As the state leader in the prevention of child maltreatment, it is our goal to protect Nevada’s children and strengthen Nevada’s families. PCANV supports efforts that prioritize the health and well-being of all children so that no child experiences neglect, physical abuse, mental abuse, and/or sexual abuse.

This document outlines PCANV’s key policies that need to be prioritized in order for Nevada to better protect children and families and promote healthy communities.

**POLICY PRIORITIES**

**PREVENT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

Support statewide collaboration on the prevention of the sexual abuse of children to improve public policy, programs, and practices that protect children.

PCANV supports the following actions:

- Implement funding for evidence-informed and culturally competent child sexual abuse prevention and education programs that emphasizes adult and community responsibility.
- Increase Nevada funding for child abuse research and treatment.
- Reinstate funding for The Nevada Task Force on Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children to ensure quality, research-based, and safe child policies and practices.
- Ensure child welfare employees do not serve more than 20 families at one time.
- Mandate universal background screens for anyone working near children, developing codes of conduct, and appropriately responding to violations and suspected disclosure of child sexual abuse.

The nature of child sexual abuse is omnipresent, affecting all socioeconomic, educational, racial, cultural, rural, and urban areas.
PREVENT CHILDHOOD TRAUMA (ACES)

Promote the implementation of evidence-based trauma-informed policy and practices in addition to raising awareness about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and Toxic Stress. Data should be used to inform and build prevention efforts, change norms, and implement programs that support family-friendly policies.

PCANV supports the following actions:

- Funding of implementation of trauma-informed practices in health offices and schools.
- Champion a state-wide framework for teaching child abuse & neglect prevention and social-emotional learning.
- Eliminate corporal punishment and instead fund policies that teach the Triple P Positive Parenting initiative.
- Fund the CDC’s “Essentials for Childhood”, an evidence-based framework that helps prevent sexual abuse of children.
- Shift funding to support foster care and kinship care system so that caregivers have more training and tools.
- Include policies that collect data and analyze the abuse and neglect of children within the child welfare system. Create a federally-mandated national data system with an effective management system to keep track of progress.

PROMOTE RESILIENCE

Resilience is the process of healthy adaptation by individuals when faced with adverse circumstances. Promote the protective factors, identify innovations and interventions to support resilient children, families, and communities.

PCANV supports the following actions:

- Strengthen economic support to families with paid family leave and livable wages.
- Support Medicaid and Temporary Assistance for families in need.
- Subsidize childcare, ensure they are high-quality, and support Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC).
- Funding of quality early-education programs that foster children’s cognitive, social, and emotional development.
- Expand early support services that place educators in the homes of new parents.
- Train police, attorneys, and judges on an ongoing basis.
- Expand treatment resources in our community to fully meet the needs of Nevada’s children and families.
- Secure funding for life skills training and healthy relationship initiatives that serve children, young adults, and public education.
- Support and connect youth to caring adults and activities such as with strong after-school programs.