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Nevada Receives Pritzker Children’s Initiative Grant – Statewide Coalition to Launch Strong Start Prenatal-to-Three Initiative

Joins Nationwide Network of State and Communities to Collaborate on Prenatal-to-Three Efforts

Las Vegas, Nevada — Nevada has been selected to receive a three-year, \$1 million grant from the Pritzker Children’s Initiative, one of sixteen awarded following a national competition to identify innovative state-based efforts to improve outcomes for infants and toddlers.

“We are ecstatic about this investment in Nevada’s children and families. As the backbone organization, the Children’s Advocacy Alliance (CAA) is honored to partner with stakeholders across this great state to ensure vital services for infant and toddlers in Nevada,” said Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner, executive director of Children’s Advocacy Alliance.

CAA will manage the grant funds on behalf of the Strong Start Nevada PN-3 Initiative Coalition of over 60 public and private partners that have crafted a strategy to build a strong and sustainable infrastructure to provide programs and services that will improve outcomes for our youngest children.

The Strong Start Nevada PN-3 Initiative aims to expand services to more than 38,500 low-income infants, toddlers, their families and focus on investments in children during the first 1,000 days of a child’s life. The initiative will use a coordinated, cross-sector policy agenda to advocate for expanded maternal and child health programs for pregnant women, infants, and toddlers by increasing the number of pregnant individuals, infants, and toddlers utilizing services to support healthy development; an increase in the capacity, quality and utilization of early care and education programs; and expanded utilization of individualized family support services.

“Nevada must improve access to and utilization of prenatal-to-three services and programming to ensure all children have an opportunity to reach their potential. The earlier we start, the more return we will see on our investment in human capital as the early learning brain science is clear about the critical importance of this developmental period. A strong economy and a healthy society starts with supporting our babies,” said Marty Elquist of The Children’s Cabinet.

Gerry Cobb, Director of the Pritzker Children’s Initiative emphasized the importance of this work.

“Supporting strong prenatal-to-three efforts in communities across the nation is key to expanding the numbers of young children in the United States with equitable access to high-quality programs and

services. We believe that setting infants and toddlers on the path to success in school and in life is work on which we can all agree. We are pleased to support the priorities of the Strong Start Prenatal-to-Three Initiative through this grant and want to build on all of the great work being done by the outstanding public and private partners that have come together on behalf of Nevada's youngest children.”

Cobb welcomed the Nevada coalition members into the growing National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers (NCIT) which is comprised of hundreds of local, state and national organizations joined by their shared commitment to young children and their families. NCIT is committed to advancing policies and programs that ensure every child from the prenatal period to age three has the support needed for a strong start in life.

About Pritzker Children’s Initiative

Through its Pritzker Children’s Initiative, the J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation has been a champion of quality early learning for almost two decades. The Pritzker Children’s Initiative supports organizations and coalitions in states and communities to expand equitable access to and participation in high-quality services for infants, toddlers, and their families across the United States.

About the Children’s Advocacy Alliance

The Children’s Advocacy Alliance (CAA) is a community-based nonprofit organization that advocates for policy changes that benefit Nevada’s children and families by researching and utilizing current data and promoting evidence-based policies to ensure that every child has a chance to thrive. CAA engages the community by bringing people together to address challenges and opportunities around children’s issues to leverage collective strength toward improving the systems that support the well-being of Nevada’s children. For more information, visit www.caanv.org.

About The Children's Cabinet

The Children’s Cabinet is a non-profit agency providing programs, partnerships and services to keep Nevadan safe children and families together. Offering more than 20 programs for children (birth to 24 years old), services include providing food and shelter, crisis intervention and case management, academic support, tutoring, transitional living, mentoring, parenting classes, child care subsidies, child care resource and referral assistance, runaway or homeless youth support, and free family counseling. As well a wide range of crisis intervention services, including Safe Place, a service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for youth experiencing violence, abuse or exploitation. For more information, visit www.childrencabinet.org.

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