	3.58	0.99
Overview of Safety Model	2.71	3.80	1.09
Protective Capacity Family Assessment (PCFA) 1: Overview, Preparation & Introduction	2.53	3.63	1.09
PCFA 2: Discovery & Case Planning	2.38	3.55	1.17
Protective Capacity Progress Assessment	2.22	3.52	1.29
Perm 1: Present Danger Assessment (PDA) & Present Danger Planning (PDP)	2.72	3.64	0.92
Perm 2: Safter Plan Determination (SPD) & Conditions for Return (CFR)	1.91	3.18	1.27
Present Danger Assessment & Present Danger Planning	2.41	3.75	1.34
Safety Plan Determination	1.56	3.22	1.67

Course Title	Level of understanding of topic prior to the training?	Level of understanding now?	Net Gain
Spirit & Skills of Motivational Interviewing	2.63	3.91	1.29
1 = None 3 = Moderate 5 = High			

Source: Nevada Partnership for Training - University of Nevada – Las Vegas

Table 26.7: South Academy – Curriculum Effectiveness

Course Title	How well did the learning activities address different participant learning styles?	How responsive was the curriculum to the diverse make-up of the training group?	How effective was the balance between presentation and group involvement?	How effective were the in-room learning aids (i.e., videos, posters, etc.)?	How effective were the take-away materials (i.e. handouts, etc.)	What is your overall evaluation of the workshop?
Compassion Fatigue	4.32	4.37	4.29	4.31	4.39	4.40
Conditions for Return	4.33	4.33	4.33	4.33	4.11	4.22
Confirming Safe Environments	4.08	4.04	4.22	4.15	4.11	4.03
Ethics in Child Welfare	4.31	4.31	4.24	4.34	4.24	4.24
Grief & Loss	4.41	4.44	4.46	4.46	4.43	4.50
Information Collection & Interviewing	4.33	4.27	4.40	4.38	4.38	4.31
Intake Assessment	4.26	4.26	4.35	4.31	4.35	4.37
Judging Sufficiency in Information Collection	4.14	4.24	4.17	4.22	4.40	4.17
Overview of Safety Model	4.16	4.09	4.30	4.16	4.29	4.27
PCFA 1: Overview, Preparation & Introduction	4.08	4.05	4.18	4.04	4.23	4.17
PCFA 2: Discovery & Case Planning	4.18	4.13	4.14	4.04	4.12	3.93
Protective Capacity Progress Assessment	3.77	3.94	3.79	3.89	3.96	3.84
Perm 1: PDA & PDP	4.08	4.05	4.18	4.04	4.23	4.06
Perm 2: SPD & CFR	4.00	4.09	3.91	3.91	3.91	4.00
Present Danger Assessment & Present	4.00	3.95	4.14	3.70	4.18	4.06

Course Title	How well did the learning activities address different participant learning styles?	How responsive was the curriculum to the diverse make-up of the training group?	How effective was the balance between presentation and group involvement?	How effective were the in-room learning aids (i.e., videos, posters, etc.)?	How effective were the take-away materials (i.e. handouts, etc.)	What is your overall evaluation of the workshop?
Danger Planning						
Safety Plan Determination	3.56	4.00	3.78	3.67	4.00	3.67
Spirit & Skills of Motivational Interviewing	4.28	4.30	4.42	4.35	4.56	4.51
1 = Not Effective 3 = Somewhat Effective 5 = Very Effective						

Source: Nevada Partnership for Training - University of Nevada – Las Vegas

Child Welfare Scholars Program Overview – UNR

The Child Welfare Scholars Program at the UNR is a specialized workforce development initiative designed to prepare undergraduate students for careers in public child welfare. The program includes two semesters of in-class training led by the NPT team, covering core competencies in child welfare practice. In addition to classroom instruction, students complete a one-year internship with a public child welfare agency, providing immersive field experience bridging theory and practice. Stipend students and scholars are not assigned a caseload while they are in the North Academy. They complete OJT exercises where they practice with an experienced worker. Over the past two cohorts, a total of 17 students participated in the program, gaining both academic and hands-on exposure to the realities of child welfare work.

Table 26.8: UNR Child Welfare Scholars Completions

Course Title	Class ID	Delivery	Course Completions
UNR Child Welfare Scholars Program	N/A	Instructor-Led	17

Source: Nevada Partnership for Training - University of Nevada – Reno

Survey Results and Program Effectiveness

At the conclusion of each semester, participants complete a standardized post-semester evaluation to assess key elements of the program, including onboarding, classroom instruction, online learning, trainer effectiveness, and overall satisfaction. Results from both the 2023 – 2024 and 2024 – 2025 cohorts indicate high levels of satisfaction, with all average scores meeting or exceeding the benchmark of 4.0. The first cohort rated the program especially high in areas such as classroom training and trainer effectiveness (both averaging 4.88). While the second cohort maintained strong ratings overall, slight declines were observed in perceptions of online course effectiveness and trainer support, suggesting areas for continued refinement. Overall, the survey findings affirm the program's value in equipping students with foundational knowledge and practical skills for entering the child welfare workforce.

Table 26.9: North Academy – Post Semester Evaluation

	How would you describe your onboarding experience to the Scholars program?	How would you describe the classroom training experience?	How would you describe the effectiveness of the online courses?	How would you describe the NPT trainers' effectiveness?	How would you describe the Overall effectiveness of the Scholars Program?
Fall 2023 – 2024 Cohort (n=8)	4.63	4.88	4.75	4.88	4.75
Fall 2024 – 2025 Cohort (n=8)	4.63	4.63	4.00	4.38	4.63
	1 = None	3 = Moderate	5 = High	Benchmark = 4.00+	

Source: Nevada Partnership for Training - University of Nevada – Reno
The UNR NPT training team is using a benchmark of "4" as the target for trainees understanding of content at the end of the training.

Pre-service Training Evaluation – BSW Stipend Students – UNLV

Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) stipend students complete a comprehensive pre-service training program which fulfills their required practicum experience for both the fall and spring semesters of their senior year. Modeled after the training provided to new caseworkers at Clark County, this experience includes instructor-led sessions, web-based and asynchronous modules, hybrid learning formats, OJT days, and simulation exercises with standardized clients. Stipend students and scholars are not assigned a caseload while they are in the South Academy. They complete OJT exercises where they practice with a seasoned worker. Upon graduation, students will have satisfied their pre-service training requirements and are eligible for immediate employment with CCFS.

Between April 1, 2024, and April 1, 2025, seven BSW stipend students completed pre-service training.

Summary of Test Results

Pre- and post-assessments were administered to participants to evaluate knowledge acquisition:

- Mean pretest scores ranged from 38% (Intake Assessment) to 89% (Boundaries in Social Services). The mean pretest score across all modules was 56%.
- Mean post-test scores ranged from 46% (Judging Sufficiency in Information Collection) to 95% (Boundaries in Social Services). The mean post-test score across all modules was 76%.
- The average increase from pre to post was 20%.

Table 26.10: South Academy – Pre/Post Test Results – BSW Stipend Students

Course Title	Course ID	Delivery	Pre-test scores		Post-test scores		% Difference
			N	*Mean*	*N*	*Mean*	+
Implicit Bias	ACP100-11	Instructor-led	7	82%	7	88%	6%
Overview of Safety Model	ACA100-55	Instructor-led	6	37%	6	90%	53%
Intake Assessment	ACA100-15	Hybrid	7	38%	7	67%	29%
Present Danger Assessment (PDA) & Present Danger Planning (PDP)	ACN100-01	Hybrid	7	57%	7	81%	24%
Spirit & Skills of Motivational Interviewing	ACA100-30	Instructor-led	7	39%	7	84%	45%
Impending Danger Assessment	ACP100-08	Instructor-led	7	50%	7	66%	16%
Judging Sufficiency in Information Collection	ACN100-03	Instructor-led	7	46%	7	46%	0%
Confirming Safe Environments	ACA100-04	Hybrid	7	80%	7	89%	9%

Course Title	Course ID	Delivery	Pre-test scores		Post-test scores		% Difference
			N	*Mean*	*N*	*Mean*	+
Ethics in Child Welfare	ETH300-08	Instructor-led	7	40%	7	52%	12%
Boundaries in Social Services	ACA100-47	Instructor-led	7	89%	7	95%	6%

Source: Nevada Partnership for Training - University of Nevada – Las Vegas

Satisfaction Surveys

Satisfaction surveys are given to students at the end of each semester to determine the stipend program's effectiveness. Students provide feedback regarding the program's onboarding experience, training effectiveness for both the instructor-led and asynchronous online courses, trainer effectiveness, OJT effectiveness, and overall perception of the program.

Table 26.11: South Academy – Program Effectiveness – BSW Stipend Students

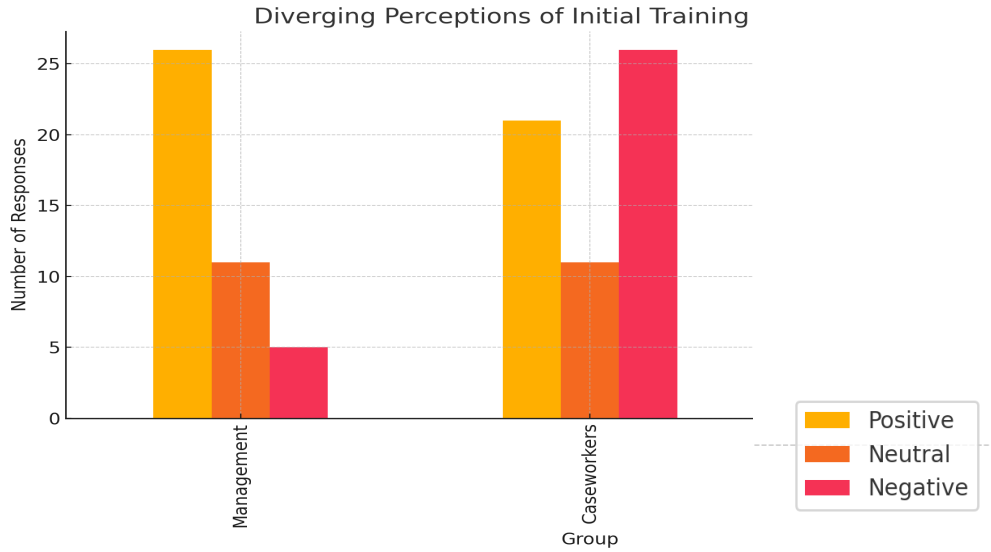
BSW Stipend Cohort	How would you describe your onboarding experience to the stipend program?	How would you describe the classroom training experience?	How would you describe the effectiveness of the online courses?	How would you describe the NPT trainers' effectiveness?	How would you describe your OJT training experience?	How would you describe the overall effectiveness of the scholar/stipend program?
Spring 2024 Cohort E (N=7)	NA	4.86	4.43	4.86	5	5
Fall 2024 Cohort F (n=8)	4.75	5	4.75	5	4.88	5
1 = Not Effective 3 = Somewhat Effective 5 = Very Effective						

Source: Nevada Partnership for Training - University of Nevada – Las Vegas

Survey Results:

Nevada conducted a survey in March 2025 to determine if initial training was effective for new workers. This survey included responses from all jurisdictions which included supervisors/managers (n=42) and caseworkers (n=58). Figure 26.12 illustrates management was the most positive, with 62% rating initial training as 'Usually' or 'Very Effective.' Caseworkers reported significant dissatisfaction; 45% rated training as 'Not Very Well' or 'Not Well at All,' with no one selecting 'Very Well.'

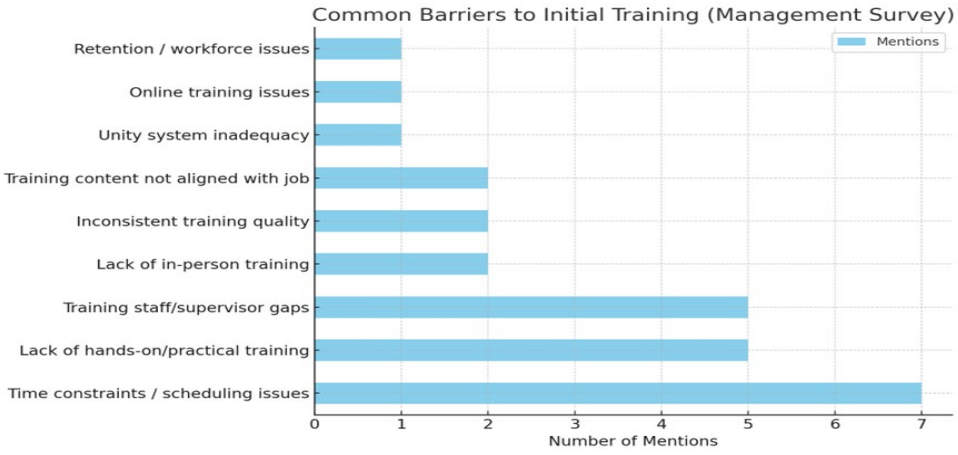
Figure 26.12: Perceptions of Initial Training



Source: Stakeholder Surveys 2025

Figure 26.12 demonstrates the disconnect between oversight and direct service roles, reinforcing concerns from caseworkers that training does not adequately prepare them for real-world tasks, despite management viewing it more favorably.

Figure 26.13: Common Barriers to Initial Training



Source: Stakeholder Surveys 2025

Figure 26.13 illustrates the open-ended responses from the management survey identifying several key barriers affecting the quality and impact of initial training. The most frequently cited challenges included time constraints, lack of practical training, and insufficient support from supervisors or trainers.

State Response [to Rating]:

Nevada determined Item 26 to be an area needing improvement. While the program currently relies on comprehension checks, knowledge quizzes, and self-assessment tools, there is a need to implement more formal and observable competency checks that align directly with learning objectives and field expectations. Another identified concern is the lack of data collected by agency partners who host trainees during their field-based learning experiences. Currently, NPT captures rich data on classroom-

based instruction but receives little to no information from the jurisdictions where trainees spend 50% of their time. As a result, only a partial view of the trainee learning arc is available.

Item 27: Ongoing Staff Training

How well is the staff and provider training system functioning statewide to ensure that ongoing training is provided for staff that addresses the skills and knowledge needed to carry out their duties with regard to the services included in the CFSP?

Relevant Procedure:

NRS 432B.195
NRS 432B.397
NRS 432B.175
NAC 284.482
NAC 284.498
NAC 424.270
NAC 432A.680
NAC 432B.090
NAC 641B.187
1402 Child Welfare Training requirements

Procedure Summary:

State statute requires employees to be responsible for their basic professional training needs and must complete a minimum of 30 hours of continuing education every two years, which is consistent with the licensure requirements for Social Workers (NRS 432B.195, NRS 432B.397, NRS 432B.175, NAC 284.482, NAC 284.498, NAC 424.270, NAC 432A.680 and NAC 432B.090).

Specifically, NAC 432B.440 mandates that, after the first year of employment, all staff engaged in child welfare services must complete 30 hours of ongoing training biennially, directly related to their work.

Statewide policy 1402 Child Welfare Training Requirements requires that all staff engaged in child welfare services and their supervisors/managers must meet the minimum requirements for ongoing training set forth in NAC 432B.440 which requires completion of at least 30 hours of continuing education in the field of child welfare practice every two years from date of hire, including:

- Completion of four hours of continuing education related to ethics in the practice of social work every two years from date of hire. The content areas that will count towards the ethics requirement include professional boundaries, confidentiality, dual relationships, documentation, billing, fraud, telehealth, supervision, social media, sexual harassment, exploitation of clients, managing job stress, social work laws and regulations, risk management, mandated reporting, scope of practice, professional conduct;
- Standards of care, impaired professionals, and/or certifications for an emergency admission, release from an emergency admission or involuntary court-order; and
- Completion of at least two hours of instruction on evidence-based suicide prevention and awareness every two years from date of hire.

Ongoing training is accomplished through the NPT and is provided statewide by UNLV and UNR in partnership with the child welfare jurisdictions. Through NPTLearn, the LMS is utilized for the administration, documentation, tracking, reporting, automation, and delivery of child welfare educational

and training courses. NPT has developed efficient ways to track new employees' first- and second-year training requirements, as well as ongoing training requirements for the workforce. Ongoing, in-service training is delivered live, asynchronous on-line, and synchronous to the statewide child welfare workforce.

Round 3 Performance and Background:

Nevada received an overall rating of area needing improvement for Item 27 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews. Nevada lacked a statewide system to track ongoing "Specialty Training" for child welfare staff, which varies despite being delivered by UNLV and UNR. To improve tracking, Nevada implemented the Saba LMS in Spring 2018.

Analysis:

Between April 1, 2024, and April 1, 2025, the NPT delivered several specialty and supervisor-level courses to enhance the knowledge, skills, and confidence of the child welfare workforce across the northern regions of the state. These offerings spanned both instructor-led and asynchronous formats and focused on emerging practice areas such as trauma-informed care, domestic violence, leadership development, and coaching. Evaluation data demonstrate consistently high levels of participant satisfaction, measurable gains in knowledge, and strong post-training confidence in applying new concepts on the job. NPT continues to use a multi-method evaluation approach, combining satisfaction ratings, self-assessed understanding, and knowledge checks to ensure training content is relevant, impactful, and aligned with practice needs.

Currently, Nevada is inconsistent in tracking the required 30 hours of ongoing training, likely due to the complexity of statewide policy 1402 Training Policy, which ties the tracking period to each employee's individual start date with the agency. This individualized approach complicates system-level monitoring and compliance reporting within NPTLearn.

In addition to frontline training, Nevada implemented OpenSesame as the supervisor training (supervisors, managers, and executives) statewide to bolster asynchronous trainings offered to leadership. OpenSesame is an e-learning vendor with more than 40,000 online courses available from a variety of content creators on a wide range of topics. Many of these courses are applicable to the child welfare workforce, including topics related to supervision and management, coaching, critical thinking, problem solving, time management, well-being and stress management, and effective communication. With the current OpenSesame subscription, NPT is able to select as many as 100 courses at a time and rotate courses quarterly. Analytics provided through OpenSesame help to inform decisions about the courses selected. OpenSesame courses are available only for supervisors, managers, and executive leadership statewide, and because these courses are all provided in an asynchronous online format, the training is available instantly, and on an as needed, basis. The addition of OpenSesame is expanding the state's catalog of courses substantially and is meeting the identified need to provide training support for supervisors and other agency leaders.

Instructor-Led Specialty Course Completions

A total of 14 unique instructor-led specialty courses were offered, with completion counts ranging from 1 to 54 participants. High-enrollment topics included Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC), SafeTALK, and Domestic Violence Practice. Lower enrollments in niche offerings, such as advanced domestic violence modules and intermediate motivational interviewing, suggest opportunities to enhance marketing or revisit delivery strategies.

Table 27.1: Specialty Course (Instructor Led) – Course Completions

Course Title	Class ID	Delivery	Course Completions
CoachNV: Coaching in Child Welfare	COA400-01-1-8-25	Instructor-Led	17
Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and the Vulnerability of Youth in Child Welfare	R-CSC200-04	Instructor-Led	54
Compassion Fatigue for Leaders	R-WFI400-01-4-3-24	Instructor-Led	3
Engaging Fathers: The Hero Search	FES200-03-12-4-24	Instructor-Led	10
Foundational Overview of Domestic Violence and Child Welfare Practice	DVI100-04-8-7-24	Instructor-Led	44
Intermediate Motivational Interviewing for Child Welfare Professionals	R-MIS300-07-12.11.25		1
Positive Youth Development: The Vital Link - One-Day Course	R-CWB300-02-1.13.25		1
Preventing, Addressing, and Surviving Compassion Fatigue	R-WFI300-06-04-18-24	Instructor-Led	11
SafeTALK: Suicide Alertness for Everyone	R-AMH300-14-04-12-24	Instructor-Led	43
The Child Welfare Trauma Training Toolkit 101	R-MHT200-03-04-02-24	Instructor-Led	32
Understanding the Intersection of Child Welfare and Domestic Violence	DVI300-01-10-1-24	Instructor-Led	5
Understanding the Intersection of Child Welfare and Domestic Violence: Domestic Violence & Mental Health Workshop	DVI300-01F-10-8-24	Instructor-Led	1
Understanding the Intersection of Child Welfare and Domestic Violence: Domestic Violence & Substance Use Workshop	DVI300-01G-10-29-24	Instructor-Led	3

Source: Nevada Partnership for Training - University of Nevada – Reno

Instructor-Led Curriculum Effectiveness

Across all instructor-led specialty courses evaluated, participant satisfaction exceeded the benchmark of 4.0 in all measured dimensions, including instructional quality, relevance, and application to practice. Particularly high ratings were observed in courses like Preventing, Addressing, and Surviving Compassion Fatigue and Intermediate Motivational Interviewing, both of which received perfect or near-perfect scores across all categories. These findings underscore the quality and practical utility of NPT's specialty curricula.

Table 27.2: Specialty Course (Instructor Led) – Curriculum Effectiveness

	The training included a good mix of presentations and activities.	The training has positively impacted my attitude towards this topic area.	The training was relevant to my job duties.	The information I received from this training can definitely be used with my clients [or individuals I work with].	I am very confident that I will use the training on the job.	What is your overall evaluation of the workshop?
Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and the Vulnerability of Youth in Child Welfare (n=36)	4.69	4.60	4.63	4.60	4.60	4.61
Compassion Fatigue for Leaders (n=6)	4.67	4.83	4.83	4.67	4.83	4.83
Engaging Fathers - The Hero Search (n=8)	4.63	4.63	4.88	4.88	4.75	4.63
Foundational Overview of Domestic Violence and Child Welfare Practice (n=26)	4.42	4.42	4.65	4.62	4.54	4.54
Intermediate Motivational Interviewing for Child Welfare Professionals (n=5)	4.60	4.60	4.60	4.60	4.60	5.00
Preventing Addressing and Surviving Compassion Fatigue (n=4)	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
SAFE TALK Suicide Alertness for Everyone (n=13)	4.46	4.31	4.54	4.46	4.38	4.46
The Child Welfare Trauma Toolkit (n=27)	4.56	4.52	4.74	4.67	4.59	4.48
1 = None 3 = Moderate 5 = High				Benchmark = 4.00+		

Source: Nevada Partnership for Training - University of Nevada – Reno
The UNR NPT training team is using a benchmark of "4" as the target for trainees understanding of content at the end of the training.

Instructor-Led Level of Understanding

Participants reported significant increases in understanding across all evaluated instructor-led courses, with net gains ranging from 0.85 to 1.50 points on a 5-point scale. The largest gains were reported in Engaging Fathers and Compassion Fatigue, indicating these sessions had particularly strong learning impacts. Most courses met or approached the benchmark of 4.0 for post-training understanding.

