



# NEVADA CHILDREN'S JUSTICE ACT TASK FORCE ANNUAL REPORT

SUBMITTED BY

NEVADA'S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN  
SERVICES, DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP AND FUNCTION ..... 2
- PRIOR YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT..... 2
  - Children’s Justice Act Task Force Goals 2021 – 2024 ..... 2
  - Report on Activities from May 2023 through May 2024..... 3
    - ACTIVITY 1: MAINTENANCE OF THE NEVADA CHILDREN'S JUSTICE TASK FORCE (ABC) .....3
    - ACTIVITY 2: MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROFESSIONAL TRAINING (AB) .....4
    - Activity 3: Support use of latest technology (A)..... 6
    - Activity 4: Collaborate with Court improvement Program (AB)..... 7
    - Activity 5: Support CSEC Database (AB) ..... 7
- PRIOR YEAR LINE-ITEM BUDGET EXPENDITURE (MAY 2022 – MAY 2023)..... 8
- APPLICATION FOR PROPOSED ACTIVITIES..... 9
  - Children’s Justice Act Task Force Goals 2024-2027 ..... 9
    - Proposed Activity 1: Maintenance of the Nevada Children’s Justice Task Force (ABC) ..... 9
    - Proposed Activity 2: Multidisciplinary Professional Training (AB) ..... 10
    - Proposed Activity 3: Support the use of the Latest Technology (B)..... 10
    - Proposed Activity 4: Support Implementation of New Legislation and/or policy and Identify New or Needed Changes to Legislation and/or policy (ABC)..... 11
    - Proposed Activity 5: Collaborate with Court Improvement Program (AB)..... 11
- PROPOSED LINE-ITEM BUDGET EXPENDITURE (MAY 2024 – MAY 2025) ..... 12
- GOVERNOR’S ASSURANCE LETTER..... 13
- APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE SF-424 ..... 14
- CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING .....19
- Appendix A: Task Force Members and Designation..... 21

# TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP AND FUNCTION

The Nevada Children’s Justice Act Task Force was established in 1994 by the Administrator of the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), Department of Health and Human Services. The Task Force meets quarterly, and subcommittees meet as needed to work on identified projects. The Task Force is facilitated by a DCFS Social Services Program Specialist who works with the Task Force Chair to identify agenda items and to the monitor progression toward goals.

The Task Force met four times during the reporting period. The Task Force has established four subcommittees: 1.) Citizen’s Review Panel Recommendations, 2.) Notice of Funding Opportunity, 3.) Evaluation Subcommittee and 4.) Bylaws Subcommittee. The first two subcommittees meet annually, the Evaluation Subcommittee meets quarterly, and the Bylaws Subcommittee met one time to revise the Task Force’s Bylaws. The Task Force meets through video conferencing as members are located throughout the State, including multiple rural areas and the two largest cities, Reno, and Las Vegas, which are 450 miles apart. The Task Force has maintained full membership throughout the year despite several membership changes; there are no current vacancies.

See Appendix A with each member’s required professional category, name, title, and brief description of relevant professional experience. The Task Force has additional members at large including all the directors of the Child Advocacy Centers.

## PRIOR YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT

### CHILDREN’S JUSTICE ACT TASK FORCE GOALS 2021 – 2024

*These goals were developed for the 2021 Three (3) Year Assessment. A new triennial assessment is due in June 2024.*

**Key: Required categories for use of CJA funds:**

*A= Investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect.*

*B= Experimental, model and demonstration programs for testing innovative approaches.*

*C= Reform of state laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols, and procedures.*

**Goal 1:** Provide child protection workers and stakeholders “front end” specialty, discipline specific and advanced training. Training should be prioritized, but not limited to, child protection model assessments, Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), sexual abuse, domestic violence, forensic interviewing, mandatory reporting, trauma-informed practices, substance use, and co-occurring mental health disorders and training needs identified in collaboration with Court Improvement Program. (ABC)

**Goal 2:** Support the implementation of the Commercially Sexually Exploited Child (CSEC) Model Coordinated Response Protocol and provide training and support for the formation of Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT) and Task Forces. (ABC)

**Goal 3:** Support the establishment of new Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs) or other multidisciplinary team approaches and improve the capacity of existing CACs to provide a multidisciplinary response for victims of child sex abuse and exploitation, physical abuse, and child victims with disabilities. (AB)

**Goal 4:** Fund technology requests to improve the investigation, assessment and prosecution of child abuse and neglect through the use of latest technology and to support the use of new and existing training

technologies. (B)

