CHILDREN’S WEEK AT THE LEGISLATURE – GET INVOLVED!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Readiness</td>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>Mental Health</td>
<td>Physical Health</td>
<td>Economic Well-Being</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Purpose**
The purpose of Children's Week is to represent Nevada's Children and help strengthen families in areas such as school readiness, children's physical and mental health, and child safety and security. For the past four legislative sessions, over 80 different non-profit, corporate, philanthropic, and state agencies and organizations have joined together as we strengthened Nevada's families by sharing a commitment to improve our communities through events and outreach efforts aimed at promoting the health, safety, and well-being of our children. It’s important to note that this year our efforts will be executed virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Strategies**
Children’s Week will include a variety of activities that support mental health, physical health, economic well-being, school readiness and safety. Due to the current pandemic, this year’s session will look much different than in years past. We will be utilizing virtual platforms and remote activities to engage legislators and connect them with youth and families to ensure health, safety, and allow for maximum participation. Our organization will coordinate virtual meetings between legislators and children utilizing Zoom to integrate breakout rooms to ensure communication amongst all participants. These breakout sessions will encourage inclusivity by supporting children and parent involvement throughout legislative sessions. An important aspect of this event is community participation and awareness. Social media campaigns can help us reach these efforts by spreading community awareness about Children’s Week and how to strengthen the health, safety and well-being of Nevada’s children.

**Opportunities for Engagement**
Organizations wishing to participate in this year’s Children’s Week event can choose from a variety of activities. We will be asking participating groups to utilize the resources provided by our organization to help promote Children’s Week before and during the event. Groups can choose to lead certain activities during the week, on one or more of the themed days described above.

One goal of Children’s Week is to promote engagement amongst youth and families as much as possible. They will be provided opportunities to give video and written testimony about issues important to them, create artwork that will be sent directly to legislators, and participate in the virtual activities occurring throughout the week.

The sections below provide an overview of the planned activities for the 2021 Children’s Week at the Nevada Legislature for both organizations and youth/families.


For more information visit: [https://nic.unlv.edu/childrensweek.html](https://nic.unlv.edu/childrensweek.html) or email amanda.haboush@unlv.edu.
CHILDREN’S WEEK ACTIVITIES

Social Media
A Children’s Week Social Media Toolkit will be developed to help promote Children’s Week activities and prepare organizations and individuals to participate in the week’s activities. Message templates will be made available for organizations to use on their own social media platforms and email listservs, along with a schedule for release. To ensure that the information included in these posts and announcements have maximum reach and impact, we will be asking organizations to complete one or more of the following activities:

- **Provide us** with social media content you would want us to share in the toolkit.
- **Follow the schedule** provided to promote awareness of the event during the opening weeks of the Legislative Session.
- **Tag legislators** in social media posts. This notifies legislators of posts so they will be more likely to look at them.
- **Solicit testimonials** from youth, teachers, or parents your organization works with to include as part of the social media strategy.
- **Use Children’s Week graphics, or your own** including Instagram filters, Facebook profile frames, Zoom/Virtual meeting backgrounds, and other media provided in the toolkit in the weeks leading up to the event as well as during Children’s Week to increase awareness.

Virtual Room Activities
Participating organizations will be given the opportunity to attend and/or lead one or more of the following activities that will help to engage legislators and youth/families during the week:

- **Virtual Tabling** – Sign up for a shift in the Virtual Room to help spread awareness about your organization and your issue during the week. We will need groups present to help provide information to policy makers and community members that join the space throughout the day.

- **Virtual morning coffee chat** to have open discussions between organizations, youth/families, and legislators and their staff.

- **Virtual “roundtable” discussion(s)** lead by presenters from organizations but inclusive of all attending to explore specific topics each day
  - Breakout rooms will be utilized if more than one roundtable is occurring, to allow for brief presentations and small group discussions, lasting approximately 15 to 20 minutes. Participants will be allowed to move between breakout rooms during intervals to learn about multiple organizations and issues.

- **Panel discussion** with a group of subject matter experts (parents, youth, organizational leaders) gathered together to discuss an issue, often to provide feedback on something, to brainstorm solutions to a problem or to discuss an issue of public concern in front of an audience
  - The panel will discuss issues before a live audience in a virtual room. Moderators will be provided questions prior to the panel discussion to allow for panelists to prepare.
  - A brief Question & Answer session will be allowed towards the end of each panel discussion.
  - We encourage organizations to consider staff who would be a good fit to moderate and/or participate in one of these discussions.