Table 27.3: Specialty Course (Instructor Led) – Level of Understanding

	Level of understanding of topic prior to the training?	Level of understanding now?	Net Gain
Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and the Vulnerability of Youth in Child Welfare (n=36)	2.92	3.92	1.00
Compassion Fatigue for Leaders (n=6)	3.33	4.50	1.17
Engaging Fathers - The Hero Search (n=8)	2.88	4.38	1.50
Foundational Overview of Domestic Violence and Child Welfare Practice (n=26)	3.04	4.00	0.96
Intermediate Motivational Interviewing for Child Welfare Professionals (n=5)	2.86	3.93	1.07
Preventing Addressing and Surviving Compassion Fatigue (n=4)	3.00	4.50	1.50
SAFE TALK/Suicide Alertness for Everyone (n=13)	3.38	4.23	0.85
The Child Welfare Trauma Toolkit (n=27)	3.22	4.15	0.93
1 = None 3 = Moderate 5 = High		Benchmark = 4.00+	

Source: Nevada Partnership for Training - University of Nevada – Reno
The UNR NPT training team is using a benchmark of "4" as the target for trainees understanding of content at the end of the training.

Asynchronous Course Completions

Eight asynchronous specialty courses were offered during the review period, with enrollments ranging from 37 to 79 completions per course. High-volume offerings included Mandated Reporting, Trauma, Court, and Engagement, and Contemporary Social Work Ethics, indicating continued demand for flexible, self-paced training in essential practice areas.

Table 27.4: Specialty Course (Asynchronous) – Course Completions

Course Title	Class ID	Delivery	Course Completions
Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Dynamics & Approach	R-CSC200-05-11-04-21	Web-Based	50
Contemporary Social Work Ethics	R-ETH300-11-12062021-V3	Web-Based	69
Implicit Racial Bias 101: Exploring Implicit Bias in Child Protection	R-ETH100-04-ONLINE-V1	Web-Based	55
Mandated Reporting in Child Welfare	R-ETH100-02-ONLINE-V1	Web-Based	78
Nevada Juvenile Dependency Mediation Training	R-OTH900-11-08042020-V1	Web-Based	54
Trauma, Court, and Engagement - Using Communication Strategies to Improve Outcomes for Children and Families	AMH300-13-2-23-21	Web-Based	79
Why Do They Stay? CSEC Youth and Trauma Bonding	R-CSC200-03-ONLINE-V2	Web-Based	37

Source: Nevada Partnership for Training - University of Nevada – Reno

Asynchronous Curriculum Effectiveness

Evaluation results for asynchronous courses showed strong ratings across dimensions such as content clarity, ease of navigation, and overall satisfaction. Most courses exceeded the benchmark of 4.0 reflecting the strength of these modules in meeting practitioner needs through an accessible online format.

Table 27.5: Specialty Course (Asynchronous) – Curriculum Effectiveness

	Content was clear and understandable.	**Online course was an effective way to learn the content.**	**Online course was easy to use and navigate.**	**What is your overall evaluation of this training?**
Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Dynamics & Approach (n=36)	4.06	4.08	4.08	4.28
Contemporary Social Work Ethics (n=83)	4.06	3.98	3.96	4.07
Implicit Racial Bias 101 - Exploring Implicit Bias in Child Protection (n=30)	4.07	4.00	4.00	4.03
Mandated Reporting in Child Welfare (n=68)	4.66	4.62	4.63	4.51
Nevada Juvenile Dependency Mediation Training (n=57)	4.19	4.05	4.32	4.11
Trauma, Court, and Engagement - Using Communication Strategies to Improve Outcomes for Children and Families (n=41)	4.05	4.05	4.27	4.22
Why Do They Stay? CSEC Youth and Trauma Bonding (n=30)	4.53	4.43	4.33	4.63
1 = None 3 = Moderate 5 = High			Benchmark = 4.00+	

Source: Nevada Partnership for Training - University of Nevada – Reno
The UNR NPT training team is using a benchmark of "4" as the target for trainees understanding of content at the end of the training.

Asynchronous Level of Understanding

As with instructor-led courses, asynchronous modules showed positive gains in self-reported understanding. Average net gains ranged from 0.50 to 1.23, with the largest increases observed in Juvenile Dependency Mediation and Trauma, Court, and Engagement. These results affirm the efficacy of web-based learning in building competency in core child welfare topics.

Table 27.6: Specialty Course (Asynchronous) – Level of Understanding

	Level of understanding of topic prior to the training?	Level of understanding now?	Net Gain
Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Dynamics & Approach (n=36)	2.97	3.78	0.81
Contemporary Social Work Ethics (n=83)	3.23	3.95	0.72
Implicit Racial Bias 101 - Exploring Implicit Bias in Child Protection (n=30)	3.17	3.67	0.50
Mandated Reporting in Child Welfare (n=68)	3.84	4.51	0.67
Nevada Juvenile Dependency Mediation Training (n=57)	2.65	3.88	1.23
Trauma, Court, and Engagement - Using Communication Strategies to Improve Outcomes for Children and Families (n=41)	2.85	3.85	1.00
Why Do They Stay? CSEC Youth and Trauma Bonding (n=30)	3.20	3.93	0.73
1 = None 3 = Moderate 5 = High		Benchmark = 4.00+	

Source: Nevada Partnership for Training - University of Nevada – Reno
The UNR NPT training team is using a benchmark of "4" as the target for trainees understanding of content at the end of the training.

Supervisor North Academy Course Completions

Four supervisor-level trainings were delivered in instructor-led format, covering topics such as ethics, staff development, and crisis leadership. Course completions ranged from 18 to 27 per topic, reflecting steady engagement among leadership personnel statewide.

Table 27.7: Supervisor North Academy – Course Completions

Course Title	Class ID	Delivery	Course Completions
Crisis Management for Leaders	R-SUP400-12-11.12.24	Instructor-Led	18
Ethics in Leadership	R- SUP400-25 5-9-24	Instructor-Led	27
Staff Development for Leaders	R-SUP400-23 4-11-24	Instructor-Led	24
Use of Power for Leadership	R-SUP400-20 6-13-24	Instructor-Led	24

Source: Nevada Partnership for Training - University of Nevada – Reno

Supervisor North Academy Curriculum Effectiveness

Supervisor North Academy evaluation results were largely positive, with most topics meeting or exceeding the benchmark of 4.0. Ethics for Leadership, Developing Teams, and Goals and Expectations for Leaders were among the highest-rated offerings, particularly in areas related to real-world application and learner engagement. These findings support the continued development of leadership-focused professional development pathways within the child welfare system.

Table 27.8: Supervisor North Academy – Curriculum Effectiveness

	Training was well organized.	Training includes relevant learning objectives.	Training includes opportunities for learner engagement.	Training includes opportunities for application to real-world scenarios.	Training includes a good mix of presentations and activities.	The exercises helped me to learn the material.
Ethics for Leadership (n=23)	4.35	4.39	4.52	4.43	4.30	4.22
Developing Teams (n=28)	4.32	4.32	4.46	4.50	4.32	4.25
Goals and Expectations for Leaders (n=28)	4.50	4.54	4.82	4.75	4.64	4.39
Staff Development for Leaders (27)	4.30	4.33	4.37	4.26	3.96	3.85
Use of Power in Leadership (n=17)	4.41	4.53	4.59	4.35	4.53	4.47
1 = None 3 = Moderate 5 = High Benchmark = 4.00+						

Source: Nevada Partnership for Training - University of Nevada – Reno
The UNR NPT training team is using a benchmark of "4" as the target for trainees understanding of content at the end of the training.

Ongoing Staff Training – NPT/UNLV and Clark County Family Services

In Southern Nevada, ongoing or in-service training for child welfare professionals is formally categorized as "Specialty Training," which is accessible to staff across all levels of the workforce. "Leadership Training," by contrast, is targeted to individuals in supervisory, managerial, and executive roles. The data presented reflects training content developed and administered by the NPT. While CCFS also offers specialized training focused on building proficiency in the safety model, that content is beyond the scope of this report.

Table 27.9 outlines the number of trainings within these two categories, along with the associated delivery modalities (e.g., in-person, virtual, hybrid).

Table 27.9: NPT-UNLV Ongoing Training – Course Completions

Type	Delivery
Specialty = 43	Instructor-led = 21
	Web-based (asynchronous) = 25
Leadership = 49	Hybrid (instructor-led with web-based prerequisites) = 10
	*Web-based (asynchronous) = 39

Source: Nevada Partnership for Training - University of Nevada – Las Vegas
**Indicates asynchronous courses delivered through OpenSesame, an external online content curation provider. It is beyond the scope of this report to include satisfaction data for OpenSesame courses accessed via NPT's learning management system, NPTLearn. Under the terms of NPT's OpenSesame contract, up to 100 courses may be selected at a time, with offerings rotated quarterly. This rotation allows leadership access to a diverse and dynamic library of professional development resources, ensuring training is available in a "just-in-time" format tailored to emerging needs and priorities.*

Table 27.10 provides a comprehensive catalogue of training courses, including course ID, titles, and participant completion data during the reporting period.

Table 27.10: NPT – UNLV Ongoing Training – Course Completions

Course Title	Class ID	Delivery	Course Completions
Specialty Training			
Addressing Children's Mental Health Issues	MHT200-10	Instructor-led	15
Adjustment disorders*	AMH300-22	Web-based	14
Anxiety Disorders*	AMH300-19	Web-based	8
Cannabis-Related Disorder*	SUM300-15	Web-based	8
Child Mental Health: Trauma and Neurodevelopment	MHT200-09	Instructor-led	26
CoachNV: Coaching in Child Welfare	COA400-01	Instructor-led	11
Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and the Vulnerability of Youth in Child Welfare	CSC200-04	Instructor-led	73
Compassion Fatigue for Leaders	WFI400-01	Instructor-led	18
Court Improvement Project (CIP) Training: Permanency and Concurrent Planning	OTH900-28	Web-based	3
Dissociative Disorders*	AMH300-25	Web-based	4
Disruptive, Impulse-Control, and Conduct Disorders*	AMH300-21	Web-based	7
Engaging Fathers: The Hero Search	FES200-03	Instructor-led	55
Essential Steps for Ethical Problem Solving	ETH300-15	Instructor-led	17
Family Engagement through Motivational Interviewing (MI) for Child Welfare Workers	MIS100-04	Instructor-led	7
Families Thrive: Protective and Promotive Factors to Enhance Thriving for all Children, Youth and Families	CWB300-04	Instructor-led	8
Feeding and Eating Disorders*	AMH300-28	Web-based	5
Foundational Overview of Mental Health Conditions and Child Welfare Practice	AMH200-06	Web-based	76
Foundational Overview of Domestic Violence and Child Welfare Practice	DVI100-04	Instructor-led	48
Foundational Overview of Trauma	MHT200-11	Instructor-led	92
Introduction to the Nevada Safety Model	SML100-01	Web-based	11
Mood Disorders*	AMH300-18	Web-based	4
Motivational Interviewing for Supervision	SUP400-07	Instructor-led	21
Motivational Interviewing: Fundamentals Review for Child Welfare Workers	MIS200-01	Web-based	27
Motivational Interviewing: Fundamentals Review for Child Welfare Leaders	MIS400-01	Web-based	3
Motivational Interviewing Practice Workshop for Child Welfare Workers	MIS300-01	Instructor-led	6
Neurodevelopmental Disorders*	AMH300-27	Web-based	9
Obsessive-Compulsive Related Disorders*	AMH300-20	Web-based	2
Other Conditions for Focus of Clinical Attention*	AMH300-32	Web-based	2
Personality Disorders*	AMH300-26	Web-based	16
Role of Culture in Child Welfare	ACA100-07	Web-based	91
Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders*	AMH300-24	Web-based	4
Self-Care in Stressful Times	WFI200-01	Instructor-led	70
The Seven Domains of Complex Trauma	MHT300-01	Instructor-led	14
Somatic Symptoms and Related Disorders*	AMH300-29	Web-based	6

Course Title	Class ID	Delivery	Course Completions
Suicide Prevention	AMH300-16	Instructor-led	34
Trauma and Stressor Related Disorders*	AMH300-23	Web-based	8
Understanding Culture	DDL300-01	Web-based	24
Understanding Mental Health Disorders	AMH300-17	Web-based	21
Understanding the Intersection of Child Welfare and Domestic Violence	DVI300-01	Instructor-led	16
Understanding the Intersection of Child Welfare and Domestic Violence: Domestic Violence & Mental Health Workshop	DVI300-01F	Instructor-led	8
Understanding the Intersection of Child Welfare and Domestic Violence: Domestic Violence & Parenting Workshop	DVI300-01H	Instructor-led	4
Understanding the Intersection of Child Welfare and Domestic Violence: Domestic Violence & Substance Use Workshop	DVI300-01G	Instructor-led	6
Leadership Training			
Building Bridges: Supporting Transfer of Learning	SUP400-26	Instructor-led	17
CoachNV: Practice vs. Developmental Coaching	COA400-03	Instructor-led	38
Crisis Management for Leaders	SUP400-12	Instructor-led	23
Developing Teams	SUP400-24	Instructor-led	33
Ethics in Leadership	SUP400-25	Instructor-led	7
Goals and Expectations for Leaders	SUP400-15	Instructor-led	13
Motivational Interviewing Practice Workshop for Child Welfare Workers	MIS300-01	Instructor-led	6
Staff Development for Leaders	SUP400-23	Instructor-led	31
Use of Power for Leadership	SUP400-20	Instructor-led	33

Source: Nevada Partnership for Training - University of Nevada – Las Vegas
**Indicates short web-based courses that used gating questions within the courses to check knowledge rather than a pre and posttest format.*

Ongoing Training Evaluation – Specialty Training

Mean pretest scores ranged from 40% (CSEC and Motivational Interviewing) to 77% (Understanding Mental Health Disorders). The mean pretest score across all modules was 63%.

Mean post-test scores ranged from 54% (Motivational Interviewing for Supervision) to 89% (The Seven Domains of Complex Trauma, Suicide Prevention & Understanding Mental Health Disorders). The mean post-test score across all modules was 78%.

The average increase from pre to post was 15%.

Table 27.11: NPT – UNLV Specialty Training (Instructor-led) – Pre/Post Test Results

Course Title	Course ID	Delivery	Pre-test scores		Post-test scores		Difference
			N	*Mean*	*N*	*Mean*	+
Addressing Children's Mental Health Issues	MHT200-10	Instructor-led	15	61%	15	75%	14%
Child Mental Health: Trauma and Neurodevelopment	MHT200-09	Instructor-led	19	56%	19	73%	5%
Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and the Vulnerability of Youth in Child Welfare	CSC200-04	Instructor-led	86	40%	87	64%	25%
Compassion Fatigue for Leaders	WFI400-01	Instructor-led	15	67%	12	86%	19%
Engaging Fathers: The Hero Search	FES200-03	Instructor-led	56	70%	54	81%	11%
Essential Steps for Ethical Problem Solving	ETH300-15	Instructor-led	18	63%	18	73%	10%
Family Engagement through MI for Child Welfare Workers	MIS100-04	Instructor-led	9	71%	8	78%	7%
Foundational Overview of Domestic Violence and Child Welfare Practice	DVI100-04	Instructor-led	60	69%	59	85%	16%
Foundational Overview of Mental Health Conditions and Child Welfare Practice	AMH200-06	Web-based	110	70%	105	82%	13%
Introduction to the Nevada Safety Model	SML100-01	Web-based	29	58%	26	74%	16%
Motivational Interviewing: Fundamentals Review for Child Welfare Workers	MIS200-01	Web-based	47	76%	44	84%	9%
Motivational Interviewing for Supervision	SUP400-07	Instructor-led	20	40%	19	54%	14%
Self-Care in Stressful Times	WFI200-01	Instructor-led	15	71%	15	77%	6%
The Seven Domains of Complex Trauma	MHT300-01	Instructor-led	15	58%	16	89%	31%
Suicide Prevention	AMH300-16	Instructor-led	48	61%	50	89%	29%
Understanding Mental Health Disorders	AMH300-17	Web-based	24	77%	23	89%	12%
Youth Thrive: Protective and Promotive Factors for Healthy Development	CWB300-01	Instructor-led	6	53%	6	56%	3%

Source: Nevada Partnership for Training - University of Nevada – Las Vegas

Satisfaction Surveys – Specialty Training

Separate surveys were used to measure the satisfaction of participants attending specialty core training. For instructor-led training, satisfaction surveys are distributed to participants at the end of each training so they can self-report their increase in understanding, curriculum effectiveness, and overall perception of the training.

The following trends were identified in the analysis of this data:

- Net gains in self-reported understanding ranged from 0.5 to 1.8 points, indicating strengthened professional confidence. Only three of the 21 courses scored below "4".
- Participants consistently rated curriculum relevance, applicability to job duties, and overall workshop quality at or above 4.5 on a 5-point scale.

Table 27.12: NPT-UNLV Specialty Training (Instructor-led) – Level of Understanding Before and After Training

Course Title	Level of understanding of topic prior to the training?	Level of understanding now?	Net Gain
Addressing Children's Mental Health Issues (n=10)	3.60	4.10	0.50

Course Title	Level of understanding of topic prior to the training?	Level of understanding now?	Net Gain
Child Mental Health: Trauma and Neurodevelopment (n=13)	3.00	4.00	1.00
CoachNV: Coaching in Child Welfare (n=25)	2.20	4.04	1.84
Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and the Vulnerability of Youth in Child Welfare (n=102)	2.86	4.07	1.21
Compassion Fatigue for Leaders (n=18)	2.50	4.00	1.50
Engaging Fathers: The Hero Search (n=51)	3.06	4.14	1.08
Essential Steps for Ethical Problem Solving	3.38	4.42	1.04
Family Engagement through MI for Child Welfare Workers (N=2)	3.50	3.50	0.00
Foundational Overview of Domestic Violence and Child Welfare Practice (n=53)	3.02	4.02	1.00
Motivational Interviewing for Supervision (n=24)	2.77	4.08	1.31
Motivational Interviewing Practice Workshop for Child Welfare Workers (n=6)	3.50	4.50	1.00
Self-Care in Stressful Times (n=78)	3.73	4.49	0.76
The Seven Domains of Complex Trauma (n=23)	3.17	4.39	1.22
Suicide Prevention (n=50)	3.34	4.50	1.16
Understanding the Intersection of Child Welfare and Domestic Violence (n=16)	3.23	4.12	0.89
Understanding the Intersection of Child Welfare and Domestic Violence: Domestic Violence & Mental Health Workshop (n=8)	3.25	3.75	0.50
Understanding the Intersection of Child Welfare and Domestic Violence: Domestic Violence & Parenting Workshop (n=5)	3.60	4.20	0.60
Understanding the Intersection of Child Welfare and Domestic Violence: Domestic Violence & Substance Use Workshop (n=9)	3.56	4.11	0.55
Youth Thrive: Protective and Promotive Factors for Healthy Development (n=6)	2.67	4.00	1.33
1 = None 3 = Moderate 5 = High			

Source: Nevada Partnership for Training - University of Nevada – Las Vegas

Table 27.13: NPT – UNLV Specialty Training (Instructor-led) – Curriculum Effectiveness

Course Title	The training included a good mix of presentations and activities.	The training has positively impacted my attitude towards this topic area.	The training was relevant to my job duties.	The information I received from this training can definitely be used with my clients [or individuals I work with].	I am very confident that I will use the training on the job.	What is your overall evaluation of the workshop?
Addressing Children's Mental Health Issues (n=10)	4.80	4.80	4.80	4.80	4.80	5.00
Trauma and Neurodevelopment (n=13)	4.69	4.77	4.77	4.77	4.77	4.69
CoachNV: Coaching in Child Welfare (n=25)	4.84	4.80	4.84	4.88	4.88	4.76

Course Title	The training included a good mix of presentations and activities.	The training has positively impacted my attitude towards this topic area.	The training was relevant to my job duties.	The information I received from this training can definitely be used with my clients [or individuals I work with].	I am very confident that I will use the training on the job.	What is your overall evaluation of the workshop?
Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and the Vulnerability of Youth in Child Welfare (n=102)	4.63	4.63	4.59	4.63	4.63	4.68
Engaging Fathers: The Hero Search (n=51)	4.43	4.41	4.39	4.39	4.43	4.61
Essential Steps for Ethical Problem Solving	4.77	4.69	4.69	4.69	4.69	4.69
Family Engagement through MI for Child Welfare Workers (N=2)	5.00	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50
Foundational Overview of Domestic Violence and Child Welfare Practice (n=53)	4.40	4.42	4.66	4.58	4.58	4.43
Motivational Interviewing Practice Workshop (n=6)	4.83	4.83	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.83
Self-Care in Stressful Times (n=78)	4.65	4.65	4.77	4.73	4.73	4.65
The Seven Domains of Complex Trauma (n=23)	4.91	4.87	4.91	4.91	4.91	4.87
Suicide Prevention (n=50)	4.72	4.70	4.80	4.80	4.80	4.84
Understanding the Intersection of Child Welfare and Domestic Violence (n=16)	4.31	4.38	4.58	4.38	4.35	4
Domestic Violence & Mental Health Workshop (n=8)	3.56	4.00	3.78	3.67	4.00	4
Domestic Violence & Parenting Workshop (n=5)	4.28	4.30	4.42	4.35	4.56	4.60
Domestic Violence & Substance Use Workshop (n=9)	4.22	4.33	4.67	4.44	4.44	4.11
Youth Thrive: Protective and Promotive Factors for Healthy Development (n=6)	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50
1 = None 3 = Moderate 5 = High						

Source: Nevada Partnership for Training - University of Nevada – Las Vegas

Similarly, with asynchronous training, satisfaction surveys are distributed to participants at the end of the online module so they can self-report across the same domains; increase in understanding, curriculum effectiveness, and overall perception of the training. Because of the delivery method, the questions regarding curriculum effectiveness are different to reflect the modality.

The following trends were identified in the analysis of this data:

- Net gains in self-reported understanding for asynchronous courses ranged from 0.5 to 1.5 points. In comparison, while only 15% of instructor-led courses fell below the satisfaction benchmark of "4," approximately 54% of asynchronous courses did not meet this threshold. This disparity is expected given the inherent limitations of asynchronous learning formats, particularly when addressing complex or nuanced content. These findings underscore the importance of strategically selecting content for asynchronous delivery to ensure it aligns with the strengths of the modality. Looking ahead, NPT may consider revisiting or adjusting the benchmark for asynchronous courses, considering the structural challenges of facilitating significant knowledge gains in a self-paced environment.
- Participants consistently rated curriculum relevance, applicability to job duties, and overall workshop quality at or above 4.5 on a 5-point scale.
- There was strong participant satisfaction across the four key metrics of curriculum effectiveness which are content clarity, effectiveness of online delivery, ease of use and overall rating of the content. Average rating across all metrics is above 4.0, indicating widespread approval.