**Goal 5:** Identify new or needed changes to policy, regulation and/or legislation to meet requirements of federal program improvements plans and other federal and state initiatives. Support training and policy needs related to new or revised policy, regulation, and legislation. (C)

## REPORT ON ACTIVITIES FROM MAY 2023 THROUGH MAY 2024

### ACTIVITY 1: MAINTENANCE OF THE NEVADA CHILDREN'S JUSTICE TASK FORCE (ABC)

**Narrative description of activity:** To support and maintain the full Multidisciplinary Task Force through member recruitment, training and provision of technical assistance/consultation and travel to attend meetings. Task Force members monitored the implementation of objectives for training through approved activities. The Task Force supported interagency collaboration and Court Improvement Plan (CIP) collaboration implementing the intent of the CJA grant. The Task Force has maintained the following four subcommittees:

- Citizens Review Panel (CRP) Recommendations – Drafts the Task Force’s annual CRP recommendation(s) for improving child welfare in Nevada.
  - *This subcommittee met in November 2023.*
- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) – Reviews grant applications for CJA funds and makes funding recommendations to take back to the CJA Task Force.
  - *This subcommittee met in March 2024.*
- Evaluation – Discusses evaluation activities of current and future CJA funded activities and ways that subgrantees can improve evaluation work.
  - This subcommittee also helped with the completion of the CJA 3-year assessment due in 2024.
    - *This subcommittee held meetings in August 2023, November 2023, February 2024, and May 2024.*
- Bylaws – Discussed and made revisions to the CJA bylaws.
  - *This subcommittee met in March 2024.*

**Subgrantee implementing the activity:** N/A

**The current Task Force goals that are addressed by this activity:** All Task Force Goals

**Description of evaluation work related to this activity, including the following (as appropriate):**

**Evaluation methods:** Monitor membership and activities of the Task Force by the CJA Coordinator and Chair to ensure the Task Force has the members in each of the required categories and that the activities of the Task Force are supporting progress in meeting the goals of the CJA in Nevada.

**Outputs:** The Task Force met quarterly to monitor progress in completing funded activities. The CJA Vice-Chair and a CJA member attended the annual CJA/SLO Conference in May 2023. The Task Force continues to successfully implement the NOFO process, which includes discussion and review of the process to modify and make improvements as needed. There is crossover membership with multiple CJA Task Force members and Nevada’s CIP teams. The Task Force maintains four subcommittees to enhance Task Force engagement, increase progress toward goals, update and revise bylaws, and improve evaluation of CJA funded activities.

**Outcomes:** During the report period, monitoring of goals established from the Three-Year Assessment in 2021 was accomplished at regular meetings of the Task Force. The NOFO award process continues to be utilized, helping the Task Force work toward meeting these goals. The

Evaluation Subcommittee keeps the discussion on improvement of evaluation activities at the forefront of the Task Force as well as helped complete Nevada's 3-year assessment due in 2024. The NOFO subcommittee has allowed for increased discussion and accountability of proposed activities. The subcommittees overall have increased the participation of Task Force members at both subcommittee and regular Task Force meetings.

## ACTIVITY 2: MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROFESSIONAL TRAINING (AB)

**Narrative description of activity:** Provide child protection workers and/or stakeholders "front end" specialty, discipline specific and advanced training. Training will be prioritized, but not limited to, CSEC, sexual abuse, and forensic interviewing, all of which will support trauma-informed practice.

### **Subgrantees implementing the activity:**

- Clark County Department of Family Services (CCDFS)
- Carson City Sheriff's Office (CCSO)
- Nevada Institute of Forensic Nursing (NVIFN)
- No To Abuse (NOTO)
- Washoe County Human Services Agency (WCHSA)

**The current Task Force goals that are addressed by this activity:** Goals 1 and 3

### **Description of evaluation work related to this activity, including the following (as appropriate):**

**Evaluation methods:** Attendance Lists; Number of participants; Ability to conduct forensic interviews and understand the process; Evaluations were completed by participants of the forensic interview training.

**Outputs:** The CJA supported the following multidisciplinary training courses and conferences:

- CCDFS contracted with National Children's Advocacy Center (NCAC) trained 52 community partner professionals on the forensic interviewing of children to participants who primarily work in the investigation and prosecution of suspected child abuse cases.
- Carson City Sherriff's Office had staff attend:
  - Internet Crime Against Children Conference (two staff)
  - National Drug Endangered Children Conference (two staff)
  - Cellebrite Certified Operator and Certified Analyst Training (two staff)
- NOTO had 11 MDT members attend the annual Child and Family Maltreatment Conference
- Nevada Institute of Forensic Nursing had three staff members (one Nurse and two Advocates) attend the End Violence Against Women International Conference on sexual assault, domestic violence and cycle of justice.
- WCHSA offered MDT members and child welfare staff to attend conferences:
  - Cornerhouse Forensic Interview Training (two child welfare staff)
  - Child Welfare League of America's Annual Conference (five assessment staff)
  - Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Shared Hope Juvenile Sex Trafficking Annual Conference. (five child welfare staff)
  - Bridges Out of Poverty Training (fifteen MDT members)
- DCFS had three individuals attend the annual Handle with Care Conference.