- **Record brief informational segments**: on different topics that can be sent out to legislators during the event.
  - These pre-recorded presentations should be approximately 5-10 minutes long and include important information on your topic which can include, facts, informational regarding your organization and issues relevant to the communities you serve.

- **Meet virtually with legislators** to participate in a brief live discussion regarding your important issues relevant to the theme of your chosen day(s). You can schedule these meeting on your own or we can provide assistance if needed.
  - Organizations are encouraged to include participation from staff and youth/families you serve to provide a comprehensive view of your priority issues and help legislators visualize the people they will be helping.

For more information visit: [https://nic.unlv.edu/childrensweek.html](https://nic.unlv.edu/childrensweek.html)  or email amanda.haboush@unlv.edu.
ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES TO ENGAGE YOUTH & FAMILIES

Gather Youth Artwork
During Children’s Week, we hope to engage as many youth as possible to connect with their representatives as a reminder of the constituents that they should be fighting for. To allow participation from youth of all ages, we encourage them to provide personal creations that will help tell their stories. Below are examples of the types of artwork that we encourage organizations to collect from the youth they serve.

- **Art Templates** – Cut-out templates will be provided for youth to decorate and color, symbolizing the issues during Children’s Week with or without messages to legislators. Some Examples include:
  - **Pinwheel** for awareness about child abuse prevention. [https://nic.unlv.edu/pcan/files/PinwheelColoringSheet_National.pdf](https://nic.unlv.edu/pcan/files/PinwheelColoringSheet_National.pdf)
  - **Teddy Bear** as part of the “Bears on Parade” activity. [https://coloringhome.com/teddy-bear-printable](https://coloringhome.com/teddy-bear-printable)

Pre-Record or Schedule a Time to Have Teddy Bear Parade
This activity is done each Children’s Week to allow youth to walk through the Legislative Building as a reminder of the youngest constituents that still have a voice in this process.

- Schools and community organizations can assist by recording a video of youth conducting their own Teddy Bear Parade either in person or through a virtual video platform. Youth can showcase their favorite teddy bear or other stuffed animal.

Showcase Youth and Your Program by Recording Demonstrations or Virtual Tours
Community organizations that run youth serving programs - including afterschool/out-of-school time, early childhood/childcare, libraries, and other programs - can record brief videos of youth/families participating in activities. Videos should be **no longer than 3 minutes**, and can include any of the activities described below.

- **Virtual site visit/tour** showcasing what the organization/program offers for youth and families.
  - Youth/families can lead this tour and describe what it is about the program that they enjoy and/or miss doing because of the pandemic.

- **Performance** by youth for organizations/programs that include a performing arts component (dance, music, choir, etc.).
  - There may be options for these performances to take place live during Children’s Week activities.
  - Programs can also submit recordings of previous performances that they would like to showcase.

Gather Testimony from Staff, Parent, and Youth
Youth, families, and staff can lend their voice to the advocacy efforts taking place during Children’s Week by recording testimony regarding their connection to a particular issue. Some options for providing testimony in conjunction with Children’s Week are listed below.

- **Letters or postcards** to legislators from youth, including their opinions on Children’s Week topics.

- **Virtual Interviews** with youth/family members.
  - Programs can assist by recording brief interviews conducted with parents/family members of the youth they serve, to help impress upon legislators the importance of ensuring that high-quality programs are affordable and accessible to all families.

- **Video Testimony** of youth addressing legislators with their stories and the issues that are important to them.

- **Social Media** campaign specific to youth, parents/family members, and teachers where they can share their opinions and testimonies on particular topics.
  - Templates can be provided to make it easier for youth and parents to create their own posts.

For more information visit: [https://nic.unlv.edu/childrensweek.html](https://nic.unlv.edu/childrensweek.html) or email amanda.haboush@unlv.edu.
• Organizations can assist by posting brief video recordings taken for other activities on their own social media platforms.

For more information visit: [https://nic.unlv.edu/childrensweek.html](https://nic.unlv.edu/childrensweek.html) or email amanda.haboush@unlv.edu.