Table 27.14: NPT – UNLV Specialty Training (Asynchronous) – Level of Understanding Before and After Training

Course Title	Level of understanding of topic prior to the training?	Level of understanding now?	Net Gain
Adjustment Disorders (n=14)	2.71	3.57	0.86
Anxiety Disorders (n=9)	2.67	3.78	1.11
Cannabis Disorders (n=8)	2.38	3.63	1.25
Court Improvement Project (CIP) Training: Permanency and Concurrent Planning (n=3)	3.33	4.00	0.67
Disruptive, Impulse-Control, and Conduct Disorders (n=5)	2.80	3.80	1.00
Dissociative Disorders (n=5)	2.40	3.20	0.80
Feeding and Eating Disorders (n=4)	2.75	4.00	1.25
Foundational Overview of Mental Health Conditions and Child Welfare Practice (n=75)	2.96	3.89	0.93
Mood Disorders (n=2)	3.00	3.50	0.50
Motivational Interviewing: Fundamentals Review for Child Welfare Workers (n=36)	3.19	4.14	0.94
Motivational Interviewing: Fundamentals Review for Child Welfare Leaders (n=9)	3.22	3.89	0.67
Neurodevelopmental Disorders (n=9)	3.44	4.33	0.89
Obsessive-Compulsive Related Disorders (n=2)	3.50	4.50	1.00
Other Conditions for Clinical Attention (n=4)	2.25	3.75	1.50
Personality Disorders (n=16)	3.00	3.93	0.93
Role of Culture (n=96)	3.24	4.02	0.78
Schizophrenia Spectrum and Psychotic Disorders (n=5)	2.60	3.60	1.00
Somatic Symptoms (n=5)	2.60	3.40	0.80
Trauma and Stressor Related Disorders (n=7)	3.57	4.29	0.71
Understanding Culture (n=47)	3.45	4.11	0.66
Understanding Mental Health Disorders (n=16)	3.31	4.00	0.69
1 = None 3 = Moderate 5 = High			

Source: Nevada Partnership for Training - University of Nevada – Las Vegas

Table 27.15: NPT – UNLV Specialty Training (Instructor-led) – Curriculum Effectiveness

Course Title	Content was clear and understandable.	Online course was an effective way to learn the content.	Online course was easy to use and navigate.	What is your overall evaluation of this content?
Adjustment Disorders (n=14)	4.21	4.21	4.36	4.26
Anxiety Disorders (n=9)	4.89	4.89	4.89	4.89
Cannabis Disorders (n=8)	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50
Court Improvement Project (CIP) Training: Permanency and Concurrent Planning (n=3)	4.33	4.33	4.33	4.33
Dissociative Disorders (n=5)	4.40	4.40	4.60	4.47

Course Title	Content was clear and understandable.	Online course was an effective way to learn the content.	Online course was easy to use and navigate.	What is your overall evaluation of this content?
Disruptive, Impulse-Control, and Conduct Disorders (n=5)	4.00	4.80	4.80	4.53
Feeding and Eating Disorders (n=4)	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75
Foundational Overview of Mental Health Conditions and Child Welfare Practice (n=75)	4.13	4.07	4.23	4.14
Motivational Interviewing: Fundamentals Review for Child Welfare Workers (n=36)	4.28	3.97	4.36	4.20
Motivational Interviewing: Fundamentals Review for Child Welfare Leaders (n=9)	3.89	3.89	4.33	4.04
Mood Disorders (n=2)	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
Neurodevelopmental Disorders (n=9)	4.56	4.56	4.33	4.48
Obsessive-Compulsive Related Disorders (n=2)	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Other Conditions for Clinical Attention (n=4)	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50
Personality Disorders (n=16)	4.80	4.80	4.73	4.78
Role of Culture (n=96)	4.28	4.19	4.40	4.29
Schizophrenia Spectrum and Psychotic Disorders (n=5)	4.60	4.60	4.60	4.60
Somatic Symptoms (n=5)	4.40	4.40	4.40	4.40
Trauma and Stressor Related Disorders (n=7)	4.71	4.43	4.57	4.57
Understanding Culture (n=47)	4.47	4.43	4.45	4.45
Understanding Mental Health Disorders (n=16)	4.38	4.31	4.25	4.31
1 = None 3 = Moderate 5 = High				

Source: Nevada Partnership for Training - University of Nevada – Las Vegas

Ongoing Training Evaluation – Leadership Training

The Leadership Training Series was intentionally designed without the use of traditional pre- and post-test assessments. Instead, a structured workbook was developed to support the learner's supervisor in evaluating whether the learner is effectively applying the training content within the complex domains of supervision, management, and leadership practice. This competency-based approach represents a new methodology for CCFS, and the NPT is actively providing technical assistance to support its successful implementation and integration into ongoing leadership development efforts.

Satisfaction Surveys – Leadership Training

For the leadership training series, satisfaction surveys are distributed to participants at the end of each training so they can self-report their increase in understanding, curriculum effectiveness, and level of preparedness to conduct specific leadership activities associated with the training content.

The following trend was identified in the analysis of this data:

- Across all six-evaluation metrics, average scores for the leadership training courses are consistently high, with no score falling below 4.11. This indicates that participants perceive the training as well-organized, engaging, relevant, and applicable to their professional roles.

Table 27.16: NPT – UNLV Leadership Training (Instructor-led) – Curriculum Effectiveness

Course Title	Training was well organized.	Training includes relevant learning objectives.	Training includes opportunities for learner engagement.	Training includes opportunities for application to real-world scenarios.	Training includes a good mix of presentations and activities.	The exercises helped me to learn the material.
Building Bridges: Supporting Transfer of Learning	4.50	4.44	4.56	4.44	4.38	4.19
Crisis Management for Leaders	4.58	4.55	4.58	4.48	4.48	4.45
Developing Teams	4.83	4.83	4.83	4.83	4.92	4.83
Ethics in Leadership	4.60	4.60	4.60	4.50	4.60	4.60
Goals and Expectations for Leaders	4.46	4.54	4.54	4.31	4.46	4.31
Staff Development for Leaders	4.46	4.49	4.56	4.56	4.44	4.33
Use of Power for Leadership	4.67	4.67	4.74	4.52	4.59	4.63
		1 = None	3 = Moderate	5 = High		

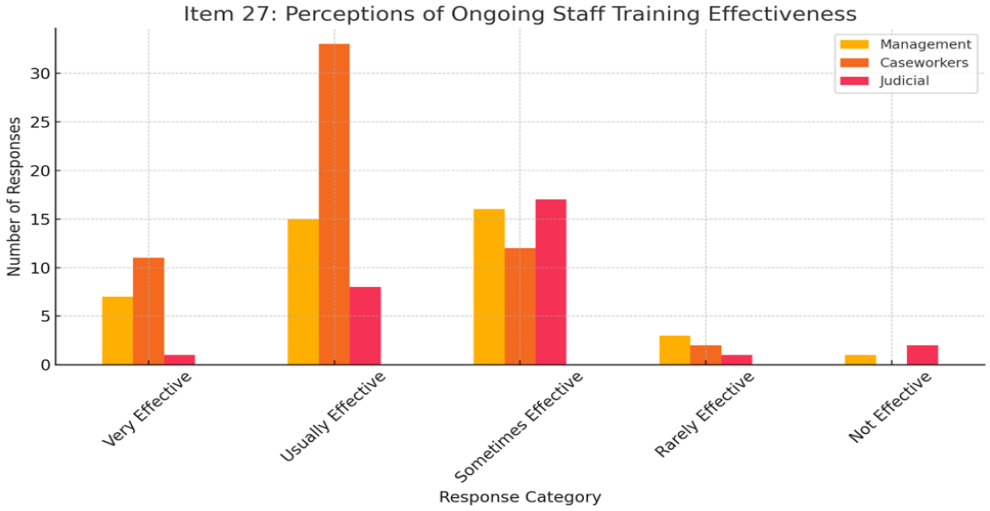
Source: Nevada Partnership for Training - University of Nevada – Las Vegas

Survey Results:

Nevada conducted a survey in March 2025 to determine if ongoing training was effective for workers. Figure 27.17 illustrates how 42 management staff, 58 caseworkers, and 29 judicial stakeholders rated the effectiveness of Nevada's ongoing training system in supporting the skills and knowledge needed for child welfare practice. Management responses were mixed but leaned positive, with 22 of 42 respondents (53%) rating ongoing training as 'Usually Effective' (36%) or 'Very Effective' (17%). Meanwhile, 16 respondents (38%) selected 'Sometimes Effective,' and only 4 (9%) rated it as 'Rarely' or 'Not Effective.' Caseworkers expressed general satisfaction with ongoing training, with 44 of 58 respondents (76%) selecting 'Agree' (57%) or 'Strongly Agree' (19%) that training enhances their ability to support children and families. Twelve respondents (21%) remained neutral, while only 2 (3%) disagreed. Judicial stakeholders were more cautious in their assessments. The majority, 17 of 29 (59%), rated training as 'Sometimes Effective,' while 8 (28%) chose 'Usually Effective.' Only 1

respondent (3%) selected 'Very Effective,' and 3 respondents (10%) indicated low effectiveness ('Rarely' or 'Not Effective').

Figure 27.17: Perceptions of Ongoing Staff Training Effectiveness



Source: Stakeholder Survey 2025

Results suggest that while internal staff generally view ongoing training as beneficial, external stakeholders perceive more room for improvement.

Common Barriers to ongoing training include:

- Time and Workload Conflicts: High caseloads and lack of time limit ability to attend or apply training.
- High Staff Turnover: Onboarding needs disrupt consistent learning and mentoring.
- Inconsistent or Outdated Content Training: Often viewed as theoretical, repetitive, or outdated.
- Lack of Field-Based Learning: Workers want more practical, real-world instruction and support.
- Training Not Aligned with Role Needs: Workers feel unprepared for job-specific tasks or field expectations.
- Limited CQI or Training Infrastructure: Lack of training staff and imbalanced supervisor training responsibilities noted.
- Supervisory Support Varies: Training access and reinforcement are often dependent on individual supervisors.

State Response [to Rating]:

Nevada determined item 27 is an area needing improvement. There is a need to implement a regular, structured needs assessment process to ensure training content reflects the evolving needs of the child welfare workforce. While current training is grounded in competency frameworks and responsive design, a more intentional, recurring review would help keep offerings relevant and targeted. Furthermore, the needs of ongoing caseworkers, beyond their initial onboarding period, need to be determined. Finally, more frequent compliance reporting is needed to help agency partners monitor participation and ensure required trainings are being completed.

Item 28: Foster and Adoptive Parent Training

How well is the staff and provider training system functioning to ensure that training is occurring statewide for current or prospective foster parents, adoptive parents, and staff of state licensed or approved facilities (who receive title IV-E funds to care for children) so that:

1. Current or prospective foster parents, adoptive parents, and staff receive training pursuant to the established annual/biannual hourly/continuing educations requirement and timeframes for the provision of initial and ongoing training, and
2. The system demonstrates how well the initial and on-going training address the skills and knowledge base needed to carry out their duties regarding foster and adoptive children.

Relevant Procedure:

NRS 424.020
NRS 424.0365
NRS 432B.194
NRS 432B.397
NAC 424.270
NAC 424.255
1301 Training, Assessment, and Licensing of Foster, Relative, and Adoptive Homes

Procedure Summary:

NRS 424.020: Regulations concerning licensure; minimum standards and rules for regulation, grants authority to the DCFS to adopt regulations establishing procedures and requirements for the licensure of various types of foster homes and to establish reasonable minimum standards and rules. This is the enabling statute for NAC 424. NRS 424.0365 explicitly requires licensees to ensure training for employees with direct child contact and directs the adoption of regulations for such training. While this primarily pertains to staff of group homes or agencies, it reinforces the legislative intent for training in the care of children in out-of-home placements. NRS 432B.397 requires the state to provide a full staff development and training program, which includes training for foster and adoptive parents.

NAC 424.270 states an applicant for a license for a foster home must have at least eight hours of training in foster parenting provided or approved by the agency that provides child welfare services. If the home has a pool, hot tub or Jacuzzi or other free-standing body of water or sauna, the applicants must obtain information on water safety, pool safety and the risk of drowning. Training programs for adoptive parents of a child with special needs require the adoptive parent to complete a training program regarding the care of children with special needs or a training program designed to address the individual need of a specific child. Annually each foster parent must complete a minimum of four hours of training in foster parenting provided or approved by the agency that provides child welfare services. Specialized foster homes are required to have a minimum of 40 hours pre-service training and 20 hours advanced training annually.

State policy 1301 Training, Assessment, and Licensing of Foster, Relative, and Adoptive Homes, outlines the statewide approach to the training, assessment, and licensing of foster, relative, and adoptive homes, aiming to standardize practices across child welfare agencies. The policy details required home study elements, covering personal history, family relationships, parenting, and health as well as specifies requirements for ongoing training, annual updates, and thorough documentation in case files. Each ongoing training should impart new skills or knowledge necessary to care for the

children in the foster parent's home. Pursuant to NAC 424.270, the four hours of annual training must include training identified pursuant to NRS 424.0365.

Foster/Adoptive Parent Training

Nevada child welfare agencies utilize a single process for licensing both foster and adoptive homes. This process includes meeting the same requirements for pre-service and ongoing training, background checks, home study process and home inspection requirements. A potential adoptive home is considered a foster home until the actual adoption of the child finalizes through the legal process. Foster homes may have the specific child names identified on their foster home license, therefore eliminating solicitation by the child welfare agency to take additional child placements.

Each jurisdiction utilizes a different foster/adoptive parent pre-service training. CCFS developed a 24-hour pre-service training in 2018 titled "Professional Caregiver Training" with the assistance of Casey Family Programs and through input of a stakeholder group. CCFS utilizes Raise the Future to deliver the training. DCFS Rural Region recently contracted with Raise the Future to offer the same pre-service training to prospective foster/adoptive parents, which will increase the pre-service training hours from 8 to 24. WCHSA utilizes the Trauma Informed Pre-Services (TIPS) pre-service training which is 18-hours and was adapted from San Diego County Child Welfare Services in California. WCHSA contracts with foster parents to co-train the TIPS training.

When kinship/relative foster caregivers seek licensure, and depending on their individual circumstances and needs, they may opt to receive a condensed pre-service training, which meets the basic training requirements within NAC 424. This training is provided through a contract with Foster Kinship and is used by each child welfare agency.

Nevada implemented a legislatively approved and funded, Specialized Foster Care Program (SFCP) within all three child welfare agencies. One of the components within the SFCP is an advanced foster care home capacity, where the child welfare agency identifies certain family foster homes capable and willing to manage children with higher behavioral needs. This program requires these family foster parents to participate in advanced training in an evidence-based foster care treatment model, medication management and administration. Along with providing the advanced trainings, each child welfare agency has a designated unit that provides specialized staff that deliver ongoing, direct support services to these foster parents. The services include in-home weekly coaching, direct support and coaching in utilizing the tools learned in advanced trainings, ongoing phone support, and crisis response when needed. These staff also collect outcome measures to determine the success and wellbeing of the higher-need children placed in these homes.

Foster care agency's contracted foster homes have significantly higher training requirements per NAC 424, these requirements go beyond the training requirements for family foster homes. The foster care agencies, per their contract with the child welfare agency, must provide all required training to their contracted foster caregivers. Not only must these foster caregivers receive the same training as family foster homes, but they must also receive the additional training requirements identified in NAC 424.712 through 424.718. Foster care agencies must provide to the licensing authority (their jurisdiction's child welfare agency) all required documentation for initial licensure and proof of training completed by the foster caregivers they intend to contract with as foster homes. Although foster care agencies can provide all the initial services required for licensure, only the licensing authority is able to provide the foster care license for their contracted foster homes. All three child welfare agencies utilize their own staff on an ongoing basis to do the required evaluation and follow-up to ensure each of their contracted foster care agencies is complying with all Nevada laws regarding foster care licensing standards and the care of foster children.

Round 3 Performance and Background:

Nevada received an overall rating of area needing improvement for item 28 during the CFSR Round 3 because Nevada's child welfare agencies lacked a system to track data regarding the ongoing/advanced training that Nevada's foster and adoptive parents receive annually. Since that time all child welfare agencies in Nevada have implemented Binti, a foster care software that assists licensing workers with monitoring the training process for prospective foster and adoptive parents. For ongoing training, licensing workers have the ability to pull reports from Binti that provide information about the training the foster parent completed, however, it is only able to provide this information if the foster caregiver uploaded the certificate from the training. Licensing workers are responsible for verifying the training topics taken by the foster parent meet the ongoing training requirements.

Nevada was not on a PIP for this item during the CFSR Round 3. While no activity directly impacts pre- and post-service foster parent training, there were a few activities that impacted foster parents. Nevada utilized the QPI Nevada website to post policies that directly impact foster parents to better engage foster parents in understanding what the child welfare agencies do regarding caseworker contact and visitation. Nevada updated the KinGAP and case planning policies, which enhances foster parent understanding of practices. They were provided with updated and clarified information about case planning and guardianship options. DCFS worked with the University of South Florida and made enhancements to the Nevada QPI website, which includes reorganization of information for better access, addition of resources, updating the website with new trainings, and enhancing agency dedicated website areas by making policies and educational court guides available to foster parents.

Analysis:

The data provided specifically covers January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024.

Initial Foster Parent Training

During this specified period, 100% of newly licensed foster homes completed the mandatory pre-service training prior to licensure (n = 119 homes). The state emphasizes that licenses are not issued until this crucial pre-service training is fully completed, a process tracked and verified by foster care licensing workers and supervisors. The Binti licensing software further reinforces this by incorporating preventative measures that block initial license issuance if pre-service training is not documented and approved within the system, utilizing both agency-facing records and certificate upload features to confirm completion dates and verification.

Nevada's initial training for relative foster caregivers is delivered through the Fostering Connections program, a comprehensive and state-supported initiative designed specifically to meet the unique needs of kinship and relative foster families. This training fulfills the initial training requirements outlined in the NAC and exceeds the mandated minimum of eight hours. By implementing a standardized, statewide training curriculum, Nevada ensures all relative caregivers receive consistent, high-quality education and preparation, regardless of geographic location. The Fostering Connections curriculum is tailored to address specific challenges and responsibilities faced by relative caregivers, helping to better equip them to support the children in their care. This approach not only enhances the quality and consistency of training statewide but also promotes stability and continuity for children placed with relatives, by ensuring those caregivers are well-informed, confident, and supported from the outset. Table 28.2 illustrates the number of relative trainings provided by Fostering Connections for SFY2024.

Table 28.2: Relative Trainings provided by Fostering Connections for SFY2024

Kinship Preservice Training	*Clark*	*Washoe*	*DCFS-RR*	*TOTAL*
Individuals Trained	853	101	121	1075

Source: Fostering Connections

The expectation for relatives to complete training is five weeks for Clark County and DCFS Rural Region while Washoe County allows for three weeks. Data from Fostering Connections indicates that a small percentage of relatives pursuing foster parent licensure did not complete the required training within the specified timeframe. Specifically, 4.4% of individuals in Clark County (n=37) and 1.7% in the DCFS Rural Region (n=2) did not complete training within five weeks. There were 7% of individuals in Washoe County (n=7) who did not complete training within three weeks.

Ongoing Foster Parent Training

For ongoing training requirements, Nevada also achieved a 100% completion rate, with all 286 homes known to the agency. Every licensed foster care provider (relative and non-relative) is required to complete four hours of advanced training annually to maintain their license. The ongoing training is provided through the Just in Time website. After completing the training, foster parents are provided with training certificates to provide to the child welfare agency who issued the license. The certificates are reviewed by licensing staff and maintained within the licensing file. The state has clear processes for addressing non-compliance with training requirements. For renewal licenses, the licensee is extended a courtesy one-month grace period. This may be extended on a case-by-case basis, however, failure to comply or communicate plans for completion can lead to withholding reimbursement, placing the home or license on hold, initiating licensing violation investigations, formal corrective action, license suspension, denial of renewal, or even the removal of foster children from the home.

Nevada ensures compliance with these regulations through the electronic record-keeping within the Binti and UNITY systems. Electronic files for each foster home serve as verifiable proof of training completion. Licensing workers actively monitor and approve training requirements, with supervisors providing additional verification before issuing or renewing each license. Binti's capabilities allow for comprehensive tracking of training completion and associated timeframes, enabling workers, supervisors, and program staff to easily generate reports and conduct data analysis on ongoing training.

Since the inception of the QPI Nevada, Just in Time website, foster caregivers have an additional opportunity to watch high-quality, advanced foster parent trainings from their home computer. The Nevada QPI provides a posttest to ensure caregivers have truly watched and understood the training, upon passing the posttest the foster caregiver is emailed a certificate of training completion. The Just in Time website is run through a contract with the University of South Florida. This contract provides for website upkeep, access to the LMS (including training certificates), and ongoing access to updated training from the University's list of training courses. The training platform is provided online, and each foster parent must create an account to access the training. This platform increased the ability for Nevada to provide different training courses and allows the ability to track ongoing training. Nevada can update trainings and has access to trainings other states have created for their foster parents which can be used or adopted as needed. In addition to the Just in Time website, WCHSA and CCFS have the ability to provide community advanced foster care training through various experts and/or their own agencies in topics of interest and need for foster caregivers.

Table 28.1 illustrates the number of training certificates provided to foster parents for the calendar year 2024. These trainings included online and live Just in Time training webinars.

Table 28.1: Ongoing Foster and Adoptive Parent Training Certificates

Calendar Year 2024	*Virtual Trainings*	*JiT Webinar Training*
Q1 (January – March)	2,589	9
Q2 (April – June)	3,072	3
Q3 (July – September)	3,199	24
Q4 (October – December)	2,677	20
Total Certificates Issued	**11,537**	**56**

Source: Just in Time LMS

Other than the required annual trainings, foster parents can self-determine what training courses they have an interest in completing. Nevada infused Trust-Based Relational Intervention throughout approved trainings. This training addresses the relationship and connection between the caregiver and child and is designed to support kids with a trauma background. There has not been a method to determine if individual foster parents are taking training that addresses the specific skill and knowledge needed to provide the best care for the population of children currently placed in their foster home. There is a need to explore how each child welfare agency supports the ongoing needs with respect to individual children in care.

Within all three jurisdictions, the child welfare agency licensing workers annually collect all proof documentation from the relative and non-relative foster/adoptive licensees for the ongoing/advanced trainings they have attended during the past year. This information is maintained in Binti.

Child Care Institutions

NRS 432A.0245 defines Child Care institution as a facility which provides care and shelter during the day and night and provides developmental guidance to 16 or more children who do not routinely return to the homes of their parents or guardians.

Staff of state licensed or approved child care institutions providing residential care for children in the custody of a child welfare agency receive licensure and training certification through the Nevada Division of Social Services (DSS) Child Care Licensing (CCL). If a staff member of a foster home or facility does not complete training, they may be prohibited from providing care until requirements are met.

Currently there is one institution in Nevada meeting this definition. Requirements for training are identified within NRS 432A and NAC 432A. Completion of training requirements are monitored through DSS CCL. Training requirements must be completed within 90 days of hire, including:

- CPR/First aid
- 3 hours of child development
- Obesity and wellness training
- Signs and symptoms of illness
- Bloodborne pathogens
- Recognizing child abuse
- Reporting child abuse
- SIDS (for employees working with children 12 or younger)
- Transporting children
- Building and physical premises safety

Advanced training requirements address the ongoing skills and knowledge base needed for child care staff to carry out their duties regarding foster and adopted children. Additionally, these trainings must be completed within 90 days of hire, and annually thereafter:

- Controlling the behavior of children
- Policies and procedures concerning the use of force and restraint on children
- The rights of children in the facility
- Suicide awareness and prevention
- The administration of medication to children
- Applicable state and federal constitutional and statutory rights of children in the facility
- Policies and procedures concerning other matters affecting the health, welfare, safety and civil and other rights of children in the facility
- Transporting children
- Building and physical premises safety
- Obesity and wellness training

All employees hired by a child care institution must sign up as members on the Nevada Registry. This registry tracks the initial training hours required within 90 days of employment, identifies approved advanced training courses, and provides a schedule of upcoming, available trainings (*www.nevadaregistry.org*).