## Outcomes:

- The CSEC Shared Hope Conference occurred in Washington, D.C. in November 2023. Attendees discussed the benefits of the conference's wide-lens approach to CSEC casework including seminars directly targeted toward child welfare professionals.
- The Cornerhouse Forensic Interview training was in November 2023. Both attendees passed the final interview exam and are certified in forensic interviewing as a result of this training. This knowledge has already been utilized in field work during fact finding court hearings, interview consultation with other MDT members, and investigating child abuse injury cases.
- The "Bridges Out of Poverty" training was provided to 15 MDT members. All attendees were provided with a book that correlated to the training for ongoing learning. Feedback from this training included MDT members expanding knowledge of poverty as a culture and exploration of how to further incorporate these known values when engaging with individuals living in poverty.
- Participants of the NCAC forensic interview training course would recommend it to other professionals and indicated it was effective in teaching the skills needed to conduct a forensic interview with a child. Participants gained ability to conduct forensic interviews in suspected child sexual abuse cases, while limiting the trauma of the interview to the child victim, and/or testify in court to such interviews. Participants who attended conference(s) have increased knowledge and skills in multiple areas related to the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect, including but not limited to child fatalities, physical abuse, and sexual abuse investigations, gathering information, fostering connections with community and family partners, and applying a safety model to child welfare safety assessments.
- Participants who attended the annual Handle with Care Conference gained knowledge and skills in multiple areas related to the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect, including but not limited to child fatalities, physical abuse, and sexual abuse investigations, gathering information, fostering connections with community and family partners, and applying a safety model to child welfare safety assessments. Some topics that were covered in this conference:
  - Child Sexual Exploitation;
  - Building Community Partnerships;
  - Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder;
  - Mental Health; and
  - Domestic Violence.
- The Child and Family Maltreatment Conference was able to increase the knowledge and awareness in child maltreatment in seven different career disciplines (child advocacy, forensic interviewers, law enforcement, prosecution, medical, mental health, and child protection services). This training allows new and veteran MDT members an opportunity to further their education on child and family maltreatment. Some topics that were covered in this conference:
  - Medical evaluations of physical and sexual abuse;
  - Safeguarding well-being;
  - Building Cultural competencies;
  - Child Fatalities; and
  - Online dangers and child sex trafficking.
- The Crimes Against Children Conference expanded the base knowledge of two Carson City Sheriff's Office staff by providing specialized training on investigating technology-facilitated crimes against children.
- At the National Drug Endangered Children Conference attended by two Carson City Sheriff's Office staff were taught about emerging trends, strategies, best practices about prevention, intervention, services, and responses on how to support child victims regarding drug crimes.
- The Cellebrite Certified Operator and Certified Analyst Training attended by two Carson City Sheriff's Office staff taught them how to access, extract, collect digital data, overcome complicated locks, encryption barrier and damaged devices. This training allowed these

investigators a chance to learn how to advance their technology training therefore improving potential outcomes for children who are victims of internet abuse.

- The End Violence Against Women International Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence and the Cycle of Justice Conference was attended by 3 staff members (1 nurse and 2 advocates) with the NVIFN. These staff members were able to learn about best practices and emerging issues and how to respond to victims of gender-based crimes. Some topics that were covered in this conference:
  - Health Consequences of Gender-Based Violence.
  - Understanding the Motives of those who batter.
  - A Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) approach to Human Trafficking Cases.
- Five investigative case workers attended the Child Welfare League of America Annual Conference. This allowed them to further their knowledge of child welfare as it relates to the current shift of culturally accessible and responsive services that supports community and family well-being. Some topics that were covered in this conference:
  - Lessons from Rural Communities: Addressing Neglect in the Context of Substance Abuse and Mental Health
  - The Central Role of Family Partner Participation in Building a Comprehensive Child Maltreatment Prevention Framework
  - Safeguarding Unaccompanied Children: Understanding Human Trafficking Risks and Eradicating Barriers

### ACTIVITY 3: SUPPORT USE OF LATEST TECHNOLOGY (A)

**Narrative description of the activity:** Provided funding for technology requests to improve the investigation, assessment and prosecution of child abuse and neglect through use of latest technology.