The DSS CCL inspects facilities in-person, twice a year (semiannual/annual), at which time CCL monitors trainings for all direct caregivers employed by the child care institution who provide care to children. According to the CCL Chief, 100% of staff receive initial training within 90 days of employment; during the most recent bi-annual inspection of Nevada child care institutions, 100% of staff were up to date in their ongoing training requirements. Currently, DCFS child welfare does not have a process in place to complete cross-checks on this population.

Focus Group and Survey Responses:

A focus group was conducted in March 2025. Participants included statewide foster care licensing supervisors, managers, and staff gathered to discuss current procedures for foster/adoptive parent initial and ongoing training. Focus group notes:

- Participants were confident all foster/adoptive parents received the required pre-service training. They do not issue a foster care license until all training is completed.
- Participants discussed the use of Binti. They also use hand tracking as needed to ensure all prospective and current foster/adoptive parents are completing initial and ongoing trainings.
- One participant noted the ongoing training requirements takes away opportunity for foster parents to take training that would be specific to the needs of the children in their home.
- One participant noted the second bullet of the prompt for Item 28 can be subjective. Foster/adoptive parents are completing the required trainings, but other factors (such as prior experience) can influence how well the ongoing training requirements address the skills and knowledge base needed. They stated the only way to determine if the training was meeting the individual foster parents' skills and knowledge base needs would be through information collection, such as a survey.

Limitations:

It is important to note the data presented reflects input from two out of three jurisdictions surveyed. Comprehensive efforts were made to gather information across all designated areas. Consequently, the findings and conclusions drawn from this survey are limited to the participating jurisdictions and may not fully represent the statewide landscape or the specific characteristics of the non-participating, most populous area.

State Response [to Rating]:

Nevada has determined through the 2025 Statewide Assessment that Item 28 Foster and Adoptive Parent Training is an area needing improvement. The assessment revealed that the training provided to foster and adoptive parents vary across jurisdictions and may not consistently address the practical responsibilities associated with caregiving. Additionally, while Nevada can track the completion of initial foster parent training, ongoing training is still being tracked and monitored by occasional manual case reviews.

E. Service Array and Resource Development

Item 29: Array of Services

How well is the service array and resource development system functioning to ensure that the following array of services is accessible in all political jurisdictions covered by the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP)?

- Services that assess the strengths and needs of children and families and determine other service needs;
- Services that address the needs of families in addition to individual children in order to create a safe home environment;
- Services that enable children to remain safely with their parents when reasonable; and
- Services that help children in foster and adoptive placements achieve permanency.

Relevant Procedure:

NRS 432
NRS 432B
Policy 207 – Procedures for Custodial Children
Policy 211 – Protective Capacity Family Assessment
Policy 509 – Alternative Nevada Initial Assessment
Policy 510 – Nevada Safety Assessment
Policy 519 – CARA Plan of Care

Procedure Summary:

The Nevada DHS promotes the health and well-being of its residents through the delivery or facilitation of a multitude of essential services to ensure families are strengthened, public health is protected, and individuals achieve their highest level of self-sufficiency. The Department is comprised of four Divisions along with additional programs and offices overseen by the DHS' Director's Office. The four Divisions include Aging and Disability Services (ADSD), Child and Family Services (DCFS), Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) and Social Services (DSS). DHS is the lead agency for the community-

based child abuse prevention programs in Nevada and leads child maltreatment prevention activities in Nevada.

Nevada plans coordination and collaboration of activities among the CAPTA grantees, Family Resource Centers and Title IV-B grantees. These programs provide families with access, information and resources, classes designed to strengthen and support families and offer opportunities for assistance available within the communities where they live. This ongoing partnership focuses on the integration of resources and services in the spectrum of child welfare.

NRS 432.011(a) states that the purpose of DCFS includes ensuring a sufficient range of services is available to provide care and treatment to children and families in the least restrictive setting appropriate to their needs.

All children in Nevada's child welfare system are monitored for safety through Nevada's SAFE/SIPS Safety Intervention Permanency System Practice Model. When an initial referral is made and assigned, the assessment worker completes a Present Danger Assessment (PDA) during the initial contact followed by the Nevada Initial Assessment (NIA). The NIA includes the assessment and management of impending danger, the identification of vulnerable children, and the assessment of caregivers and protective capacities. The assessment worker refers to the Substantiation Guidelines to guide the decision-making process. The NIA is completed within 30 calendar days if no present danger or impending danger is identified (sooner, if identified). The assessment worker is responsible for monitoring the safety plan and completing an update to the safety assessment until a decision of "safe" or "unsafe" can be made.

In Nevada, in-home services for child welfare are primarily delivered through evidence-based home visiting programs aimed at enhancing family well-being, preventing child abuse and neglect, and promoting healthy child development. These services are supported by voluntary in home services cases and the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) program and are implemented by the local child welfare agencies. When a family is being provided with in-home services through the child welfare agencies, the process includes the same safety assessments as those children who legally entered the child welfare system.

Formal safety assessments are used to evaluate and document child safety, including the home of origin, out-of-home placements, and during visitation. Caseworkers must choose the most appropriate assessment based on case circumstances. Types of formal safety assessments are:

1. Intake Assessment (IA): Conducted at the time of an initial abuse/neglect report to determine need for intervention.
2. Present Danger Assessment (PDA): Used during initial contact or when immediate danger is identified.
3. Nevada Initial Assessment (NIA): Determines if there is impending danger at the conclusion of an investigation.
4. Confirming Safe Environments (CSE): Ensures a child's placement is safe. Two types:
    a. CPA: Used with placement changes or present danger.
    b. Instrument: Used periodically or if concerns arise.
5. Protective Capacity Family Assessment (PCFA): Conducted within 60 days of case transfer to assess caregiver capacity and guide planning.
6. Protective Capacity Progress Assessment (PCPA): Ongoing assessment every 90 days to evaluate progress on case goals.
7. Facility Placement Safety Check: Conducted at least every 6 months to monitor children in residential facilities.

8. Safety Assessment: Documents decisions about impending danger, completed during PCFA/PCPA, before case closure, or every 6 months if other assessments are not applicable.

All children must receive an EPSDT screening within 30 days of custody entry to assess urgent health needs. Ongoing, the EPSDT is conducted annually per the American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines to assess development, health and behavioral, and physical health care needs.

Nevada's Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) initiative, a partnership with the DPBH, has developed into a statewide Perinatal Health Network. This network, comprising health care, child welfare, and insurance stakeholders, focuses on creating CARA Plans of Care for infants affected by perinatal substance use, improving reporting to child welfare, and expanding evidence-based interventions for postpartum women. Key initiatives supporting CARA's implementation include:

- Community partnerships with Roseman University's Empowered Program, which offers prevention services through the Parenting Project and Foundation for Positive Kids for families affected by perinatal substance use.
- Active participation in local workgroups such as the Reproductive Health Network and CARA Workgroup.
- Washoe County's Early Head Start for the "Parents as Teachers" in-home parenting curriculum serves child welfare-involved families, and a monthly playgroup is open to all.
- Facilitation of the Crossroads Program, a sober living community prioritizing families involved with child welfare to prevent removal or aid reunification.

Assessments and outcomes are documented in UNITY with required details including observations of household and parent/child interactions, child assessment including safety, development, well-being, and any identified dangers.

Round 3 Performance

During Round 3 of the CFSR, Nevada identified Item 29 as an area needing improvement. The Statewide Assessment identified service gaps and lengthy waiting lists, especially with substance use services and monitoring and behavioral and mental health service delivery. There were also gaps in housing and transportation. The State did not have the capacity to report service delivery numbers of clients served, track waiting lists, or identify unmet service needs. As part of the Nevada FFPSA Prevention Plan development, Nevada completed a multi-pronged needs collaborative service array assessment with DHS sister agencies. The purpose of the assessment was to identify new services and expansion opportunities. Nevada worked towards expanded prevention services through FFPSA and continued to develop a program evaluation and monitoring process to address the services needs of children.

Analysis:

Services that assess the strengths and needs of children and families and determine other service needs:

Nevada's three child welfare agencies are responsible for processing their own intake and screening decisions. These decisions are primarily influenced by the information received from reporting parties. Reports can be submitted in accordance with NRS 432B.220 via telephone, in-person, written, or electronic communication.

When an allegation is screened as "information only/referral," the child welfare agency may direct the family to an external organization for preventive services. If an allegation of abuse or neglect is

screened in, the report is assigned to an assessment worker to initiate an investigation. This investigation utilizes the NIA, which enables assessment workers to evaluate the strengths, deficiencies, and needs of families throughout the investigative process.

If a child requires intervention services not requiring a legal removal, child welfare agencies provide in-home services. Agencies may also offer foster care services. Both pathways receive comparable services from the agency. Children formally placed in foster care due to identified present or impending danger are monitored under the SAFE/SIPS practice model. Families participating in services undergo continuous re-evaluation to assess goal progress and improvements in caregiver parental capacities.

Each child welfare agency offers its own intensive In-Home Services, encompassing a range of support from home-based homemaker services to intensive clinical services such as therapy or reunification services. For youth who do not achieve permanency, Nevada offers the Extended Young Adult Support Services Program, providing transition-to-adulthood services up to age 21, along with additional case management.

The Nevada Children's Behavioral Health Consortium and other key stakeholders provided leadership for the successful SAMHSA System of Care (SOC) Implementation Grant application for DCFS Children's Behavioral Health. SOC Implementation Workgroups have begun developing a network of community-based services and supports designed to enhance the functioning of children and families within their homes, schools, and communities. Nevada's SOC is characterized by comprehensive, integrated, and coordinated services

Services that address the needs of families in addition to individual children in order to create a safe home environment:

A critical part of service array includes the goals of Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF), which are services to prevent the unnecessary separation of children from their families; to improve the quality of care and services to children and their families; and to ensure permanency for children by reuniting them with their parents, by adoption or by another permanent living arrangement. The program components of PSSF include Family Preservation; Family Support; Time-Limited Family Reunification; and Adoption Promotion and Support. These four areas are intended to provide coordinated services for children and families across the continuum of care from prevention to treatment through aftercare.

In Nevada's child welfare system, services are provided by various community partners to strengthen a family's capacity to provide a safe, stable, and nurturing home environment for their children. Preventative and early intervention services are provided statewide, though full access to these services may be localized. These services encompass Family Support and Family Preservation programs that offer a range of interventions, including:

- Essential infant care education (e.g., Safe Sleep, Baby Basics) and supplies.
- Case management, resource referrals, and practical life skills training (e.g., household budgeting, car seat safety).
- Evidence-based parenting education (e.g., Parents as Teachers, Active Parenting Curriculum) and trauma-informed interventions.
- Therapeutic services (e.g., PCIT, Motivational Interviewing, Trust-Based Relational Intervention) to address mental health needs and family dynamics, including violence prevention.
- In-home support services focusing on health, safety, and cleanliness.
- Specific support for kinship and adoptive homes to enhance their safety and stability.
- These services aim to strengthen protective factors within families, reduce risk factors for child abuse and neglect, and mitigate crises before they escalate to child removal.

Services that enable children to remain safely with their parents when reasonable:

These services are central to Nevada's commitment to family preservation and reunification within its child welfare system, often aligning with federal mandates like FFPSA. Community partner's services encompass Family Preservation and Family Reunification, including:

- Evidence-based practice mental health and substance abuse treatment tailored for child welfare families.
- Intensive case management focused on court-appointed case plans and reunification efforts.
- Provision of community resources, education, and access to social service benefits.
- Supervised visitation services for children in foster care with a reunification goal.
- Crisis intervention and in-home support to stabilize families.
- Specialized programs for families involved in Family Treatment Court or Safe Babies Court, including peer and financial support to maintain stability.
- The overarching aim is to address the underlying issues that led to child welfare involvement, facilitate the safe return of children, and prevent further intervention or removal by providing targeted support to parents.

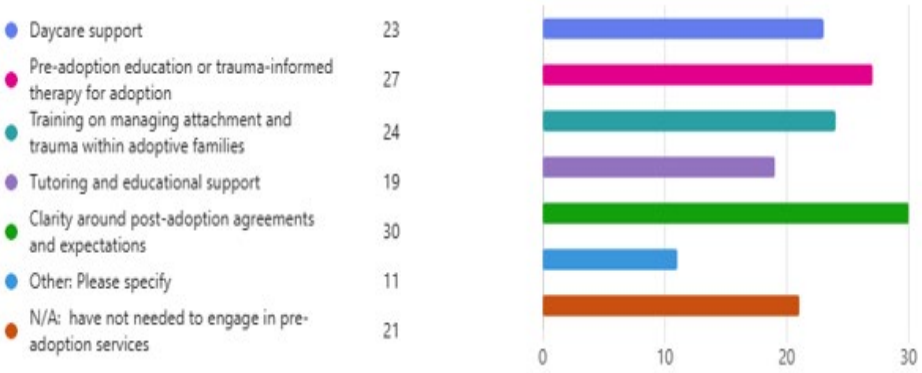
Services that help children in foster and adoptive placements achieve permanency.

In Nevada's child welfare system, achieving permanency for children in out-of-home care is a critical goal, often pursued through adoption, guardianship, or another permanent living arrangements. Community partners offer specialized services under the Adoption Promotion and Support category. These efforts ensure children who cannot safely return to their birth families find stable, legally permanent, and loving homes. Services include:

- Recruitment, engagement, training, and retention of foster and adoptive families.
- Intensive, child-specific recruitment services (e.g., Wendy's Wonderful Kids model) for youth waiting in foster care, particularly in rural regions.
- Assistance with the adoption process, including completion of home study assessments and social summaries.
- Provision of the Kinship Navigator Program to increase safety, stability, and nurturing capacity in kinship and adoptive homes, covering community connection, legal capacity, financial stability, and emotional support.
- Post-placement support and retention activities for foster and adoptive families, including peer-to-peer coaching and therapeutic services where needed.

In March 2025, Nevada distributed surveys to various caregivers and foster and adoptive parents to gather input on access to pre-adoption and post-adoption services. There were 65 respondents, who had the option to select all applicable responses. Figure 29.1 shows the areas where respondents believed there may be gaps in services:

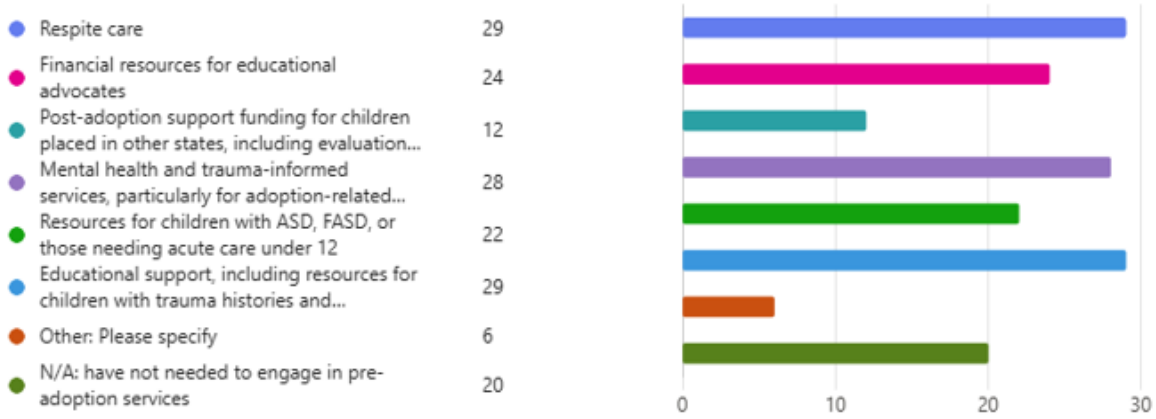
Figure 29.1: Identified Gaps in Pre-Adoption Services



Source: Stakeholder Survey 2025

The largest GAP for pre-adoption was identified as 'Clarity around pre-adoption agreements and expectations.'

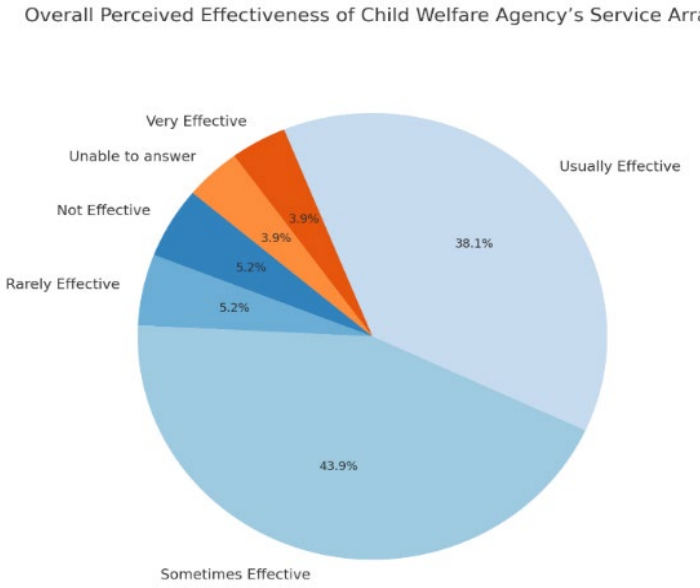
Figure 29.2: Identified Gaps in Post-Adoption Services



Source: Stakeholder Survey 2025

The largest GAP for post-adoption was identified as 'Educational support, including resources for child with trauma.'

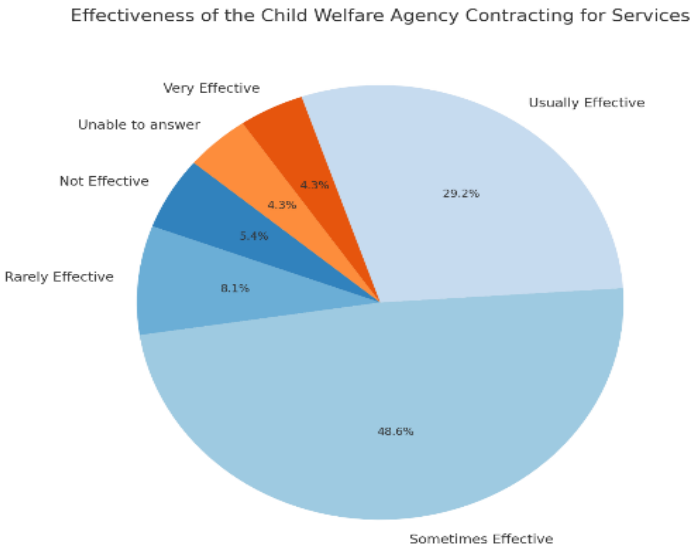
Figure 29.3: Overall Perceived Effectiveness of Child Welfare Agency's Service Array



Source: Stakeholder Survey 2025

Results indicate that while the majority perceive the service array as 'Usually Effective,' only a small portion view it as 'Very Effective' or 'Not Effective' (N = 155). The most common response was 'Sometimes Effective' (43.9%, n = 68), followed by 'Usually Effective' (38.1%, n = 59). A smaller number of respondents rated 'Rarely Effective' (5.2%, n = 8), 'Not Effective' (5.2%, n = 8), 'Very Effective' (3.9%, n = 6), and 'Unable to Answer' (3.9%, n = 6).

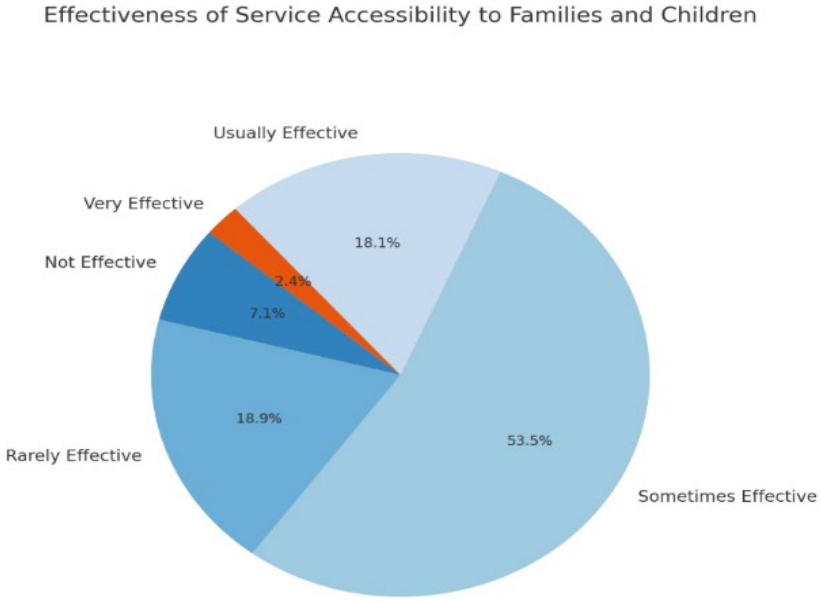
Figure 29.4: Effectiveness of Child Welfare Agency Contracting for Services



Only a small share of respondents rated services as 'Very Effective', suggesting that while contracted services are generally seen as meeting needs, perceptions of high effectiveness remain limited. A total of 185 responses were collected across six survey groups. The most common rating was 'Sometimes Effective' (48.6%), followed by 'Usually Effective' (29.2%). Responses from Ongoing Staff, Judicial, and

Community staff largely reflected this trend, while Management and Caregivers/Foster/Adoptive Parents had more mixed feedback, including higher rates of 'Unable to Answer.'

Figure 29.5: Effectiveness of Service Accessibility to Families and Children



Source: Stakeholder Survey 2025

Out of 127 total responses, the most frequent rating was 'Sometimes Effective' at 53.5% (n = 68), indicating over half of the respondents perceive access to services as inconsistent or situational. Services may exist but are not always easy to access due to factors like waitlists, location, or eligibility. The second most common response was 'Rarely Effective' at 18.9% (n = 24), suggesting respondents perceive barriers in accessing needed services. 'Usually Effective' followed with 18.1% (n = 23), reflecting a smaller but meaningful group who perceive access as reliable.

Survey remarks indicate the child welfare service array is moderately functional but undermined by systemic barriers and inconsistent access. There is a pressing need for service expansion, workforce support, and improved contracting to ensure timely delivery of care, particularly for advanced and safety-critical interventions.

Strengths:

- Services for young children (ages 0 – 3) and older youth (14+) are more accessible.
- Speech therapy is readily available.
- Independent Living services offer valuable support in life skills, education, and employment preparation.
- Tribal services in Washoe County have expanded, improving access for Native communities.
- After experiencing an increase in foster youth temporarily housed in offices and hotels between 2020 and 2023 due to a shortage of foster families, the state effectively eliminated this placement option by 2023. Nevada's efforts to expand its foster home population ensures more stable and appropriate placements.

Service Gaps and Barriers:

- All jurisdictions report inadequate access to critical services, especially for advanced or specialized needs (e.g., neuropsychological evaluations, parental capacity assessments).

- Waitlists for many services, including basic assessments, can extend several months.
- Quality concerns are noted, particularly in Clark County where mandated providers are seen as ineffective.
- Services for non-offending fathers, reunification, and adoption supports are notably lacking.
- Long wait times due to Medicaid provider shortages, geographical barriers (especially the rural regions), and contractual limitations.
- Case planning restrictions and delays in Medicaid approval often disrupt service delivery.
- Insufficient provider availability for in-home and safety-related services.

After an extensive investigation, the Department of Justice (DOJ) concluded on October 4, 2022, there is reasonable cause to believe that Nevada violates Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by failing to provide services to children with behavioral health disabilities in the most integrated settings appropriate to their needs.

It was determined Nevada does not provide its children with behavioral health disabilities with adequate community-based services. Instead, Nevada relies on segregated, institutional settings, like hospitals and residential treatment facilities, to serve children with behavioral health disabilities who could be served in their homes and communities.

Children experience avoidable, and often repeated, hospitalizations because Nevada fails to ensure access to community-based services that could prevent institutionalization. Children and families frequently turn to hospitals as a first stop for treatment, often beginning their path toward institutionalization at emergency departments. This is exacerbated by inadequate crisis intervention and stabilization services in the community.

Nevada sends hundreds of children with behavioral health disabilities to residential treatment facilities each year, both in Nevada and throughout the country. In March of 2021, there were 305 children in residential treatment, with 43% (n=130) in out-of-state facilities. Between July 2019 and February 2021, Nevada financed 779 residential treatment stays for 667 children; 37% of these stays were out-of-state. This reliance on residential treatment, including out-of-state treatment, was found to be persistent.

The investigation's review of records revealed a vast majority of children receiving residential treatment were appropriate for community-based services. Despite this, most of these children did not receive necessary intensive community-based services prior to entering residential treatment facilities. They could have received services like intensive in-home services, care coordination, crisis services, therapeutic foster care, and respite in the community as an alternative to placement.

Overwhelmingly, the children and families interviewed do not oppose receiving community-based services. Instead, they reported that institutionalization was their only choice given the available services and supports. Parents and caregivers expressed a strong desire for their child to live at home with appropriate services and described the difficulty and perceived harm of children being away from home.

Additionally, the DOJ listed the following findings:

- Mobile Crisis Response and Stabilization: There is a lack of accessible, statewide crisis services for children and youth under 21. This gap leads to delays in developmentally appropriate interventions, forcing families to rely on emergency rooms or law enforcement, increasing out-of-home placements, and missing opportunities for early intervention. The state's crisis response system, including the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT), is undermined by insufficient staffing, resulting in delays, increased response times, and no-shows. The lack of follow-up community services creates a cycle of recurring crises.

- Intensive In-Home Supports and Services: Available services such as in-home therapy, peer support, and programs like psychosocial rehabilitation and basic skills training under Medicaid are insufficient in intensity and frequency. Administrative barriers and low reimbursement rates further limit this support, which is especially problematic for children with dual behavioral health and intellectual/developmental disabilities.
- Intensive Care Coordination: Programs like High Fidelity Wraparound (WIN) are under-resourced, with staffing shortages and waitlists leaving many children with complex needs unserved and disconnected from broader community supports.
- Respite, Therapeutic Foster Care, and Family-Based Supports: There is a shortage of respite care and alternative family settings such as therapeutic foster care. This shortfall pushes children into segregated, congregate, or emergency shelter settings, with families, especially those with adopted children, struggling to obtain necessary support.

Limitations

Nevada distributed surveys to Management, Assessment and Permanency staff; Judicial partners, youth, foster parents, adoptive parents, Tribal, and community partners to gather feedback on the effectiveness of the agency's services array, services contracting, and access to services. Surveys provided to external partners were only open for a month, and internal surveys were only open for three weeks, limiting the number of respondents. Due to the limited number of respondents, this is not a full representation of the state.

State Response [to Rating]:

Nevada has determined that this item is rated as an area needing improvement. While a framework is in place to guide service planning based on individual assessments, stakeholder input and regional data reveal systemic shortcomings in the access and delivery of services across all three jurisdictions in the state. Each region reports the current service array and resource development infrastructure is insufficient to meet the diverse and complex needs of families. Common barriers include extensive waiting lists, a shortage of specialized providers, and limited-service availability in rural areas. Notably, significant gaps persist in behavioral and mental health services, substance use treatment and monitoring, as well as essential supports such as housing and transportation. These deficiencies present serious obstacles for families involved or at risk of involvement with the child welfare system. Further, the state currently lacks the infrastructure to comprehensively track and monitor service delivery, including the number of clients served, the length of waiting lists, and the identification of unmet needs.

In response, Nevada will work toward enhancing its data collection and monitoring systems to better understand access to service and effectiveness. Initial efforts to address these gaps include strengthening collaboration with community partners to align services with localized needs. These strategies aim to improve the state's capacity to deliver timely, individualized services to children and families statewide.

Item 30: Individualizing Services

How well is the service array and resource development system functioning statewide to ensure that the services in item 29 can be individualized to meet the unique needs of children and families served by the agency?

Relevant Procedure:

NRS 432.011
Policy 204 – Permanency and Case Planning
Policy 801 – Youth Independent Living Program Ages 14 through 17
Policy 211 – Protective Capacity Family Assessment (PCFA)
Policy 212 – Protective Capacity Progress Assessment (PCPA)

Procedure Summary:

NRS 432.011 mandates DCFS to deliver a comprehensive statewide system that coordinates and provides services to children and families requiring support related to juvenile justice, child welfare, and mental health. As part of this mandate, DCFS is required to support family preservation, rehabilitation, and reunification, and to ensure children are placed in the least restrictive, most appropriate environments to meet their individual needs.

Nevada's child welfare agencies employ structured assessment processes at key points in a case to identify and respond to the unique needs of children and families. These include the NIA, the PCFA, and the PCPA. Each tool evaluates family dynamics, the caregiver's capacity for change, and permanency options. These assessments inform critical case decisions and allow agencies to provide individualized, targeted services, both in-house and through community-based providers. These services may include mental health evaluations, trauma assessments, individualized therapeutic services, and intensive in-home supports, as necessary.

Individualization of services is further reinforced through permanency planning, which is guided by the best interest of the child and ongoing assessment of their evolving needs. Case planning is completed in partnership with parents and family members and is rooted in the information derived from the PCFA. The PCPA, completed every six months, tracks progress and informs necessary adjustments to the case plan. This process ensures services remain aligned with each family's specific circumstances and that planning is dynamic, rather than static.

Goals identified in case plans follow the SMART framework – Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound, allowing for clear accountability and progress measurement. Alongside these goals, child welfare staff identify tailored services and strategies to support meaningful, ongoing change. These services are selected with attention to accessibility, availability, and appropriateness to the family's context, ensuring each plan is customized rather than generalized.

Round 3 Performance:

During Round 3 of the CFSR, Nevada identified Item 30 as an area needing improvement due to notable service gaps and limited resources. Focus group feedback gathered during the review process revealed key deficiencies in the availability and access of critical services, particularly in the areas of substance use treatment, behavioral and mental health service delivery, housing, and transportation. Stakeholders also expressed concerns about the limited capacity to track service delivery metrics and to tailor services to meet the unique needs of individual families.

A significant area of concern identified was the need to expand comprehensive community mental health services for children with serious emotional disturbances. The review also highlighted service array gaps affecting families receiving in-home services. Nevada is considering a data-driven approach to assess the current service array. This would not only help determine the specific services required

but also serve as a tool to measure system performance in delivering targeted supports that enhance safety and well-being outcomes for children and families.

As part of the CFSR Round 3 PIP, Nevada conducted additional assessments to identify service needs and explore opportunities for service expansion. This effort involved an assessment to identify services across multiple agencies, including the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Nevada Medicaid, DCFS Rural Health Clinics, DCFS Mental Health Programs, Juvenile Justice Services, and Child Welfare Services.

Analysis:

The ability to provide individualized services to children and families involved with the child welfare system is significantly hindered by the lack of accessible, comprehensive services across the state. While the State's approach to individualizing services involves coordination with both internal and external stakeholders and utilizes a combination of federal and state funding, these efforts are frequently weakened by systemic service gaps. Collaboration remains central to tailoring services that meet each family's unique needs; however, a recent survey identified consistent barriers in service availability, particularly in behavioral and mental health care, substance use treatment, and safety management services, continue to limit the system's responsiveness.

The severity of these issues was emphasized by the extensive investigation conducted by the DOJ, which concluded that Nevada routinely fails to serve children with behavioral health disabilities in the most integrated settings appropriate to their needs. As outlined in the report, rather than offering supports in community or home-based environments, the state often relies on institutional placements such as hospitals and residential treatment facilities, even for children who could be appropriately served in less restrictive settings. This practice directly conflicts with the goal of service individualization and reflects deeper structural deficiencies.

The overreliance on institutional settings is largely driven by the absence of robust community-based services. As a result, children frequently experience unnecessary hospitalizations, repeated placements in institutional care, and prolonged separation from their families and communities. These outcomes not only delay or disrupt permanency and stability but also diminish the child's ability to participate in typical developmental and social activities essential to their well-being.

Several critical service gaps contribute to this pattern. These include the lack of intensive in-home supports, insufficient crisis intervention services, limited availability of respite care and therapeutic foster homes, and fragmented care coordination. In addition, systemic problems such as an underdeveloped provider network, operational and policy barriers within Medicaid, ineffective discharge planning, and the failure to connect families to community-based alternatives further restrict individualized service delivery.

Agencies within the DHS are working collaboratively to address these deficiencies. However, until adequate services are consistently available across all regions of Nevada, the state's ability to individualize services in alignment with each child's needs will remain constrained. Meeting the needs of vulnerable children and families will require continued investment, structural reform, and a coordinated strategy to expand and strengthen the service array statewide.

In February 2025, the DOJ and the State of Nevada reached a settlement agreement to resolve the department's findings that Nevada is unnecessarily segregating children with behavioral health disabilities in institutional settings like hospitals and residential treatment facilities.

In this settlement, Nevada committed that children with behavioral health disabilities will receive the services they need to remain in their communities. To increase community integration for these children, Nevada has made significant commitments in this agreement, including:

- Children who may have a behavioral health disability will be screened and assessed, and provided with service coordination
- Children with behavioral health disabilities will have access to expanded home- and community-based services. These services include wraparound facilitation, mobile crisis and stabilization services, respite care, individual and family therapy, behavioral support services, family peer support and youth peer support
- Nevada will improve diversion and transition processes to ensure children with behavioral health disabilities are being diverted from, and transitioned as quickly as possible from, segregated placements; and
- Nevada will strengthen its quality assurance and performance improvement system.

Table 30.1: Foster youth with significant mental or physical health needs by Jurisdiction as of February 28, 2025

Clark County	827
Washoe County	179
Rural Counties	49
Statewide	1,055

Source: AFCARS Report (RPT785)
**This count reflects the number of youth in foster care who have a clinically diagnosed disability that would be counted in one of the following categories: mental retardation, visually or hearing impaired, physically disabled, emotionally disturbed, or other medically diagnosed condition requiring special care, as defined by the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting (AFCARS) system.*

Table 30.2: Foster youth in paid placements as of February 28, 2025, by Advanced Foster Care (AFC), Specialized Foster Care (SFC), or Medically Fragile Status

Placement Type	AFC	SFC	Med Fragile
Clark County	78	318	0
Washoe County	8	63	0
Rural Counties	4	6	0
Statewide	90	387	0

Source: Foster Care Placement Summary (RPT704)

As part of the CQI process, a statewide review, which concluded in March 2025, examined 65 total cases to evaluate how well services were tailored to meet the specific needs of children and families.

Results showed that out of the 16 applicable in-home assessments designed to evaluate family needs and deliver services aimed at preventing child removal or re-entry into foster care, Nevada rated as a strength in 68.75% of applicable cases. This indicates, in many instances, Nevada child welfare agencies are effectively identifying and implementing services that help stabilize families and maintain children safely in their homes.

However, the review also highlighted critical areas where individualized service delivery requires improvement. When assessing well-being outcomes, the state received a strength rating of only 40% related to the quality of assessments for both mothers and fathers, and the provision of appropriate

individualized services for parents. This suggests that while some practices support individualization, the consistency and depth of family engagement and assessment vary, limiting the ability to fully tailor services to each caregiver's unique needs.

These findings reflect a system partially meeting its goal of individualized service delivery but also emphasize the need for greater focus on comprehensive assessments and service matching for parents.

Table 30.3: Statewide CQI State Review Performance Items 2 and 12

Performance Item	Strength	Area Needing Improvement
Safety Outcome 2		
Item 2: Services to Families to Protect Children in Home and Prevent Removal or Re-Entry into Foster Care	71.43%	28.57%
Well-Being Outcome1		
Item 12A: Needs Assessments and Services to Children	87.69%	12.31%
Item 12B: Needs Assessments and Services to parents	40 %	60%
Item 12C: Needs Assessments and Services to Foster Parents	80 %	20%

Source: OMS state rating summary reports based on strength ratings. Case Review Date(s): [Aug 2024, Sep 2024, Jan 2025, Feb 2025, Mar 2025], All Reason(s) for Agency Involvement for CCFS, DCFS-RR, and WCHSA.

The DCFS Grants Management Unit (GMU) ensures services funded through the MaryLee Allen Promoting Safe and Stable Families program are evidence-based and aligned with statewide goals. To support continuous improvement, the GMU regularly updates and enhances the data collection processes for subrecipients funded under Title IV-B Subpart II. These updates aim to improve alignment with Nevada's service array and to strengthen the effectiveness of programs. The target populations for these programs include:

- Families involved with child welfare who are receiving preservation or reunification services.
- Vulnerable families with children at risk of abuse or neglect, including those with open child welfare cases.
- Adoptive and prospective adoptive families receiving adoption promotion or support services.

Subgrantees are categorized by the four federally defined service areas under Title IV-B Subpart II: family preservation, family support, time-limited reunification, and adoption promotion/support. Title IV-B Subpart II services are delivered statewide across Nevada's three regions, Clark County, Washoe County, and the Rural Region.

Subrecipients, particularly non-profit agencies, are required to use the Protective Factors Survey (PFS) with all families served. The PFS is a tool designed for parents and caregivers participating in family support and child maltreatment prevention services. Data gathered through the PFS helps provide a snapshot of family needs, track changes in protective factors over time, and identify specific areas for targeted staff intervention. This approach supports efforts to individualize services based on each family's strengths and challenges.

Subgrantees use an online data collection system to track client service utilization and outcome measures. This centralized system allows DCFS to monitor trends across regions and identify service

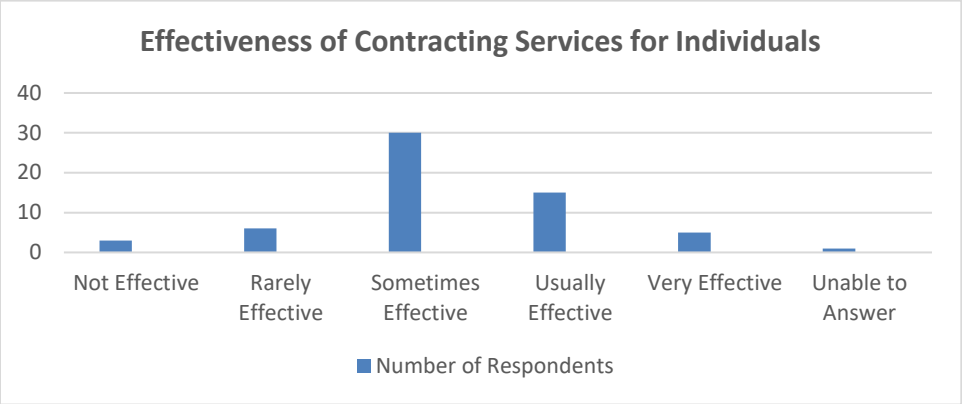
areas which may require improvement. Each subgrantee is required to submit monthly programmatic reports, which support both state and federal accountability, ensure the collection of measurable outcome data, and provide DCFS with a clear view of service delivery and needs in each area. Through this coordinated and data-informed approach, the DCFS GMU can ensure that services are responsive to local needs and can be tailored to meet the unique circumstances of children and families.

Despite these efforts, Nevada continues to face challenges in fully individualizing services for all families. Gaps in behavioral and mental health service delivery, limited substance use treatment options, and insufficient capacity for safety management services hinder the system's ability to consistently meet unique family needs. These service limitations present barriers to effective case planning and may delay or complicate permanency outcomes for children in those areas.

Overall, Nevada's child welfare system demonstrates a clear framework and intent to individualize services through structured assessments, collaborative planning, and goal-oriented service delivery. However, systemic limitations impact the extent to which services can be fully individualized across all regions of the state. Continued investment in service expansion, cross-agency coordination, and infrastructure to support data-driven decision-making will be critical to closing these gaps and enhancing outcomes for children and families.

Surveys were conducted statewide, and respondents were asked about how effective the child welfare agencies are in contracting with service providers to individualize services that meet the unique needs of children and families. 33% of respondents indicated the agencies are 'very' or 'usually' effective at this while half of respondents indicated the agencies are 'sometimes' effective. Responses indicate that while agencies are sometimes able to ensure the services received are individualized, it is not something occurring consistently.

Figure 30.4: Effectiveness of Contracting Services for Individuals



Source: Stakeholder Surveys 2025

Figure 30.4 illustrates how 60 respondents across key stakeholder groups rated the effectiveness of Nevada's child welfare agency in contracting with service providers to individualize services that meet the unique needs of children and families. 'Sometimes Effective' (n=30, 50.0%); 'Usually Effective' (n=15, 25.0%); 'Very Effective' (n=5, 8.3%); 'Rarely Effective' (n=6, 10.0%); 'Not Effective' (n=3, 5.0%); 'Unable to Answer' (n=1, 1.7%).

State Response [to Rating]:

Nevada determined this item is rated as an area needing improvement. Despite having a framework for individualized services following initial assessments, stakeholder feedback reveals that statewide,

Nevada lacks a variety of services to serve individuals consistently. Enhancing the services for families is a crucial area for improvement in Nevada.
In response to the DOJ findings, agencies within the DHS are working collaboratively to address these deficiencies. However, until adequate services are consistently available across all regions of Nevada, the state's ability to individualize services in alignment with each child's needs will remain constrained. Meeting the needs of vulnerable children and families will require continued investment, structural reform, and a coordinated strategy to expand and strengthen the service array statewide.

The reliance on segregated settings is driven by a lack of adequate community-based services, leading to avoidable hospitalizations, cycles through institutions, and lengthy stays away from families and typical childhood activities. Nevada's system deficiencies include insufficient intensive in-home supports, ineffective crisis services, inadequate care coordination, limited respite, and therapeutic foster care options. Systemic issues like a poor provider network, Medicaid barriers, failure to connect children to community alternatives, and insufficient discharge planning also contribute.

Nevada recognizes a need for expanding community-based services, such as intensive in-home support, therapy, family and youth peer support, respite, and therapeutic foster care, ensuring they are accessible and available statewide. There is also a need to enhance services such as mobile crisis response, Wraparound facilitation, and intensive care coordination. These efforts aim to improve both the availability and personalization of services, ensuring families receive appropriate support based on their specific circumstances.

F. Agency Responsiveness to the Community

Item 31: State Engagement and Consultation with Stakeholders Pursuant to CFSP and APSR

How well is the agency responsiveness to the community system functioning statewide to ensure that in implementing the provisions of the CFSP and developing related APSRs, the state engages in ongoing consultation with Tribal representatives, consumers, service providers, foster care providers, the juvenile court, and other public and private child- and family-serving agencies and includes the major concerns of these representatives in the goals, objectives, and annual updates of the CFSP?

Relevant Procedures:

NRS 432.0305
NRS 432B
NRS 432B.200
NRS 432B.2155
NRS 432B.216
NRS 432.170
NRS 432A.079

Procedure Summary:

In accordance with NRS 432.0305 and NRS 432B, DCFS is mandated to observe and study the evolving needs for child welfare services across the state. This responsibility includes collaborating with federal agencies to develop and maintain state plans that enhance service delivery for children and families.

DCFS fulfills these requirements by coordinating and collaborating with public and private entities to develop the CFSP and the APSR, as required by Title IV-B of the Social Security Act. Each child welfare agency across the state contributes input to the APSR on an annual basis to ensure comprehensive service evaluation and improvement.

Nevada uses a county-operated, state supervised structure for the management of child welfare services, except in the rural counties of the state, where the DCFS delivers child welfare services. Washoe and Clark counties are county operated; state supervised. The DCFS - FPO under the umbrella of the Nevada DHS, provides oversight to the child welfare agencies who deliver direct child welfare services.

NRS 432B.2155 requires agencies which provide child welfare services be in compliance with state and federal laws. DCFS may require an agency to develop a corrective action plan for noncompliance. NRS 432B.216 requires agencies which provide child welfare services submit an improvement plan to DCFS every odd-numbered year. As part of the development of this plan, agencies are required to solicit public input regarding the proposed improvement plan. These plans must include, without limitation, specific performance targets for improving the safety, permanency and well-being of the children in the care of the agency and the approach, including strategies, the agency will take to achieve the targets.

Round 3 Performance and Background:

During the 2018 CFSR, Item 31 was rated as a strength based on information from the Statewide Assessment. This rating recognized DCFS for its effective collaboration and meaningful engagement with a broad range of internal and external community partners in the planning and implementation of child welfare services. Nevada was not placed on a PIP for Item 31 during CFSR Round 3, further affirming the State's demonstrated strength in this area. DCFS consistently engaged key partners in the development of the CFSP, the APSR, and other CFSR activities. Community partners include:

- Child welfare agencies
- Court improvement program
- Court improvement counsels
- Tribal representatives
- Children and families
- Service and foster care providers
- Juvenile courts and Court Improvement Programs
- Other family-serving and community-based agencies

Since 2018, Nevada has continued to advance stakeholder engagement efforts, expanding its focus to include youth, families, caregivers, and individuals with lived experience, community partners and system leaders through workgroups and open meetings. There is ongoing support for joint program improvement efforts, with partners contributing changes within their own organizations and systems. DCFS remained committed to building a collaborative, feedback-informed system by increasing the authenticity and impact of engagement practices. This included refining efforts to elicit meaningful input from those with lived experience and ensuring their voices shape policy and service development.

Analysis:

Nevada demonstrates a robust commitment to CQI in child welfare through its established process for stakeholder engagement. The SQIC serves as a platform, fostering monthly collaboration among child welfare agencies and judicial partners. This regular forum facilitates discussions on statewide and

agency-specific CQI initiatives, providing essential feedback loops for crucial statewide endeavors like the CFSP, the APSR, and CFSR, as well as for analyzing statewide data and identifying service barriers and trends. Community partners and agencies have had opportunities to participate in the annual updates to the APSR and CFSP. However, the SQIC has not convened since October 2024, due to the Nevada Legislative session and specific initiatives that have temporarily changed focus. Even with this focus change, efforts were made to maintain stakeholder involvement through focus groups and targeted communications ensuring child welfare agencies and community partners contributed to the development of these mandates. This is not typical practice for Nevada, and the SQIC meetings will resume in the summer of 2025.

The goals and objectives of the 2024 – 2029 CFSP remain unchanged since the plan's initial approval. Child welfare agencies across the state continue to work toward goal achievement, with many objectives requiring measurable data reporting to monitor progress. To support this ongoing work, existing internal groups continue to meet throughout the state, primarily via video conference, with some returning to in-person formats. These groups contribute to CFSP progress and focus on CQI activities.