**The current Task Force goals that are addressed by this activity:** Goal 3 and 4

**Subgrantees implementing the activity:**

- Clark County Department of Family Services (CCDFS)
- Nevada Institute for Forensic Nursing (NVIFN)
- Washoe County Human Services Agency (WCHSA)

**Description of evaluation work related to this activity, including the following (as appropriate):**

**Evaluation methods:** Observations of caseworkers' activities and completion of assessments.

**Outputs:**

- Clark County Department of Family Services (CCDFS)
  - Purchase of a high-speed copier to be used by law enforcement.
- Nevada Institute for Forensic Nursing (NVIFN)
  - Purchase a VALT Cloud System to be used in the soft exam room and mobile unit.
- Washoe County Human Services Agency (WCHSA)
  - Equip caseworkers at the Washoe County Child Advocacy Center (CAC) with enhanced technology that includes, two (2) copiers/printers and purchased ink for the printers as well.

**Outcomes:**

- WCHSA purchased two multi-functional printers that were needed in the medical and assessment unit in the local CAC. These printers were able to increase the efficiency and accessibility for the workers, which is evident by the increased productivity.

- NVIFN purchased a Video Audio Learning Tool (VALT) Cloud System for their mobile unit which provides sexual assaults exams. This mobile unit allows for NVIFN to provide discrete sexual assault exams on victims in rural counties who are afraid of retaliation and/or intimidation. This system is also admissible in court and can be viewed, remotely, by law enforcement and/or attorneys. Since the purchase and installation of this VALT Cloud System, NVIFN has used this technology 16 times.
- CCDFS purchased a high-speed copier for law enforcement to efficiently work onsite at the Southern Nevada Child Advocacy Center.

#### ACTIVITY 4: COLLABORATE WITH COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (AB)

**Narrative description of the activity:** Since 2021, DCFS has contracted with Health Management Associates (HMA) for a project on improving child welfare practices when child abuse and neglect cases also have co-occurring interpersonal violence. This project was primarily funded with Title IV-B(2) funds. DCFS, HMA and the CIP coordinator collaborated to train local MDT members on how to reconcile the needs of the adult victim and non-offending parent with the needs the child/ren in the family, how to effectively engage the perpetrator in treatment, and the important role that case plans can and should plan in safety planning both for in home and out of home care of children.

**The current Task Force goals that are addressed by this activity:** Goal 1

**Subgrantee, implementing the activity:** Health Management Associates

**Description of evaluation work related to this activity, including the following (as appropriate):**

**Evaluation methods:** HMA provided Nevada with an evaluation of their project.

**Outputs:** Increased knowledge among court stakeholders regarding cases with co-occurring interpersonal violence which increased Nevada’s overall handling of cases of child abuse and neglect.

**Outcomes:** It is anticipated that Nevada’s court stakeholders who received this training will have an increased knowledge of best practices aimed at improving the judicial handling of child abuse and neglect cases when there is co-occurring interpersonal violence.

#### ACTIVITY 5: SUPPORT CSEC DATABASE (AB)

**Narrative description of the activity:** Support ongoing CSEC protocol implementation in Nevada through collaboration with Nevada’s CSEC Coordinator. Nevada has developed a statewide database that has capability to track CSEC victims across multiple agencies and to establish a baseline dataset of this population for Nevada. The database will help Nevada in obtaining an accurate count of youth in Nevada who have been victims of sex trafficking and what systems and services they interact with. During Nevada’s 2023 legislative session, new legislation was passed that requires multiple entities to submit trafficking data to the Center for Analysis of Crime Statistics at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Some of these entities include the DCFS CSEC coalition, DCFS Human Trafficking Coalition, the Nevada Policy Council of Human Trafficking, local Human Trafficking Task Forces, and each law enforcement agency in the state. The Center for Analysis of Crime Statistics is required to develop a report with this data for Nevada’s legislature.

**Subgrantee implementing the activity:** Center for Analysis of Crime Statistics at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas

**The current Task Force goals that are addressed by this activity:** Goals 2 and 4



**Description of evaluation work related to this activity, including the following (as appropriate):**

**Evaluation methods:** Data of CSEC victims will be collected, monitored, and analyzed.

**Outputs:** The database has been established and data entry has started to occur. While the CJA Task Force funded the initial development of the database, it was difficult to get traction as all other entities declined to provide data and the only data the Center for Analysis of Crime Statistics has been able to collect and analyze is CSEC data from DCFS. The passing of this senate bill aims to improve the data collected by the Center for Analysis of Crime Statistics.