Consultation and collaboration within Nevada's child welfare system are essential to service delivery and span all levels from funding allocation and policy development to case-level decision-making. DCFS engages a wide range of stakeholders from community organizations and partnering agencies to provide input on child welfare programs, policies, procedures, and reporting requirements. This approach promotes expanded partnerships, resource sharing, and constructive feedback that can be incorporated into the CFSP, ASPR, and CFSR activities. DCFS actively collaborates with educational and research institutions, and agencies focused on substance use, health, mental health, education, domestic violence, and the juvenile court system, representing multiple counties. As part of the implementation of the CFSP, DCFS coordinates with numerous committees, organizations, and statewide entities. These groups include youth and young adults, families, caregivers, and Tribal communities. Input is gathered through demographic analysis, census data, surveys, and listening sessions, particularly from those with lived experience in the child welfare system. Existing internal and external groups are utilized to facilitate meaningful conversations aimed at identifying areas for practice improvement and setting strategic goals. These forums support the use of structured feedback loops, enabling continuous, two-way communication between DCFS and its partners. This ongoing exchange helps guide system enhancements, address emerging concerns, and align statewide goals and objectives with community needs.

Community Partner Collaboration

Youth Advisory Board (YAB): The YAB also known as Nevada LIFE (Leaders in Future Excellence) provides monthly consultation and collaboration with youth and young adults, through facilitation by Foster Kinship via the Children's Advocacy Alliance (CAA). Members who participate in this group are between the ages of 14 and 26. This relationship provides an avenue to invite and include youth and young adults with lived experience to be involved in policy, practice, and program development. These meetings allow youth and young adults the ability to advocate for themselves while making systemic change, by providing input, insight and ideas for the Independent Living Program and the Extended Young Adults Support Services Program. These meetings provide a natural feedback loop to the agency and the youth and young adults.

Statewide Independent Living Meeting: This meeting occurs quarterly and allows the Independent Living Program Specialist to facilitate a call with community providers from across the state, including educational providers, child welfare service providers, children's advocates, and the CIP. The

participants share updates that include program successes, opportunities for the Independent Living population, and barriers in serving this population with the goal of improving the program statewide.

Children's Justice Act Task Force (CJA): The CJA is a multi-disciplinary team that meets quarterly to make policy and training recommendations for system improvements in the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of child abuse and neglect, and exploitation cases in a manner that limits trauma to the child victims. Multiple members of the CJA Task Force are also active members of other teams such as the SQIC and the CIP.

Indian Child Welfare Committee (ICW): The ICW committee meets quarterly and is facilitated by the DCFS Tribal Liaison. Participants include Tribal child welfare workers from the 28 federally recognized Tribes, Bands, and Colonies in Nevada. Meetings provide a venue to address training, policy, and practice issues in child welfare whether ICWA applies or not. The ICW meetings are also natural feedback loops as they allow for consistent feedback from the Tribal communities. Additionally, the DCFS Tribal Liaison participates in quarterly DHS meetings to discuss service and policy issues between Tribal leaders and the state.

Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI): QPI is a statewide initiative developed to ensure every child removed from their home due to abandonment, abuse, or neglect is cared for by a foster family who provides skilled, and nurturing parenting while helping the child maintain connections with their family of origin. This QPI collaborative engages foster care providers through monthly meetings in each jurisdiction. All foster parents are invited and encouraged to be at these meetings. Providing these meetings by jurisdiction allows for diverse participation of foster families in each region. In addition to the jurisdictional meetings, there is a monthly statewide QPI meeting. This allows jurisdictions to collaborate with one another, provides an opportunity to ensure practice is consistent, and that a continuum of services is available throughout Nevada. Nevada continues to use the support of the QPI collaboration to gain the voice and lived experiences of foster parents, who advocate for themselves and the youth in their care.

Court Improvement Program (CIP): The CIP coordinates the quarterly CIP Select Committee. Through this meeting, the Nevada dependency court systems partner with DCFS to improve the systemic partnership between child welfare, and the judicial and legal community. The meeting focuses on improving the relationship between systems, as well as to improve the experiences Nevada's child welfare workforce, children, and families have when engaged with both systems. There is an authentic effort to align the goals of the two systems, and to evaluate the implementation of new legislation, monitor current performance, and assess the impact of new initiatives, many of its efforts on implementing the CFSP, APSR, and CFSR. The CIP Coordinator is an active member on a variety of statewide groups and planning meetings to discuss goal development, progress, monitoring, and reporting for various activities, including the Judicial, Court, and Attorney Measures of Performance (JCAMP) initiative, aimed at enhancing quality legal representation and improving the quality of hearings involving child welfare agency staff, children, families, and caregivers.

Court Improvement Councils (CIC): The CIC operate within all 11 judicial districts and serve as collaborative bodies focused on improving judicial handling of child welfare cases. Each CIC develops annual action plans to address local dependency issues and support outcomes and systemic factors impacting child welfare. These councils meet regularly within their communities and convene collectively at an annual Summit, where multidisciplinary collaboration and shared learning are emphasized. The CIP Select Committee meets quarterly and includes CIC Leads, judges, agency representatives, and stakeholders from across the state. These meetings serve as a platform for reporting on activities, identifying challenges, and advancing shared goals. DCFS maintains a strong presence at all CIC meetings and the annual CIC summit, with agency representatives often providing

regular updates on key issues such as permanency, child safety decision-making, and the adequacy of foster care resources. Child welfare partners are actively involved in the development of CIC action plans, ensuring alignment between judicial strategies and agency priorities. The CIP Coordinator plays a key role in broader child welfare collaboration, participating in the DCFS Indian Child Welfare Committee, SQIC, and various subgroups focused on data and reporting. Each quarter, DCFS leadership, including the Administrator or Deputy Administrator, and the CFSR Coordinator/Training Manager participate in the CIP Select Committee, fostering ongoing consultation and alignment between the courts and child welfare system. Additionally, the Nevada Court Improvement Project includes judges from all 11 court districts and contributes to refining court processes related to child welfare. Complementing this work, the Nevada CJA Task Force works to strengthen the prosecution and investigation of child abuse cases statewide.

Child Death Review (CDR): The CDR meets quarterly and consists of the Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children members, Directors of the child welfare agencies, and agencies responsible for vital statistics, public health, mental health, and public safety as well as local child death review multidisciplinary teams. This statewide committee consults and collaborates on public education and prevention of child fatalities.

Nevada Human Trafficking (HT) Coalition: The Nevada HT Coalition was formed in 2023. This group consists of interested parties and community partners to assist the human trafficking specialist in carrying out their duties and maximizing resources for local human trafficking task forces (NRS 217.098).

Nevada Coalition to Prevent the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC): The Coalition's focus is to assess the existing service array in the state and to develop recommendations to expand those services, propose legislation, and identify best practices for CSEC victims in Nevada.

Agency Collaboration

DCFS utilizes existing groups to facilitate conversations around the State's vision and to identify and develop goals for the child welfare system. Participation and membership of the various groups and statewide teams allows statewide utilization of established feedback loops and permits an ongoing, bi-directional information exchange across all levels of the agency, which in turn facilitates the change process, identifies concerns and integrate statewide goals and objectives. The existing groups include:

Decision Making Group: The Decision-Making Group (DMG) meets quarterly and is comprised of the DCFS Administrator, DCFS Deputy Administrator, DCFS Rural Region Managers, county child welfare agency Directors and Assistant Directors, and the DCFS FPO leadership. The DMG is a collaboration in which all child welfare leaders can consult and discuss programming and planning, statewide and regional child welfare issues and challenges, statewide data, implementation of new initiatives, and statewide policies. It allows for a space to share ideas and strategies and learn from one another to inform decision making.

Statewide Quality Improvement Committee (SQIC): SQIC met monthly to promote positive outcomes for Nevada's children through continuous oversight and analysis of state and federally identified performance measures and data relevant to CQI. Membership included the state's FPO, the three child welfare agencies, CQI staff from across the state, the DCFS data team, the DCFS Tribal Liaison, the NPT, and the Court Improvement Program coordinator. The SQIC collaboration reviewed federal reporting, statewide policies, performance data, targeted review data, implementation of new initiatives, and CQI activities. This meeting will resume in the summer of 2025.

Nevada System of Care (SOC): The Nevada SOC is a DCFS program that engages a broad array of both behavioral health and support services. These services include both home and community-based treatment, as well as out-of-home treatment services provided when necessary.

Family First Prevention Services Act Evaluation Oversight Committee (FFPSA EOC): The EOC meets monthly to develop comprehensive CQI and fidelity monitoring plans for each selected FFPSA evidence-based practice (EBP) model and ensures all federal reporting requirements are met. The CQI and fidelity monitoring activities for each program are conducted regionally by each participating jurisdiction with oversight by the EOC. The DCFS FPO ensures CQI, and fidelity monitoring are designed to answer overarching questions regarding the quality of implementation and service delivery as well as the extent to which program and system-level outcomes are being reached. The overall goal of the CQI and fidelity activities is to ensure youth and families receive high quality services in a timely manner, meeting their needs and leading to positive outcomes.

The Adoption Call to Action Team (ACTA): The ACTA team consists of members from the three child welfare agencies, Raise the Future, and the FPO. The FPO adoption specialist facilitates these meetings. The team meets monthly to review adoption programming, address statewide needs, policies, procedures, and any progress towards the goal of reducing the number of Nevada children and youth waiting to be adopted by identifying and eliminating barriers to achieving permanency.

Nevada Quarterly Child and Family Service Reviews: Nevada conducts statewide quarterly case reviews that mirror the CFSR. As part of these reviews, foster parents, children, providers, legal partners, agency staff, and parents are interviewed and consulted about individual cases. An array of questions is asked to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to provide information relative to the functioning of the child welfare system and contribute information relative to the goals and objectives of the CFSP.

Nevada Partnership for Training (NPT): NPT meets monthly in collaboration with DCFS FPO, the child welfare agencies, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), and the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). The partners collaboratively work together to improve the child welfare training delivery system, statewide practice, and to ensure standardized training throughout Nevada.

Workforce Innovation Team (WIT): The WIT met once per month until January 2024 and was comprised of the DCFS FPO, the child welfare agencies, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), and the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). The team worked collaboratively to manage and improve the child welfare training delivery system. The DCFS FPO was responsible for overseeing the work of the WIT and facilitated a feedback loop on matters related to federal reporting and guidelines, current practice, statewide policy, and ongoing CQI activities. This collaborative team was charged with addressing the training needs of the child welfare workforce statewide. This meeting created a platform for statewide consistency for training and child welfare practice. The WIT monitors the utilization of the system including report development, monitoring of staff training and licensure status, and increased access to training modules. Meetings are planned to resume in the fall of 2025.

Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Task Force to study Juvenile Justice issues: The Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice is an ongoing statutory committee of the Nevada Legislature whose authority and duties are set forth in Nevada Revised Statutes 218E.700 through 218E.730. The Committee meets between the biennial sessions of the Legislature and consists of three members from the Senate and three members from the Assembly, appointed by the Legislative Commission. The chair and vice chair are selected by the Legislative Commission from among the Committee membership. The Committee reviews and evaluates issues

relating to the provision of child welfare services and juvenile justice in the State and recommends legislation concerning child welfare and juvenile justice to the Legislature.

State Response [to Rating]:

Nevada has determined that this item is an area needing improvement, as the development of the 2024–2029 CFSP did not fully meet federal expectations for stakeholder engagement outlined in 45 CFR 1357.15(l) and (m). While some collaboration occurred, particularly during the development of the 2026 Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR), the timeline provided to support meaningful input from child welfare agencies and community partners was insufficient. Looking ahead, Nevada is committed to strengthening engagement practices by involving stakeholders in the review of data and assessment of performance through structured opportunities such as workgroups, including the SQIC, focus groups, community meetings, public presentations, and surveys to support achievement of the CFSP and CFSR goals and objectives.

Item 32: Coordination of CFSP Services with Other Federal Programs

How well is the agency's responsiveness to the community system functioning statewide to ensure that the state's services under the CFSP are coordinated with services or benefits of other federal or federally assisted programs serving the same population?

Relevant Procedure:

Title IV-B, Subparts 1 and 2
Section 477 of Title IV-E of the Social Security Act
CAPTA
45 CFR Part 1357
NRS 432.031
NRS 432.0155
NRS 432.210
NRS 432.170

Procedure Summary:

The state follows the requirements to submit the CFSP, as well as the activities, accomplishments and future initiatives which are submitted annually in the APSR in accordance with Title IV-B, Subparts 1 and 2 and Section 477 of Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, CAPTA, and Federal regulations at 45 CFR Part 1357. Nevada has remained in compliance each year with these requirements and has received approval on all plans and reports since the requirement was established in 2005.

Round 3 Performance and Background:

This item was determined to be a strength in the 2018 CFSR. The Statewide Assessment showed the State collaborates with numerous regional, county, and Tribal agencies, including but not limited to, the Children's Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; the Administrative Office of the Court; the Department of the Interior/Bureau of Indian Affairs and Tribal entities in Nevada. Nevada DCFS continues to recognize the importance of coordination with other federal programs, including the federally funded initiatives in the planning of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), to prevent duplication of efforts and to leverage funding and collaborative efforts. Nevada was not placed

on a PIP for Item 32 during CFSR Round 3, further affirming the State's demonstrated strength in this area.

Analysis:

The state of Nevada has a system in place to coordinate services under the CFSP with services or benefits by other federal or federally assisted programs serving the same population group. The DCFS relies on established and cooperative relationships with a wide range of partners to coordinate services and benefits to the same population group. The following divisions under the umbrella of the DHS receive federal funding in which active coordination efforts are on-going:

- The Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) works in partnership to protect, promote, and improve the physical and behavioral health of the people of Nevada. This includes overseeing and administering clinical and community services.
- The Division of Social Services (DSS) who work to provide quality, timely, and temporary services enabling Nevada families to achieve their highest levels of self-sufficiency.
- The Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) delivers comprehensive support to elders, adults and children with disabilities or special health care needs.

Additionally, there are many other partnerships with other departments, agencies, and or entities who receive federal funding and specific examples of those partnerships include:

Court Advocacy: The DHS/DCFS coordinates with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Children's Bureau and the Administrative Office of the Court (AOC). Federal funding received by the AOC for the CIP encompasses a myriad of activities at the state and local level with the primary purpose to assess and improve court processes related to child abuse and neglect and to ensure improved safety, permanence, and well-being for children. Nevada's CIP emphasizes and supports children's rights to protection from abuse and neglect. This partnership and coordination enable the court and child welfare agencies involved in the child welfare system to develop systemic, statewide changes to significantly improve the handling of child welfare cases while ensuring compliance with state and federal laws regarding child dependency and child welfare matters.

Foster Care Placement: The DHS DCFS coordinates placement services with the U.S. Department of the Interior/Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and other Tribal entities in Nevada. The BIA has social workers who work in partnership with the State regarding issues with Nevada Tribes. A representative from the BIA participates in quarterly statewide meetings with DCFS and Tribal partners for continued coordination of services.

CARA Plan of Care: The DPBH is responsible for ensuring hospitals complete CARA Plans of Care prior to an infant's discharge from the hospital. DPBH provides DCFS with data reports. DCFS participates in the statewide workgroup.

Advocacy Assistance: CASA/Guardian ad litem is an advocate for all children placed out of home with a referral from the agency's services worker, and approval by the courts, in all jurisdictions. Through this collaboration the statewide Advocacy Assistance program serves as a resource for children and youth in foster care.

Child Support Assistance: DCFS coordinated services include child welfare workers assisting families by providing a referral to the child support office to secure needed funds or paternity for children. All three of the jurisdictions have various child support offices throughout their areas to assist clients close to home.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): Child welfare agencies provide referrals for TANF which is designed to provide temporary assistance to care for dependent children in their own homes or in the homes of a relative caregiver. This is a cash payment provided to meet an out-of-home child's basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, transportation, and other supportive services. Additionally, this is offered to relatives without a time limit on how long this money can be collected to support their relative children. DCFS informs relatives of the Kinship Care program, requirements, and assists in the application process.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI): The child welfare agencies coordinate with the federal Social Security Administration regarding benefits for a child under the placement and care of DCFS in all jurisdictions so those who qualify may benefit from the Social Security Act or SSI.

Educational Support: The State of Nevada has partnered and collaborates with the Department of Education to keep foster youth, or children placed out of home, in the same school district from which they were removed. Additionally, in collaboration with the Department of Education, referrals are provided to Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS) to provide services to children from birth to age 3 and Child Find to provide services to preschool age for a free evaluation and services if the family qualifies. To ease transportation issues for families, these services are provided to the child in their daytime natural environment. For children over the age of five years, referrals are made to the school district of residence to provide services to those that qualify.

Housing Assistance: In coordination with Nevada Housing Division (NHD), which is partially funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Develop (HUD), DCFS refer clients of child welfare to the Housing Division for multiple programs. HUD offers a low-income housing database, emergency solutions through grants such as rapid rehousing and homeless prevention, weatherization assistance for child welfare families who have need in the local area. Currently Nevada Rural Housing Authority, due to funding constraints, is no longer able to accept new direct referrals for the Housing Choice Voucher program, effective April 3, 2025. No new referrals will be accepted for Family Unification Program (FUP), or Foster Youth Initiative (FYI) vouchers until further notice.

Medical Assistance: The Nevada Health Authority (NHA) coordinates with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as it relates to provision of Medicaid for Children and Families served by child welfare. DCFS coordinates eligibility with NHA. This allows the DFCS to administrator a federally approved acute care Medicaid system for children placed in an out of home placed under the legal care and custody of the DCFS. This ensures access to EPSDT screening exams which are preventative and diagnostic services designed to evaluate the general physical and mental health, growth, development and nutritional status. The Medicaid Healthy Kids program encourages providers to follow the recommended periodicity schedule set forth by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Under this title XIX umbrella of Medicaid there are many additional services provided not only to foster children, but also to the parents to ensure their health care and mental health needs are being met. Nevada provides Medicaid coverage until age 26 for all individuals who age out of the foster care system, regardless of their current location.

Mental Health: The Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) used across Nevada provides crisis intervention and support to families dealing with a behavioral or mental health crisis. MCRT supports youth and families of youth under the age of 18 showing signs of behavioral or mental health issues which pose a threat to the child's stability within their home, school, or community.

Adoption Resources: The State of Nevada partners with Raise the Future, who has dedicated adoption recruiters working with every child welfare agency to match Nevada's high needs children. Additionally,

they help adoptive families by providing resource information, referrals, support, advocacy, and education.

Daycare Assistance to Foster Families and Relative Caregivers: DCFS partners with the Division of Social Services as the designated lead agency to administer the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). This provides daycare assistance for foster parents and relative caregivers with children placed with them provided they are working out of the home. To ease the application process for the caregivers, the main requirement is a letter from the child welfare agency placing the child(ren) in the home at initial enrollment. The Department of Agriculture also provides a Child Food Program (CACFP) to assist in meeting the nutritional needs of child welfare families in daycare and school programs.

Domestic Violence Support: Nevada uses federal funds to assist in domestic violence programing, the Prosecutors Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program (STOP) and the Sexual Assault Services Provider Program (SASP). STOP provides funds to Indian Tribal governments, units of local government, and nonprofit, nongovernmental victim services programs, including those of faith-based and community organizations. SASP is authorized under the Violence Against Women Act and is the primary funding stream dedicated to the provision of direct intervention and related assistance for victims of sexual assault. Nevada collaborates with other agencies in providing "intervention, advocacy, accompaniment, support services, and related assistance for adult, youth, and child victims of sexual assault, family and household members of such victims, and those collaterally affected by the victimization, except for the perpetrator of such victimization."

Independent Living Support: The DCFS coordinates with Administration for Children and Families – Children's Bureau as it relates to utilization of federal Chafee (CFCIP) funds in Nevada for Independent Living Foster Youth. The state of Nevada sub-grants out of CFCIP to provide independent living services and services to aged-out foster youth:

- CCFS subcontracts to an organization called Step Up to serve youth in Clark County.
    - Step Up provides the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program on behalf of Clark County.
- WCHSA subcontracts to the Children's Cabinet.
    - Children's Cabinet – Provides the ETV program on behalf of Washoe County and all rural counties.
    - Children's Cabinet – Provides contracted case management and Independent Living (IL) services for youth 16+ with an APPLA permanency plan in the jurisdiction of Washoe County, and IL service provision to all dual-adjudicated youth in the juvenile justice system.
- Ron Wood Family Resource Center – Provides IL services for all DCFS-Rural counties (15 total).
- Each jurisdiction provides IL services on behalf of every ICWA designated youth in any federally recognized Tribe in Nevada.

Nutritional Assistance: The Nevada DHS DPBH coordinates funding through grants for the supplemental nutrition program that services income eligible pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children (WIC) up to age five who are at nutritional risk. WIC is available to families with in-home services as well as for foster children in their foster home placement.

Free and Reduced Meal in School: The Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture, provide all foster youth, or youth placed out of home meeting the federal requirements for free breakfast and lunches while in school, and free food programming in the summer months when school is not in session.

Food commodity programs: The Department of Agriculture – Food and Nutrition Division, provides assistance to DCFS child welfare clients with nutritional needs. The Nevada FDP provides administrative support, storage, and transportation for the distribution of commodity foods to recipient agencies and programs. The Nevada FDP administers the commodity assistance programs according to USDA regulations and state policies with recipients meeting state and federal guidelines.

Parenting Education: In coordination with the U.S. DHHS, Nevada receives the Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) funds which are utilized to provide parenting education to families that would benefit from this education. Parenting education is provided by a variety of organizations throughout the state to meet the needs of the parents.

General Information: Nevada 211, a program of the Nevada DHS, is committed to helping Nevadans connect with the services they need. Nevada 211 is a free service which includes information about health and human service programs and resources available throughout the state. Information can be accessed online at Nevada211.org, by dialing 2-1-1, or by texting a local zip code to 898211.

In summary, the Nevada DHS, through the DCFS, partners with a wide range of agencies and programs to ensure coordinated delivery of services and benefits from other federal and federally assisted programs to the shared population.

To ensure effective service delivery and partnerships, DCFS participates in numerous multidisciplinary team meetings and collaborations across the state. These meetings are convened with varying frequencies, including monthly, quarterly, and semi-annually, and provide DCFS with essential updates on service reception. Additionally, Nevada can request data and hold individual meetings as needed to evaluate outcomes and identify barriers.

State Response [to Rating]:

Nevada has determined this item to be a strength, as the state maintains a well-established and functioning system for coordinating services under the CFSP with those provided by other federal or federally assisted programs serving the same population. Through strong, cooperative relationships with regional, county, and Tribal partners, DCFS ensures effective service alignment and resource coordination with federal programs to support children and families across systems.

G. Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention

Item 33: Standards Applied Equally

How well is the foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention system functioning statewide to ensure that state standards are applied to all licensed or approved foster family homes or child care institutions receiving title IV-B or IV-E funds?

Relevant Procedures:

NRS 424
NRS 432A
NAC 424
NAC 432A
1301 Training, Assessment, and Licensing of Foster and Adoptive Homes Policy
1305 Use of Waivers Foster Care and Adoption Policy
1306 Kinship Licensing Standards Policy
1606 Child Care Institution Criminal Background Checks/Out-of-State Central Registry Checks Policy

Procedure Summary:

NAC Chapter 424 Foster Homes for Children regulations serve as the overarching standards for foster homes. NAC 424.250 specifies staffing ratios in specialized foster homes, family and group foster homes. NAC Chapter 424 incorporates the National Model Licensing Standards; however, Nevada's standards deviate slightly from the national model. The state submitted the Title IV-E Plan amendment, Family First Prevention Services Act: Deviation from Model Licensing Standards and Waivers for Foster Family Homes outlining where Nevada's standards deviate from the national model. NAC 424.165 requires at least one visit by a licensing authority representative to the foster home to determine if the home is safe. The licensing authority representative will include a caseworker or their designee, for the purposes of approving a relative license.

In accordance with the Final Rule amending the regulations at §1355.20 on Separate Licensing Standards for Relative or Kinship Foster Family Homes effective September 28, 2023, Nevada implemented statewide policy 1306 Kinship Licensing Standards which allows for a separate set of licensing standards for relatives and fictive kin. The minimum requirements for kinship licensing include: (1) criminal background check and clearance including a child abuse and neglect (CANS) check and clearance; (2) a caregiver suitability assessment; (3) a home safety and needs assessment, and (4) meet the minimum eight hours of training standard.

Statewide policy 1301 Training, Assessment, and Licensing of Foster and Adoptive Homes outline procedures for the onboarding, completing background checks, pre-service training, completing assessments and home studies, and issuing a licensing and renewal license.

Statewide policy 1305 Use of Waivers Foster Care and Adoption outlines procedures for requesting a wavier for certain foster care licensure and/or adoption standards and identifies the fiscal ramifications of using a waiver, which can affect IV-E eligibility or non-eligibility for reimbursement of funding through the federal government. This policy provides guidance around multiple levels of oversight and monitoring to ensure consistent application of the criteria used for non-safety related waivers.

Statewide Policy 1606 Child Care Institution Criminal Background Checks/Out-of-State Central Registry Checks require child care institutions, which includes group homes, residential treatment centers, shelters, and other congregate care settings in Nevada, that provide placement to children in foster care meet the same Federal Title IV-E Criminal History and Child Abuse and Neglect Screening (CANS) background checks as foster homes.

NAC 432A and NRS 432A Services and Facilities for Care of Children serve as the overarching standards for child care institutions which is the responsibility of the DSS.

Procedure Overview of Licensing:

Licensing for foster care homes is governed by NRS and NAC. All license types are valid for one year and may be renewed upon meeting all requirements. Types of licenses which may be issued by the child welfare agency include:

- Regular Foster Care License
- Relative Foster Care License; Child Specific; ICPC
- Adoption Only License
- Specialized Foster Care License; Higher Level of Care License

To be issued a foster care license (regular or specialized), applicants must meet the following:

1. Application Requirements: Submission of a foster care application form.

2. Completion of a home study: Nevada's written family assessment including:
    a. Home safety inspection.
    b. Health and medical assessment of applicant(s)
    c. Financial assessment of the household
3. Documentation of five satisfactory references (verbal or written).
4. Background and Legal Checks: Criminal records check for applicants and household members aged 18 or older (NRS 424.031) which include fingerprinting (NRS 424.033).
5. Completion of a Statewide Central Registry check for child abuse/neglect records.
6. At least one home visit by the licensing authority to ensure the home is safe.
7. Training Requirements: Completion of approved child welfare pre-service training as required under NAC 424.270.
8. All records are maintained per NRS 424.034.

To renew a foster care license (regular or specialized, the licensee must meet the following requirements (NAC 424.180):

1. Application for Renewal: Must be submitted at least 60 days before license expiration.
2. Complete an investigation at least once every 5 years after the initial investigation (NRS 424.031).
3. Provide an updated child abuse and neglect screening.
4. Provide any updated documentation.
5. 4 hours of ongoing training with documentation.
6. Compliance with updated fire/life safety codes (90 days provided if codes change).
7. Home re-assessment.
8. The licensing authority must conduct a follow-up study of the home to ensure ongoing compliance.

Nevada implemented Separate Licensing Standards for Relative/Fictive Kin Foster Family Homes effective April 2024. This special license may be issued to a home that does not meet minimum standards but is deemed suitable for a specific child. Only the named child(ren) may be cared for under a special license, and they are valid for one year and may be renewed annually. The kinship licensing minimum requirements include:

1. Criminal background check and clearance including child abuse and neglect (CANS) check and clearance;
2. A caregiver suitability assessment;
3. A home safety and needs assessment; and
4. Meet the minimum 8 hours of training standard.

Applying Standards Equally:

The DCFS is responsible for the receipt and distribution of federal IV-E or IV-B funds in the State of Nevada. It is a statutory duty of the DCFS to administer monies granted by the Federal government under Title IV-E or IV-B.

Child welfare agencies monitor compliance of foster home licensing regulations, through the annual licensing home inspection. Compliance may also be verified though a variety of other means; single agency audits, federal reviews, state CFSR reviews and through the child welfare agency caseworker's monthly foster home visits, home inspections, license renewal and investigations of complaints or concerns relating to the operation of foster homes. Complaints involving the health or safety of a child are investigated immediately.

In October 2019, Nevada worked to align NAC 424 with the National Model Licensing Standards. However, through collaboration with the Children's Bureau, it was determined Nevada could instead submit a "Title IV-E Plan, Family First Prevention Services Act: Deviation from Model Licensing Standards and Waivers for Foster Family Homes" to outline where standards diverged from the national model. Nevada submitted these standards to the Children's Bureau on September 4, 2019, and received approval on September 25, 2019. These approved changes were subsequently incorporated into NAC 424, receiving final approval in 2021 and codified by the Legislative Counsel Bureau in 2024.

All three child welfare agencies can use waivers. However, all waivers must receive prior approval of the DCFS Administrator to be valid, regardless of jurisdiction. Since the implementation of the new Kinship Licensing Standards, child welfare agencies have been authorized to internally approve licenses for relative and fictive kin caregivers; however, all waivers must be reported to the Families Program Office. Waivers are used to waive foster care licensing standards within NAC 424 – Foster Homes for Children. Prior to providing waiver approval, the child welfare agency's administration will consider whether the use of a waiver supports the safety, well-being, and best interests of the child. Waivers are primarily being used for relative foster homes to waive non-safety licensing standards. The jurisdictions understand a waiver for a non-relative foster home disqualifies a home for federal reimbursement through IV-E maintenance costs. Additionally, all jurisdictions are aware that only relative non-safety waivers are IV-E eligible and can receive federal reimbursement.

Waivers are determined on an individual basis due to the specific circumstance being waived as to whether it is considered a non-safety waiver or not. Currently, Nevada does not have a specific list or process for what can be waived as a non-safety waiver.

Nevada "Child Care Institutions" (defined: congregate care/institutional-like settings that provide residential care for 16 or more children; are licensed through the DSS to provide emergency shelter care or other residential care for children within Nevada's child welfare custody. These facilities are not group foster homes, which are regulated and licensed through the child welfare agencies. There is currently only one Child Care Institution in Nevada, Child Haven located in Clark County.

DCFS ensures, through DSS, that all Nevada child care institutions receiving Title IV-E funding maintain a current, valid child care license. DSS's licensing process, including pre-licensure and semi-annual/annual inspections, confirms compliance with NRS 432A and NAC 432A requirements, ensuring statewide consistency.

Child Care Institution employees must meet the same criminal background and CANS clearances as foster caregivers. If a facility is identified as not being in compliance with NRS/NAC 432A after its initial licensing, the facility license can be reduced to provisional, be suspended, and/or be revoked, depending on the specific circumstances of noncompliance by the facility.

Round 3 Performance and Background

Nevada received an overall rating of area needing improvement for Item 33 based on information from the Statewide Assessment. Nevada's child welfare agencies did not track the specific reasons for using waivers of licensing standards for foster homes. Further, the state was waiving licensing standards for non-relative licensed homes funded under titles IV-B and IV-E. During Round 3, Nevada initiated a structured process to track licensing waivers, addressing previous gaps in documentation and tracking. The data being collected includes, approval or denial status, requesting agency, relative vs. non-relative foster home, the specific NAC provision being waived, reasons for the waiver (safety or non-safety related), and Title IV-E eligibility. The multi-tiered approval process ensures each waiver undergoes rigorous scrutiny, promoting both accountability and consistency across agencies. Nevada continues

to evaluate and revise its policies and procedures in response to federal legislation, state law changes and emerging best practices. This ensures the waiver system remains responsive, safe, and aligned with current standards in child welfare.

Table 33.1 illustrates the number of waivers completed for each jurisdiction during the 2024 calendar year. Data indicated there were a total of 78 waivers approved and 0 waivers denied. Nevada's data reporting system is currently unable to collect information on the specific types of licensing standard exception for the approved waivers for non-relative foster homes, however, there is a statewide process in place to ensure the specific type of waiver is tracked. Of the 78 waivers for this review period, 61 were for relative foster homes.

Table 33.1: Waivers for calendar year 2024

	RELATIVE SAFETY	RELATIVE NON-SAFETY	NON-RELATIVE SAFETY	NON-RELATIVE NON-SAFETY
CLARK	5	18	2	3
RURAL	1	32	0	8
WASHOE	5	0	2	2
TOTAL	**11**	**50**	**4**	**13**

Source: DCFS Family Programs Office

Table 33.1 illustrates the number of waivers provided in 2024 broken down by jurisdiction, relative versus non-relative and safety versus non-safety.

Table 33.2: Safety Items Waived

Substantiated Child Abuse/Neglect	10
Criminal History	5

Non-Safety Items Waived			
Chain Link Fence for Pool	1	Equipment for Kitchens and Refrigeration	3
Medical Examination	1	Grounds of Home	4
Pets and Animals	27	Living Space and Furnishings	4
Fire Drills	30	Doors and Windows	12
Application for License	17	Electrical Equipment	3
Investigation of Applicant	33	Handrails and Guardrails	3
Inspections: General Requirements	26	Telephones	2
Initial Licensing: Minimum Requirements	20	Refuse	3
Financial Solvency	15	Emergency Shelter Care	1
References	19	Assignment of Chores/Work to Children	3
Maintenance of Vehicles/Home	27	Provision of Food and Water to Children	3
Liability Insurance	33	Housekeeping and Sanitation	4
Immunizations	6	Bathrooms and Toiletries/Laundry	2
Sleeping Accommodations	4	Location of Home	1
Training: CPR	43	Accessibility of Home	1
Tuberculosis Testing	30	Mobile Homes	1
Influenza and Pertussis Vaccinations	2	Age of Foster Parent	2
Composition of Foster Family and Staff	2	Empty Water Features	1
Religious and Spiritual Beliefs and Practices	3	HVAC Equipment	1
		Sleeping Accommodations	2

Source: DCFS Family Programs Office

Table 33.2 illustrates items requested to be waived. In 2024, Nevada had a total of 42 different safety and non-safety requests. Of these, the most requested reasons were 'Investigation of Applicant' (n=33)

and 'Liability Insurance' (n=33), followed by 'Fire Drills' (n=30) and 'Tuberculosis Testing' (n=30). Note, there can be multiple reasons per waiver request.

Analysis:

In response to the federal Final Rule amending regulations at §1355.20, effective September 28, 2023, Nevada implemented Statewide Policy 1306: Kinship Licensing Standards, which established a separate set of licensing standards for relatives and fictive kin. The intent of this policy was to reduce barriers to licensure by minimizing training requirements to a minimum of eight hours and simplifying other processes, such as completing applications and obtaining physical examinations. Despite this statewide policy, initial participation by child welfare agencies was limited, and there were delays in the application of the new standards for relatives and fictive kin going through the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) process.

To address these challenges, Nevada launched a pilot program in the DCFS Rural Regions to test the kinship licensing approach. This pilot aimed to create a feedback loop for identifying barriers, concerns, and best practices, which could then inform broader statewide implementation. During the pilot phase, the licensing of relative and fictive kin homes continued to rely on the waiver process to bypass certain NAC 424 requirements that posed obstacles to licensure. To reduce barriers with the kinship licensing standards, child welfare agencies have been authorized to internally approve licenses for relative and fictive kin caregivers; however, all waivers must be reported to the Families Program Office.

A statewide workgroup was formed to oversee the development and refinement of a proposed set of kinship licensing regulations. This group focused on reviewing results from the pilot, identifying common issues, and drafting uniform standards that would work across all jurisdictions. The proposed regulations have since been approved by all child welfare agencies in the state and are now progressing through the formal state approval process. Once adopted, these regulations will reduce the need for waivers and support consistent implementation statewide, ensuring all agencies follow a streamlined process for licensing relative and fictive kin foster homes. In addition, Nevada and Title IV-E of the Social Security Act now requires an agency utilizing the new relative and fictive kin regulations apply the same regulations to all relatives and fictive kin who apply for licensing through the ICPC process.

This phased approach has not only advanced kinship licensing but also revealed ongoing system needs, particularly in improving data management systems to better track licensing activity, waiver usage, and overall program effectiveness. Establishing a statewide standard will ultimately strengthen the quality and reliability of foster home licensing data for kinship caregivers.

Analysis of comments and effectiveness ratings from the surveys reveals three recurring themes impacting the equal application of standards for Item 33. Results included 58 responses from the three child welfare agencies ongoing workers and 6 responses from the Tribal community partners for a total of 64 responses. Reoccurring themes included:

1. Delays and Timeliness Issues in the Licensing and Re-licensing Process.
    a. Comments frequently cite the process taking time, lack of streamlined procedures, and specific delays for relative placements or interstate compacts, and issues with re-licensing participation.
2. Inconsistency, Subjectivity, Lack of Thoroughness, and Insufficient Consequences.
    a. Concerns include subjective exceptions, issues vetting families, disqualifying based on old history, and failing to apply consequences for policy violations due to the need for homes.
3. Specific Process Barriers and Logistical Issues.

a. Difficulties highlighted include choosing correct fingerprint packets, changing rules, documentation issues, lack of training, and logistical challenges for rural areas or relative placements, and lack of foster homes/licensed providers.

These responses exhibit varied perspectives and effectiveness ratings for licensing areas. There is some overlap in the types of challenges identified between the surveys, particularly concerning process barriers and the availability of licensed providers. The Tribal responses explicitly identify the lack of homes, which aligns with ongoing caseworker comments linking the need for homes to impacts on the overall consequences. Additionally, the Tribal comments on rural internet access for training fit within the broader category of process barriers. The overall responses identify significant barriers within the licensing/re-licensing system.

Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)

Child Care Institution – Licensing Waiver Report

There is one child care institution in Nevada used by child welfare agencies to provide temporary housing for shelter care for children within the foster care system. This institution is licensed through a different entity, the Division of Social Services (DSS) Child Care Licensing, who licenses and oversees child care. DSS provided data indicating this institution was issued a provisional license during FFY2024 for various non-compliances, however, all were resolved and never led to anything further.

State Response [to Rating]:

The most recent Statewide Assessment rated Item 33, *Standards Applied Equally*, as an area needing improvement, citing inconsistent application of relative licensing standards across the state. A new set of licensing standards specific to relatives and fictive kin is currently being piloted throughout the rural region. Nevada is in the process of seeking approval for updates to the Nevada Administrative Code to align with these new recommendations. A statewide workgroup has conducted a comprehensive analysis and comparison to the recommended model licensing standards and is providing technical assistance to agencies as they develop and implement corresponding internal policies and procedures. Additionally, it was identified there are concerns and barriers related to the licensing process including lack of a streamlined process, logistical challenges, and overall inconsistencies. Clark and Washoe Counties are waiting to implement the relative and fictive kin licensing standards until the formal approval of NAC 424.

Item 34: Requirements for Criminal Background Checks

How well is the foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention system functioning statewide to ensure that the state complies with federal requirements for criminal background clearances as related to licensing or approving foster care and adoptive placements, and has in place a case planning process that includes provisions for addressing the safety of foster care and adoptive placements for children?

Relevant Procedure:

CAPTA [42 U.S.C.5016 a (b)(2)(B)(XXII)]
NRS 127
NRS 424
NRS 432

NRS 432A
NAC 424
NAC 432
NAC 432A
0515 Child Abuse and Neglect (CANS) and National Criminal Investigative Database (NCID) Requirements for Prospective Foster and Adoptive Parents
901 Investigating Child Abuse and Neglect in Residential Institutions and Foster Care Licensing Violations
1301 Training, Assessment, and Licensing of Foster and Adoptive Home
1306 Kinship Licensing Standards
1606 Child Care Institution – Criminal Background Checks/Out-of-State Central Registry Checks

Procedure Summary:

NRS Chapter 424 outlines the requirements for criminal background checks for anyone employed as staff or as a director of a group treatment home, as well as anyone applying to be a foster parent.

Statewide policy 0515 Child Abuse and Neglect (CANS) and National Criminal Investigative Database (NCID) Requirements for Prospective Foster and Adoptive Parents, in response to the Adam Walsh Act of 2006, sets forth procedures for conducting and responding to CANS checks; conducting and establishing statewide standards for authorizing placement of children with caregivers who have undergone an NCID and CANS check. No foster home or adoption applicant is issued a foster home license until all criminal background checks are completed.

Statewide Policy 1301, Training, Assessment, and Licensing of Foster and Adoptive Homes, outlines the procedures for conducting and responding to criminal background checks and CANS checks for foster and adoptive parents. Similarly, Statewide Policy 1306, Kinship Licensing Standards, establishes these same requirements for relative foster families, ensuring consistency in safety screening practices across all caregiver types.

Statewide policy 1606 Child Care Institution – Criminal Background Checks/Out-of-State Central Registry Checks which incorporates the Family First Prevention and Services Act requirement of child care institutions meeting the same Federal Title IV-E Criminal History and Child Abuse and Neglect Screening (CANS) background checks as foster homes. The requirement dictates that no adult, paid or unpaid, is allowed to work in a child care institution until all criminal and CANS checks have been completed and it is verified the applicant is cleared.

As part of the foster home licensing process, the State of Nevada requires comprehensive criminal background checks for all applicants and adult household members, in compliance with NRS 432, NAC 432, and federal requirements under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006.

The background check process includes the following steps:

1. Submission of Fingerprints: All prospective foster parents and adult household members (age 18 and older) are required to submit a complete set of fingerprints. These fingerprints are submitted electronically via Nevada's approved vendor or local law enforcement agencies.
    - The background check must occur prior to issuing any license. In Nevada, the foster home licensing process typically takes approximately three to six months, with timely submission of background checks based on families proving the necessary information.
2. State and Federal Background Checks: Fingerprints are used to conduct both:
    - A Nevada Criminal History Repository check (as required by NRS 432A.170 and NAC 432A), and

- A Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) national criminal history check, in accordance with the Adam Walsh Act.

3. Child Abuse and Neglect Registry Checks: The State of Nevada also conducts a check of the Statewide Central Registry for Child Abuse and Neglect (CANS) to identify any substantiated reports of abuse or neglect. Each child welfare agency is responsible to complete the central registry checks for their local foster families. Additionally, the licensing agency is required to request checks from any other state(s) where the applicant or adult household members have resided within the past five years, pursuant to the Adam Walsh Act and federal Title IV-E requirements.
4. Disqualification Criteria: If the background check reveals certain felony convictions – including, but not limited to, child abuse or neglect, spousal abuse, crimes against children, or violent crimes – the applicant will be disqualified from licensure, in accordance with both state regulations and the Adam Walsh Act.
5. Documentation and Tracking: All background check results, and related documentation are securely maintained in the applicant's licensing file and are tracked through the licensing system, such as Binti, to ensure compliance and timely renewals.
6. Changes in Family Circumstances: The state conducts a comprehensive review process in response to any change in family circumstances. When a licensed foster family experiences a change, a re-evaluation assesses the family's continued ability and willingness to meet licensing standards and ensures adherence to both federal regulations and state policies. As part of this process, any new household member is required to undergo a full background screening. This includes local background checks, fingerprint-based checks, and a Child Abuse and Neglect Screening (CANS). In addition, the new household member must participate in the full licensure process, which involves interviews with agency staff and successful completion of the agency's pre-service training within established timeframes.

Nevada's background check process is a critical safeguard to ensure foster homes provide a safe and stable environment for children in care. The process is regularly reviewed to maintain alignment with state and federal law, and to support the safety and well-being of children served by the child welfare system.

Nevada uses statewide policy 0901 Investigating Child Abuse and Neglect in Residential Institutions and Foster Care Licensing Violations to outline the processes for conducting child abuse or neglect investigations of an alleged perpetrator in a licensed foster care home and addressing a licensing violation for a licensed foster care home. If a child in custody of the agency is identified as unsafe, they must be immediately removed from the foster home. Nevada does not utilize safety plans for foster parents. If licensing violations are identified, the licensing agency may issue a corrective action plan identifying the nature of noncompliance and what action must be taken to correct the issue, suspend the license, revoke the license, or refer the person to the legal counsel of the agency for appropriate action.

Round 3 Performance and Background:

Item 34 was rated a strength during the 2018 CFSR. Information in the Statewide Assessment showed that criminal background checks were completed as required for all licensed and unlicensed foster caregivers. Nevada has continued to strengthen this item. There were no related Program Improvement Plan goals associated with this item.

Analysis:

Statewide Data 2024:

- DCFS and the DHS Office of Analytics conducted a review of all initial licenses issued within Nevada during the calendar year 2024. During this time, there were a total of 770 initial licenses issued. It was identified that Nevada completes background and central registry checks 100% of the time prior to licensure. The data for initial licenses included license types for Foster Care – Non-IV-E, Foster Care, Group Home, KinGAP IV-E, Non-Child Welfare Nevada License, Non-License Provisional, Relative Foster Care, and Relative Non-IV-E.
- There were 93 times identified when Nevada issued a license in the system prior to the Law Enforcement check. DCFS consulted with each child welfare agency:
    - Washoe County: The two instances were for ICPC cases and therefore not licensed by Nevada.
    - Clark County: The 91 instances for Clark County were not related to licensing. The identified license type is used by the county as a mechanism to provide payments to the young adults who are participating in the voluntary Court Jurisdiction program for youth 18-21 years of age.
- During a focus group consisting of foster care licensing staff statewide, all jurisdictions in Nevada confirmed their process is to not issue a foster care license until the required background checks are complete which is consistent with the data review of foster care licenses issued in calendar year 2024.

Table 34.1: Foster Care Licensing by Date of License Active Compared to Law Enforcement (LE) Background Check for Calendar Year 2024

Jurisdiction	LE Check Before License Active Date	License Active and LE Check Same Date	License issued before LE check	Total
CLARK	516	12	91	619
RURAL	39	2		41
WASHOE	39	69	2	110
Total	**594**	**83**	**93**	**770**

Source: UNITY database

Table 34.1 illustrates all initial foster care licenses issued in Nevada during calendar year 2024 and identified whether the initial license was issued prior to or after the law enforcement check. Licenses issued by Nevada were issued after the law enforcement check 100% of the time. The DCFS Rural Region had no instances of issuing a license prior to the law enforcement check. Washoe County had two identified as out of state ICPC cases licensed by another state and the 91 instances in Clark County were not related to licensure, but rather a mechanism in the system they use to pay aged out young adults participating in Court Jurisdiction.