**Outcomes:** As the project was not able to be completed as anticipated, there are minimal outcomes to report. The database has been established, but the intended outcome of tracking CSEC victims across multiple agencies has not yet occurred. The CJA is not continuing to fund this project at this time but will continue to receive progress updates about the database and may become involved again in the future.

**PRIOR YEAR LINE-ITEM BUDGET EXPENDITURE (MAY 2022 – MAY 2023)**

<b>Recipient/Subgrantee:</b>	<b>Obligated Amount</b>
<b>Type of Expense:</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Task Force Maintenance	\$5,000
Clark County Department of Family Services Subgrant	\$48,500
Carson City Sheriff's Office Training	\$29,048
Nevada Institute of Forensic Nursing Subgrant	\$14,362
Nevada Outreach Training Organization (NOTO) Subgrant	\$19,849
Washoe County Human Services Agency Subgrant	\$40,684
CSEC Database Support	\$27,880
Health Management Associates	\$25,361
Handle with Care Conference	\$525

# APPLICATION FOR PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

## CHILDREN’S JUSTICE ACT TASK FORCE GOALS 2024-2027

**Key: Required categories for use of CJA funds:**

*A= Investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect.*

*B= Experimental, model and demonstration programs for testing innovative approaches.*

*C= Reform of state laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols, and procedures.*

Proposed Activities for The Next Fiscal Year (May 2022 through May 2023)

**Goal 1:** Provide child protection workers and stakeholders “front end” specialty, discipline specific and advanced training. Training should be prioritized, but not limited to, training requirements of CARA and JVTA Program Improvement Plans, child protection model assessments, ICWA, sexual abuse, reduce trauma for victims, interpersonal violence, forensic interviewing, trauma- informed practices and training needs identified in collaboration with Court Improvement Program. (ABC)

**Goal 2:** Support the implementation of the Commercially Sexually Exploited Child (CSEC) Model Coordinated Response Protocol and provide training and support for the formation of Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT) and Task Forces. (ABC)

**Goal 3:** Support the establishment of new Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs) or other multidisciplinary team approaches and improve the capacity of existing CACs to provide a multidisciplinary response for victims of child sex abuse and exploitation, witnesses to interpersonal violence, physical abuse, and child victims with disabilities. (AB)

**Goal 4:** Fund technology requests to improve the investigation, assessment and prosecution of child abuse and neglect through the use of latest technology and to support the use of new and existing training technologies. (B)

**Goal 5:** This task force will monitor policy, regulation and/or legislation regarding child abuse and neglect trends and when appropriate collaborate with other parties and/or entities to support new and/or revised policy, regulation, and legislation. (C)

### PROPOSED ACTIVITY 1: MAINTENANCE OF THE NEVADA CHILDREN’S JUSTICE TASK FORCE (ABC)

**Narrative description of the activity:** To support and maintain the full multidisciplinary Task Force through member recruitment, training and provision of technical assistance/consultation and travel to attend meetings. Task Force members will develop and monitor the implementation of objectives for training and policy through approved activities. The Task Force will support interagency collaboration and Court Improvement Plan (CIP) collaboration implementing the intent of the CJA grant.

**Proposed sub-grantee, if applicable:** Not applicable

**Explanation of the extent to which this activity contributes to the reform of State systems handling of cases of child abuse and neglect:** The Task Force will meet four times a year to evaluate the child protection

system related to investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, including child sexual abuse and exploitation. The Task Force will make recommendations for training and other activities to improve the “front end” of the system. Continued collaboration with other agencies and the CIP will contribute to reform of State systems handling of child abuse and neglect by targeting multiple areas within the system statewide.

**The current Task Force goals that would be addressed by this activity:** All State Task Force Goals

**Description of proposed evaluation methods related to this activity, including desired outputs and/or outcomes:** Membership and activities of the Task Force will be monitored by the Chair and CJA Coordinator to ensure the Task Force has membership in each of the required categories and that the activities of the Task Force are supporting progress in meeting goals. The CJA grantees will provide quarterly reports to the CJA Task Force on the progress of their projects.

### PROPOSED ACTIVITY 2: MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROFESSIONAL TRAINING (AB)

**Narrative description of the activity:** Provide child protection workers and/or stakeholders “front end” specialty, discipline specific and advanced training. Training will be prioritized, but not limited to, CSEC, sexual abuse, and forensic interviewing, all of which will support trauma-informed practice. During the January 2024 meeting, the Task Force approved an activity to fund a statewide training for child welfare staff that aims to enhance worker safety and improve the process of child abuse and neglect investigations. The exact training has not yet been decided.

**Proposed sub-grantees, if applicable:**

- Clark County Department of Family Services (CCDFS)
- Division of Child and Family Services – Rural Region (DCFS)
- Nye County
- Washoe County Human Services Agency (WCHSA)

**Explanation of the extent to which this activity contributes to the reform of State systems handling of cases of child abuse and neglect:** This activity improves child protection and other professional stakeholders’ knowledge, skills, and abilities to investigate, assess and prosecute cases of child abuse and neglect in a manner that limits additional trauma to victims and their families and enhance worker safety during the process.

**The current Task Force goals that would be addressed by this activity:** Goals 1, 2, and 3

**Description of proposed evaluation methods related to this activity, including desired outputs and/or outcomes:** Trainings will be provided to multiple disciplines in urban and rural districts throughout Nevada. Evaluations to assess the improvement of participants’ knowledge, skills, and abilities to investigate, assess, and prosecute cases of child abuse and neglect and/or pre and post training tests to assess changes in knowledge will be completed.

### PROPOSED ACTIVITY 3: SUPPORT THE USE OF THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY (B)

**Narrative description of the activity:** New technology will be provided to one CAC and one mobile forensic nursing and advocacy organization in Nevada. This includes the purchase of six tablets for the CPS’ caseworkers at a CAC and a Cortexflo machine and computers for adolescent exams. The Cortexflo is a portable forensic photography unit that captures images and videos of evidence required for physical and sexual examination.

**Proposed sub-grantees, if applicable:**

- Nevada Institute of Forensic Nursing (NVIFN)
- Washoe County Human Services Agency (WCHSA)

**Explanation of the extent to which this activity contributes to the reform of State systems handling of cases of child abuse and neglect:** Through the support of the CJA Task Force, these agencies will be able to purchase new technology to increase their efficiency and accessibility in their efforts to investigate, assess and prosecute child abuse and neglect cases in a timely manner.

**The current Task Force goals that would be addressed by this activity:** 3 and 4

**Description of proposed evaluation methods related to this activity, including desired outputs and/or outcomes:** Feedback from CAC to determine their increase and efficiency and accessibility once these technological items have been purchased; number of child victims served.

**PROPOSED ACTIVITY 4: SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW LEGISLATION AND/OR POLICY AND IDENTIFY NEW OR NEEDED CHANGES TO LEGISLATION AND/OR POLICY (ABC)**

**Narrative description of the activity:** Review newly enacted legislation passed during the 2025 Legislative Session that specifically addresses the “front-end” of the child welfare system and determine if there is need for new or revised policy, training, or other items that can be addressed by the Task Force. The Task Force is interested in establishing a subcommittee to analyze new legislation that pertains to the “front-end” of the child welfare system.

**Proposed sub-grantee, if applicable:** Not applicable

**Explanation of the extent to which this activity contributes to the reform of State systems handling of cases of child abuse and neglect:** The CJA Task Force will ensure needed policies are written and/or trainings delivered related to newly enacted laws that contribute to the reform of state systems handling of cases of abuse and neglect. Additionally, by utilizing the Task Force as a Citizens Review Panel, the task force is able to make recommendations aimed at improving child welfare in Nevada.

**The current Task Force goals that would be addressed by this activity:** Goal 5

**Description of proposed evaluation methods related to this activity, including desired outputs and/or outcomes:** Child welfare staff and other affected parties receive training and/or technical assistance in developing new policies to be in compliance with new or updated policies and/or laws that improve Nevada’s handling of child abuse and neglect investigations.

**PROPOSED ACTIVITY 5: COLLABORATE WITH COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (AB)**

**Narrative description of the activity:** DCFS is actively collaborating with the Court Improvement Program (CIP) Coordinator on a proposed goal for Nevada’s Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) aimed at improving existing relationships between child welfare agencies and court partners to improve outcomes for families due to enhanced collaboration. There is an identified need to assess how the child welfare system and court system are working together and to improve collaboration. The CJA Task Force intends to collaborate with DCFS and the CIP on this CFSP goal.

**Proposed sub-grantee, if applicable:** Not applicable

**Explanation of the extent to which this activity contributes to the reform of State systems handling of cases of child abuse and neglect:** This activity will be a multi-year project with several interim benchmarks. DCFS, CJA and the CIP have a common goal of improving existing relationships between child welfare

agencies and court partners which aim to improve outcomes for families involved in the child welfare system, including outcomes at the investigative and adjudicatory stages of a case.

**The current Task Force goals that would be addressed by this activity:** Goals 1 and 2

**Description of proposed evaluation methods related to this activity, including desired outputs and/or outcomes:** The final activity for this CFSP goal is to conduct an evaluation to determine the impact of the activities aimed at improving and enhancing the child welfare and court partners relationship and the court process. The specific evaluation methods will be determined at a later date.