Nevada monitors foster family licensees through monthly contact with the family when a child is placed in the home and the licensing worker visits the family annually to complete an interview with the family and inspection of the home.

Nevada has clear and stringent requirements for criminal background checks for individuals working in Child Care Institutions. NRS 424.031, NRS 424.033, and NRS 449.123 mandates comprehensive background checks to be completed and clearance for the license will not be issued until all required criminal background checks for key personnel are completed. Statewide policy 1606 Child Care

Institution – Criminal Background Checks requires newly hired employees and/or volunteers (paid or unpaid), to submit and receive the results of all criminal background check records, to include fingerprint-based checks of national crime information databases prior to working with children. Essentially, a facility cannot be licensed, nor can staff work with vulnerable populations, until CANS checks are completed and cleared.

Nevada implements several measures to ensure the quality and integrity of the background check process:

- Mandatory Use of Nevada's Automated Background Check System (NABS): All licensed facilities under NRS 432B and NRS 449.123 are required to use NABS to conduct and maintain records of background checks for new and existing employees (every 5 years). This centralizes data and standardizes the submission process:
    - Documentation Requirements – Facilities must maintain clear records, including:
        - Proof of fingerprinting (manual or electronic)
        - Signed and dated Civil Applicant Waiver, Consents & Criminal History Self-Disclosure Forms
        - Clearance letters issued in NABS (for eligible or undetermined employees)
- A current list of all employees, temporary agency employees, and independent contractors in NABS.
- Audits and Reviews: Child welfare agencies are subject to audits by federal agencies to ensure compliance with Title IV-E reimbursement requirements, which include proper background checks for staff in child care institutions.
- Policy and Statute Enforcement: The detailed policies and state statutes provide the framework for enforcement. If non-compliance is identified, institutions are required to immediately remedy necessary checks.
- Disqualifying Offenses: Nevada has specific lists of disqualifying crimes in NRS 424.031 and NRS 432A.170, which automatically preclude an individual from working in a CCI. This approach ensures individuals with a history of serious offenses, particularly those against children or vulnerable populations, are excluded.

State Response [to Rating]:

This item is identified as a strength. Nevada has a well-established and effectively functioning system in place to conduct criminal background checks, as required for all licensed and unlicensed foster caregivers. The process is compliant with state and federal regulations and supports the overall safety and integrity of the foster care system.

Item 35: Diligent Recruitment of Foster and Adoptive Homes

How well is the foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention system functioning to ensure that the process for ensuring the diligent recruitment of potential foster and adoptive families who reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of children in the state for whom foster and adoptive homes are needed is occurring statewide?

Relevant Procedure:

NRS 424.087
NRS 424.190
NRS 424.230

NAC 127.480

Procedure Summary:

NRS 424.087 requires regional plans for the development of the recruitment and retention of foster homes. This plan must include:

- Number of foster homes needed,
- Specific recruitment goals for the geographic area serviced,
- Strategies to recruit foster homes,
- Resources available,
- Measures to address any shortfalls, and
- Efforts to place children in foster homes within their original communities.

NRS 424.190 allows foster care agencies to identify and encourage potential foster homes to apply for licensure. It also requires agencies to ensure contracted foster care providers receive necessary training, including specialized training for specific populations.

NRS 424.230 requires foster care agencies to provide support to foster homes, including arranging access to medical, dental, mental health, and other necessary services for children in care. Agencies must also conduct annual evaluations of foster homes to assess their ability to meet children's needs and maintain stable placements.

NAC 127.480 requires the development of a comprehensive plan to recruit prospective adoptive parents for children with special needs in the custody of the agency awaiting adoption. The plans must include a determination of the number of children in the geographic area, the demographic information of those children, and address the need of children in foster care to receive care provided. The plan also addresses serving children who have intellectual or developmental disabilities, children who have other special needs, and maintaining siblings together. The purpose of the plan is to develop the resources that reflect the racial diversity of the children in care.

Each child welfare agency in Nevada maintains an internal diligent recruitment plan tailored to its specific needs and geographic location. These plans are monitored and revised annually by the licensing units within each agency. In addition to these localized efforts, Nevada implements a comprehensive statewide diligent recruitment plan, which is monitored and revised annually by the DCFS FPO and utilized across all jurisdictions. This statewide plan outlines the characteristics of children in need of foster care, establishes targeted recruitment strategies, includes approaches for training staff to effectively engage with diverse communities, and details ongoing efforts to support and retain both foster and adoptive parents. Each Jurisdiction works with the DCFS FPO to ensure a comprehensive statewide recruitment plan is provided. This plan provides general oversight, while the agency specific plans target local needs and population.

Nevada conducts two statewide meetings to facilitate the monitoring of diligent recruitment plans and to track progress toward established goals.

Nevada convenes bimonthly meetings with licensing and recruitment teams from each child welfare agency to collaboratively discuss challenges and successes related to recruitment strategies and the licensing process. These meetings serve as a platform to:

- Review licensing practices and programming, identify statewide needs, and address barriers to recruitment of family foster homes for children and youth in foster care.

- Develop and refine policies and procedures, share best practices, and implement problem-solving strategies.
- Discuss and focus on foster home retention strategies.
- Consider regional differences and changing demographic trends to ensure a responsive and effective recruitment and licensing approach across the state.

The Adoption Call to Action (ACTA) team is a resource for Nevada and continues to improve practice across the state. This team provides agency collaboration, research, and identifies strategies to increase the number, and racial diversity of, adoptive homes across the state, especially in the DCFS Rural Region. The strategies listed below are being targeted through the Adoption Call to Action Plan:

- Review adoption programming and address statewide needs with the goal of reducing the number of Nevada children and youth waiting to be adopted by identifying and eliminating barriers to achieving permanency.
- Review initial and ongoing data to inform interventions.
- Collaborate to problem solve, share ideas, and develop policies and procedures.
- Collaborate and participate in targeted recruitment strategies.
- Discuss retention strategies for adoptive homes.
- Consider regional differences and changing demographic trends to ensure a responsive and effective approach across the state.

Round 3 Performance and Background:

Item 35 was rated as an area needing improvement during the 2018 Statewide Assessment which indicated inconsistency in the processes used to ensure the diligent recruitment of potential foster and adoptive families who reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of children in need of placement across Nevada. Although the state was not formally required to develop a PIP for this item, efforts were aligned with a CFSP goal to support agency-level initiatives, identify outcomes, and analyze trends and patterns. To advance these goals, the FPO collaborated with the ACTA team to evaluate and analyze recruitment data and implement more effective strategies aimed at identifying permanent families for youth with longer stays in foster care. To advance foster parent retention efforts, Nevada's child welfare agencies have developed region-specific strategies aimed at improving the stability and longevity of foster homes. Each agency established targeted goals tailored to the unique needs of their respective regions. Progress, challenges, and innovations related to these goals are discussed during bi-monthly statewide meetings, providing a forum for collaboration, idea sharing, and mutual support. These meetings foster a unified approach while allowing each jurisdiction to learn from one another's experiences, ultimately strengthening statewide efforts to retain and support foster families.

This ongoing work included enhancements to the collection and utilization of demographic data on the State's resource families, as well providing staff training on how to use this data effectively. Additionally, staff were offered opportunities to engage in cultural workgroups, laying the foundation for addressing racial diversity, and cultural considerations in recruitment practices.

Analysis:

Nevada conducts different strategies to reach local communities, both rural and urban, as part of the Diligent Recruitment Plan. Nevada outreach includes churches in targeted communities, organization of panel recruitments, printed materials, information flyers which include varying levels of community participation such as, information sessions about foster and adoption, donation collection, hosted trainings, and allowing for community meetings and support groups for foster and adoptive families.

In collaboration with advertising partners, the child welfare agencies develop culturally relevant marketing materials, including flyers, social media campaigns, and branded content. These materials feature children of similar racial and ethnic backgrounds to those entering care, ensuring accurate representation and connection. Social media platforms are also leveraged to direct targeted ads to users who identify with the same communities being engaged.

In Clark County focused information sessions are provided to directly address the unique concerns, values, and strengths of specific racial and ethnic communities. These sessions provide transparent information about the foster care process and emphasize the critical need for homes that can offer cultural continuity to children.

Table 35.1: Foster Youth and Foster Parent Population as of February 28, 2025

Jurisdiction	Foster Youth Population	Foster Parent Population
Clark County	3,089	4,080
Washoe County	534	681
Rural Counties	319	409
Statewide	3,942	5,170

Source: AFCARS Report (RPT785)

Table 35.1 illustrates data provided as a point in time overview for the foster youth and foster parent populations as of February 28, 2025.

The foster parent population reflects caregivers for Family Foster Homes (identified via AFCARS data element #41 – value 2) and/or Relative Family Foster Homes (identified via AFCARS data element #41 – value 3). These foster placements may be licensed or unlicensed. Some homes may have only one caregiver while others may have two caregivers. In this analysis, the race/ethnicity data for all caregivers for these placements are combined in the summary table.

Tables 35.2 through 35.4 provide race and ethnicity data for foster youth and foster parents. If there is more than one parent in a foster home, Table 35.4 provides the race and ethnicity for the additional parent(s) in the home. These numbers are provided as a point in time overview.

Table 35.2: Foster Youth Population by Jurisdiction as of 02/28/2025 by Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	American Indian	Asian	African American	NHPI*	Caucasian	Hispanic	Unknown Race/Ethnicity
Clark County	1.5% 46	1.6% 48	43.4% 1,341	0.9% 29	21.3% 658	30.5% 942	0.8% 25
Washoe County	3.4% 18	0.7% 4	18.0% 96	0.7% 4	48.9% 261	23.4% 125	4.9% 26
Rural Counties	5.6% 18	0.0% 0	5.3% 17	0.6% 2	69.6% 222	18.5% 59	0.3% 1
Statewide	2.1% 82	1.3% 52	36.9% 1,454	0.9% 35	28.9% 1,141	28.6% 1,126	1.3% 52

Source: AFCARS Report (RPT785)

Table 35.3: First Foster Parent Population by Jurisdiction as of 02/28/2025 by Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	American Indian	Asian	African American	NHPI*	Caucasian	Hispanic	Unknown Race/Ethnicity
Clark County	0.5% 20	1.5% 61	25.1% 1,026	0.7% 29	19.5% 797	16.5% 675	1.3% 54
Washoe County	2.6% 18	0.4% 3	5.0% 34	7.3% 50	30.1% 205	12.8% 87	0.0% 0
Rural Counties	1.5% 6	1.2% 5	19.0% 8	0.7% 3	47.9% 196	8.6% 35	1.2% 5
Statewide	0.9% 44	1.3% 69	20.7% 1,068	1.6% 82	23.2% 1,198	15.4% 797	1.1% 59

Source: AFCARS Report (RPT785)

Table 35.4 Second Foster Parent Population by Jurisdiction as of 02/28/2025 by Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	American Indian	Asian	Black	NHPI*	White	Hispanic	Unknown Race/Ethnicity
Clark County	0.7% 28	1.7% 69	9.3% 378	0.6% 26	12.3% 502	9.0% 368	1.2% 47
Washoe County	1.3% 9	0.9% 6	3.1% 21	4.8% 33	21.1% 144	10.4% 71	0.0% 0
Rural Counties	0.0% 0	0.5% 2	19.0% 2	0.2% 1	31.1% 127	4.2% 17	0.5% 2
Statewide	0.7% 37	1.5% 77	7.8% 401	1.2% 60	15.0% 773	8.8% 456	0.9% 49

Source: AFCARS Report (RPT785)
**NHPI-Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander: Explanation of race/ethnicity methodology: Although youth may be multiracial/multiethnic, they are only counted once using methodology provided by the DHHS State Biostatistician based on guidance from the National Center for Health Statistics. Additionally, all race/ethnicities in the table above other than Hispanic are non-Hispanic.*

In 2025, Nevada changed the way foster parent data is pulled to provide a more accurate count of race and ethnicity, including a first or primary foster parent and a second foster parent who may be living in the home.

Through this analysis it was determined there continues to be a need in securing foster homes for the African American, Hispanic, and American Indian populations:

- African American children make up the largest proportion of youth in care (36.9%) but are significantly underrepresented among foster parents (20.7%).
- Hispanic children (28.6%) are also notably underrepresented in the foster parent population (15.4%).
- Though a smaller overall share, American Indian youth (2.1%) are more than twice as prevalent as American Indian foster parents (0.9%).

This analysis determined that Caucasian, Asian, and Pacific Islander/other populations are generally proportionate when comparing foster homes to the youth populations. The State and child welfare agencies' diligent recruitment plans include specific goals and targeted strategies aimed at increasing the representation of underrepresented populations among foster parents. These strategies are tailored to fit the local needs of each jurisdiction. Current initiatives include enhanced participation in community events to build trust and strengthen relationships. These efforts are designed to align with community values and present a unified, culturally responsive approach to foster care recruitment.

Table 35.5: Statewide Foster Parent Population by Race/Ethnicity (Counts & Percentages)

Race/Ethnicity	2023 (Count)	2023 (%)	2024 (Count)	2024 (%)	2025 (Count)	2025 (%)
American Indian	47	0.9%	49	1.0%	81	1.6%
Asian	105	2.0%	111	2.2%	146	2.8%
Black / African American	1,327	25.0%	1,301	25.5%	1,469	28.4%
NHPI*	160	3.0%	154	3.0%	142	2.7%
White / Caucasian	2,256	42.5%	2,038	40.0%	1,971	38.1%
Hispanic	1,306	24.6%	1,322	25.9%	1,253	24.2%
Unknown Race/Ethnicity	113	2.1%	121	2.4%	108	2.1%
Total	**5,314**	**100.0%**	**5,096**	**100.0%**	**5,170**	**100.0%**

Source: AFCARS Report (RPT785)
**NHPI-Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander: Explanation of race/ethnicity methodology: Although youth may be multiracial/multiethnic, they are only counted once using methodology provided by the DHHS State Biostatistician based on guidance from the National Center for Health Statistics. Additionally, all race/ethnicities in the table above other than Hispanic are non-Hispanic.*

The total statewide foster parent population is 5,170. This means that after a decrease in 2024, the foster parent numbers are starting to improve. Despite the improvement, there are notable shifts in the racial/ethnic makeup of foster parents from 2023 through 2025:

- Black/African American foster parents show a positive trend, numerically increasing from 2024 to 2025 and seeing their proportional representation increase to 28.4% in 2025 from 25.0% in 2023.
- White/Caucasian foster parents continue their numerical and proportional decline, decreasing by 285 individuals (-12.6%) and 4.4 percentage points from 2023 to 2025. They remain the largest group, but their share is shrinking.
- American Indian and Asian foster parents both show consistent numerical and proportional growth over the period.
- Hispanic foster parents experienced a slight numerical and proportional decline from 2024 to 2025, negating the growth seen from 2023 to 2024.

Nevada collects and analyzes data on the race and ethnicity of children entering foster care, including the zip codes from which they are removed. This critical information helps identify geographic and demographic gaps where specific racial and ethnic communities are underrepresented among available foster homes. Recruitment teams focus efforts on community outreach. This outreach is tailored to build trust and awareness within these communities through partnerships with local institutions, including:

- Parks and recreation centers
- Schools, early childhood education programs and child care centers
- Faith-based organizations and churches
- Libraries
- Minority-owned small businesses

Additionally, Nevada is prioritizing kinship placements and increasing support for relative caregivers. As part of this effort, DCFS implemented the Kinship Standard on April 1, 2024, within the rural regions of the state. This initiative streamlines the licensing process for kinship families and ensures earlier access to financial support. Since the rollout of this standard,100–kinship families in the rural areas have been licensed, with the average time to licensure reduced to 90 days. This expedited process allows children to remain in familiar, culturally aligned environments, preserving critical connections to

family, and community. Expansion of this new standard to Clark and Washoe Counties is planned, with both jurisdictions preparing to implement the process, further supporting Nevada's commitment to culturally responsive care and family-centered placement practices statewide.

Through these focused recruitment efforts, Nevada aims to increase the number of foster homes that reflect the racial and cultural identities of children in care. This not only helps preserve cultural ties and community connections for the children but also leads to better emotional and developmental outcomes.

State Response [to Rating]:

This item was rated as a strength. Nevada demonstrated strong performance through its effective and consistent tracking of the demographics of both the foster youth and foster parent populations. Ongoing efforts to recruit and retain diverse and qualified foster and adoptive families have been notably strengthened. State staff have been trained to use this data strategically, enabling more precise identification of representation gaps and the development of focused recruitment efforts. The state maintains a comprehensive, statewide Diligent Recruitment Plan for Foster and Adoptive Parents, which is reviewed and revised annually and disseminated to all child welfare agencies. To further advance cultural awareness and responsiveness, staff are offered participation in cultural workgroups through the NPT.

Item 36: State Use of Cross-Jurisdictional Resources for Permanent Placements

How well is the foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention system functioning to ensure that the process for ensuring the effective use of cross-jurisdictional resources to facilitate timely adoptive or permanent placements for waiting children is occurring statewide?

Relevant Procedures:

0701 Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children Policy

Policy Overview:

Nevada's 0701 Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) policy outlines the procedures and requirements for placing children across state lines to ensure their safety and well-being. The policy mandates that all interstate placements; whether for adoption, foster care, or with relatives; must comply with both sending and receiving states' laws and regulations. This includes completing comprehensive home studies, background checks, and obtaining approvals from both states before placement. The policy also emphasizes the importance of timely processing and coordination among involved agencies to prevent delays in placement. DCFS oversees the ICPC process, ensuring all placements meet the necessary legal and safety standards.

Round 3 Performance and Background:

Nevada received an overall rating of area needing improvement for Item 36 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews. Nevada reported a low percentages of home studies from other states completed within the required 60 days. The state identified a lack of cooperation/compliance by the prospective caregivers and delays in processing criminal background checks as barriers to completing home studies timely. Nevada does not maintain data regarding ICPC requests for placement in other jurisdictions within the state.

During Round 3, Nevada ICPC implemented tools to monitor and track home studies with the assistance of the NEICE system. For each home study nearing the 60-day time frame, the NEICE system generates a Safe & Timely transmittal to alert Nevada of the pending home study and its due date. Nevada ICPC has a dedicated staff member who monitors these updates and actively requests each home study prior to the 60 days. If a home study is underway but cannot be completed by the 60-day time frame, a preliminary report is requested. This report gives an update on the progress being made and an estimated date of completion. Since the Safety & Timely reminder is received at the 50-day mark, home study partners have been instructed to deny requests and that no action be taken by the provider. This practice has allowed fewer cases to stay in pending status when nothing has been accomplished. Nevada will always accept a new referral for cases denied for lack of follow-through.

Analysis

Nevada continues to utilize cross jurisdictional resources to find and facilitate permanency for children statewide. Nevada contracts with Raise the Future for adoption recruitment to assist in finding matches for Nevada's children with the highest needs. Raise the Future provides recruitment, matching services, information, education, and training for adoptive placements for Nevada's children. Raise the Future provides general adoption information and child specific inquiries from prospective families and post adoptive resources within Nevada. The following information is also provided:

- Monthly webinars for pre-adoptive families
- Reverse matching
- Creation of narratives and post profiles on the Children's Gallery, Nevada Heart Gallery, Wednesday's Child & AdopUSKids website
- Foster parent pre-service training in Clark County and the 15 rural counties

Table 36: Incoming and Outgoing ICPC Referrals

State Fiscal Year	Total Statewide Annual Incoming Referrals	Total Statewide Annual Outgoing Referrals	Total Statewide Approved Incoming Home Studies	Total Statewide Approved Outgoing Home Studies	Total Children Processed	Statewide Completion percentage in 60 Days
SFY 2025	321	774	132	475	946	54%
SFY 2024	254	533	309	234	787	43%
SFY 2023	405	886	102	406	1291	51%

Source: National Electronic Interstate Compact Enterprise

Table 36 illustrates the total numbers of incoming and outgoing ICPC referrals, the total approved incoming and outgoing studies, the total children processed, and the percentage of those home studies completed within 60 days. SFY2025 includes July 01, 2024, through May 01, 2025.

What do the current statewide information or data indicate about the effective use of cross-jurisdictional resources to facilitate timely adoptive or permanent placements for waiting children?

Nevada struggles with staffing issues which can impact the ability to complete home studies in the time required by the Safe & Timely Act. There are three distinct jurisdictions and only one; Clark County, has dedicated staff for ICPC's. Washoe County and the DCFS Rural Region utilize contractors to complete home studies. In some cases, securing a contractor could delay the start of the home study. Many of the home studies not completed within the 60-day timeframe are due to a lack of

cooperation/compliance by the prospective caregivers and processing criminal background checks. It is important to realize some families do not have the time to devote to completing the home study requirements and may require additional time with work schedules, other commitments, etc.

How do you know whether the referenced data and information are accurate and of good quality?

In August 2014, Nevada was selected as one of six states to pilot the National Electronic Interstate Compact Enterprise (NEICE) project. This is a web-based electronic information exchange for processing ICPC cases and streamlining placement of children across state lines, with a goal of decreasing the length of time it takes for children to be placed. Currently 47 states utilize NEICE and by 2027 every state will be participating as required by The Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018. Nevada has utilized NEICE for 11 years, since the data system is maintained by four ICPC staff at the DCFS Central Office, Nevada's data is accurate and of good quality.

What are the barriers that specifically affect the state's ability to ensure the effective use of cross-jurisdictional resources to facilitate timely adoptive or permanent placements for waiting children to occur statewide?

The DCFS ICPC unit continues to develop and revise tools, policies, and training to ensure all child welfare agencies are kept up to date on all requirements. Recognizing that staff turnover often results in critical knowledge of ICPC processes being lost, the ICPC team continues to provide training on the compact, it's purpose and process. ICPC staff participate in National calls, National trainings, Division meetings with jurisdictions to answer questions, review policies, and enhance understanding of the ICPC process on a yearly basis.

Nevada ICPC continues to work with the jurisdictional partners to explain the ICPC process, its importance and assist in meeting timeframes. Each year training is conducted in-person and virtually to ensure an overall understanding of the process. ICPC staff make themselves available daily to assist jurisdictional staff via telephone and email.

In April 2024, Nevada implemented a relative licensing process to align with the new rule approved by the Administration for Children and Families in September 2023. That process has reduced times to initial license approval from 12 months or longer to 3 months. Currently, the DCFS Rural Region is the only jurisdiction that has implemented this process.

State Response [to Rating]:

Nevada rated Item 36 as an area needing improvement. While Nevada has improved on the ability to monitor and track ICPC requests, including a timely reminder when home studies approach 50 days since CFSR Round 3, Nevada still struggles with meeting the 60-day timeframe for completing home studies, largely due to lack of staff or cooperation/compliance by the prospective caregiver and the processing of criminal background checks.

Appendix A: CFSR State Data Profile

The State Data Profile is available from the state or the Children's Bureau upon request, and is posted at https://acf.gov/cb/data-research/data-and-statistics-cfsr-statewide-data-indicators.