## PROPOSED LINE-ITEM BUDGET EXPENDITURE (MAY 2024 – MAY 2025)

<b>Type of Expense:</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Task Force Maintenance	\$5,000
Clark County Department of Family Services Subgrant	\$40,000
Nevada Institute of Forensic Nursing Subgrant	\$30,000
Nye County Subgrant	\$15,000
Rural Region Training	\$13,000
Washoe County Human Services Agency Subgrant	\$15,000
Statewide Training	\$30,000



## Office of the Governor

May 7, 2024

Rebecca Jones Gaston, Commissioner  
Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF)  
Mary E Switzer Building  
330 C Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Ms. Jones Gaston:

I am pleased to support the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child, and Family Services' application for the FY 2024 Children's Justice Act (CJA) Grant. In conjunction with that application, I certify the following:

- (a) Nevada received the FY 2023 child abuse and neglect Basic State Grant and continues to comply with the requirements stipulated in Section 106(b) of the Act; and
- (b) Nevada has maintained a State multidisciplinary task force on children's justice; and
- (c) Nevada has adopted or continues to progress in adopting recommendations of the State Task Force; and
- (d) Nevada will make such reports to the Secretary as may reasonably be required, including an annual report on how assistance received under this program was expended throughout Nevada, with particular attention to the areas described in paragraphs (1) through (3) of Section 107(a); and
- (e) Nevada will maintain and provide access to records relating to activities under CJA; and
- (f) Nevada will participate in at least one Federally initiated CJA meeting each year that the grant is in effect and are authorized to use grant funds to cover travel and per diem expenses for two CJA representatives (CJA Coordinator and Task Force Chairperson) to attend the meeting when held in person.

Should your office have any questions or require additional information regarding this grant, please contact Marla McDade Williams, MPA, Administrator, Division of Child and Family Services at (775) 684-4440 or [mmcdade@dcs.nv.gov](mailto:mmcdade@dcs.nv.gov).

Sincerely,

Joe Lombardo  
Governor



**APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE SF-424- MANDATORY**

<b>1.a. Type of Submission:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application <input type="checkbox"/> Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Funding Request <input type="checkbox"/> Other  Other (specify): <input style="width:100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<b>1.b. Frequency:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> Other  Other (specify): <input style="width:100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<b>1.d. Version:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission <input type="checkbox"/> Revision Update  <b>2. Date Received:</b> 10/6/0712024
		<b>STATEUSE ONLY:</b> <b>5. Date Received by State:</b> <input style="width:100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
		<b>3. Applicant Identifier:</b> <input style="width:100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
		<b>4a. Federal Entity Identifier:</b> <input style="width:100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
		<b>4b. Federal Award Identifier:</b> <input style="width:100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
<b>1.c. Consolidated Application/Plan/Funding Request?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Explanation		<b>6. State Application Identifier:</b> <input style="width:100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>

**7. APPLICANT INFORMATION:**

<b>a. Legal Name:</b> State of Nevada	
<b>b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):</b> 1188600002215	<b>c. UEI:</b> 1vHMAJPEDACJ6
<b>d. Address:</b>	
<b>Street1:</b> 4126 Technology Way, 3rd Floor	<b>Street2:</b> <input style="width:100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
<b>City:</b> Carson City	<b>County/Parish:</b> <input style="width:100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
<b>State:</b> NV: Nevada	<b>Province:</b> <input style="width:100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
<b>Country:</b> US: UNITED STATES	<b>Zip/Postal Code:</b> 89706-2023
<b>e. Organizational Unit:</b>	
<b>Department Name:</b> Health and Human Services	<b>Division Name:</b> Child and Family Services
<b>f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this submission:</b>	
<b>Prefix:</b> MS.	<b>First Name:</b> Marla
<b>Last Name:</b> McDade Williams	<b>Middle Name:</b> <input style="width:100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
<b>Suffix:</b> <input style="width:100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<b>Title:</b> Administrator
<b>Organizational Affiliation:</b> <input style="width:100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	
<b>Telephone Number:</b> 1775-684-4400	<b>Fax Number:</b> <input style="width:100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
<b>Email:</b> mmcdade@dcfs.nv.gov	

**APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE SF-424 - MANDATORY**

**Ba. TYPE OF APPLICANT:**

I \_\_\_\_\_ A: State Government \_\_\_\_\_ I

**Other (specify):**

\_\_\_\_\_

**b. Additional Description:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**9. Name of Federal Agency:**

ACff \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**CFDATitle:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**11. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:**

ACYF-CB-PI-24-06. Children's Justice Act submitted June 2024.

**12. Areas Affected by Funding:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**13. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF:**

**a. Applicant:**

Nevada

**b. Program/Project**

All

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

\_\_\_\_\_ [Add Attachment](#) [Delete Attachment](#) [View Attachment](#)

**14. FUNDING PERIOD:**

**a. Start Date:**

10/01/2024

**b. End Date:**

11/01/2025

**15. ESTIMATED FUNDING:**

**a. Federal (\$):**

183,963.00

**b. Match (\$):**

\_\_\_\_\_

**16. IS SUBMISSION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS?**

a. This submission was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on: \_\_\_\_\_

b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by State for review.

c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.



**APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE SF-424- MANDATORY**

17. Is The Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt?

Yes  No

18. By signing this application, I certify (1) that the statements contained in the list of certifications, and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances, and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. ( U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001)

... Agree  [8]

• This list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix:   
Mrs.

First Name:   
Marla

Middle Name:

Last Name:   
McDade Williams

Suffix:

Title:   
Administrator

Organizational Affiliation:

Telephone Number:   
684-4440

Fax Number:

Email:   
mmcdade@dcfs.nv.gov

Signature of Authorized Representative:   


Date Signed:   
6/4/2024

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

**APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE SF-424 - MANDATORY**

Consolidated Application/Plan/Funding Request Explanation:

[Empty text area for explanation]

**APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE SF-424- MANDATORY**

Applicant Federal Debt Delinquency Explanation:

[Empty text area for explanation]

II An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#)

# CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

## Listen

Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions. Submission of this statement is a

prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Signature

 \_\_\_\_\_

Title

Administrator \_\_\_\_\_

Organization

 \_\_\_\_\_

# APPENDIX A: Task Force Members and Designation

State/Territory: Nevada

Task Force Membership Designation	Name	Title	Organization	Relevant
Law Enforcement	Desiree Mattice	Sergeant	Department of Public Safety	Investigations experience
Prosecuting Attorney	Wendy Maddox	Chief Deputy District Attorney	Sixth Judicial District Court	Attorney in child welfare
Criminal Court Judge	Michelle Rodriguez	Juvenile Court Master	Fourth Judicial District Court	Hears child welfare and juvenile justice cases
Civil Court Judge	Margaret Pickard	District Court Judge	Eighth Judicial District Court	Hears child welfare cases
Prosecuting Attorney	Izaak Rowe	Deputy Attorney General	Attorney General's Office	Rural Region DCFS DAG
Defense Attorney	Christine Sullivan	Chief Public Defender	Washoe County Public Defender's Office	Attorney in the Family Court Division
Attorney for Children	Janice Wolf	Directing Attorney	Legal Aide of Southern Nevada	Child and family law for 15 years
Attorney for Children	Massey Mayo	Attorney	Walther Mansfield Brock Mayo, PLLC	Child and family law
Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)	Emmy McCormick	Executive Director	Carson City CASA	CASA Volunteer and Director
Health Professional	Rachelle Ekroos	APRN	Nevada HealthRight	Medical examiner for local CAC
Mental Health Professional	Jamie Wong	Mental Health Counselor	Southern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services	Specializes in children and adolescents
Child Protective Services	Betsey Crumrine	Acting Deputy Administrator	Division of Child and Family Services	Former GAL, supervises rural child welfare services
Child Protective Services	Laurie Jackson	Program Manager	Division of Child and Family Services	Supervises rural child welfare services
Child Protective Services	Denise Tyre	Coordinator	Washoe County Human Services Agency	Coordinator over investigations units, including CAC caseworkers
Child Protective Services	Wonswayla Mackey	Deputy Director	Clark County Department of Family Services	Deputy Director for Clark County Department of Family Services

Individual Experienced in Working with Children with Disabilities	Fran Maldonado	Community College Disabilities Instructor	Western Nevada College	Early Childhood Development Specialist
Parent/ Representative of Parent Group	Britt Young	Director	Statewide Family Network NV PEP	Parent advocate helping families navigate child serving systems
Parent/ Representative of Parent Group	Jane Saint, Vice-Chair	Director of Community Outreach	Boys Town	Parent advocate to help prevent family disruptions
Adult Former Victim of Child Abuse and Neglect	Angelina Blare	Victim Advocate	National Miss Curvy and QPI member	Survivor, past foster youth
Individual Experienced in Working with Homeless Children and Youth	Salli Kerr, Chair	State Liaison for Western Regional Child Advocacy Center	WRCAC; Nye County Homeless Task Force	Active member of several local committees that address homeless children and youth