



NRFC State Profile: Nevada June 2016

This profile describes state and federally funded programs and policies that aim to strengthen families. These programs and policies support parenting and father involvement, promote strong family relationships, enhance fathers’ economic stability, and provide support during incarceration and reentry. The profile lists phone numbers and websites for the programs. This information was correct when the profile was written (in 2016) but may change over time.

Programs to Support Responsible Fatherhood and Strengthen Families

Responsible fatherhood programs focus on issues such as enhancing parenting and relationship skills, keeping fathers involved with their children, improving their economic stability, helping them pay child support, and generally helping to strengthen families.

The following state and federally funded programs are available in the state:

Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
Clark County Family Services Department	Fatherhood/Parenting	The Clark County Family Services Department runs <i>The Parenting Project</i> , a series of free programs for parents including <i>Triple P</i> (Positive Parenting Program), <i>BabyCare</i> , <i>Nurturing Parents & Families</i> , <i>ABC's of Parenting</i> , <i>Staying Connected With Your Teen</i> , and <i>Teen Triple P</i> (Teen Positive Parenting Program).	Clark County. Website (702) 455-5295
Job Corps	Economic Stability	<i>Job Corps</i> is a federal job training program to help low-income young men and women ages 16 to 24 with educational and career goals.	There is one Job Corps center in Nevada. It is located in Reno. Website (775) 789-1000
Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC)	Incarceration/Reentry	NDOC’s Education Division, provides education and training services in each major prison in the state. Services include basic literacy, English as a Second Language (ESL), Life Skills, vocational training, traditional high schooling, and GED preparation. Reentry program	Nevada correctional facilities. Website (775) 887-3285

Take Time to Be a Dad Today

Toll-free: 877-4DAD411 (877-432-3411) | Fax: 703-934-3740 | info@fatherhood.gov | www.fatherhood.gov

 facebook.com/fatherhoodgov

 [@fatherhoodgov](https://twitter.com/fatherhoodgov)

Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
		services are also provided and NDOC's Family Services Division facilitates two support groups for friends and family of inmates: <i>Family and Friends of Prison Inmates (FFPI)</i> and <i>Friends and Family of Incarcerated Persons, Inc. (FFIP)</i> .	
Nevada JobConnect		JobConnect is a federally funded statewide network that connects businesses with job seekers online and through multiple career centers. Services include job listings, job placement, work registration, labor market information, career information and guidance, assessment, information about education and training opportunities, unemployment insurance information, information on filing for unemployment insurance, resume preparation, and referrals to partner agency services.	There are 10 JobConnect Career Centers in Nevada. Website with locations and phone numbers
SafeNest	Domestic Violence	The state and federally funded SafeNest provides shelter, advocacy, counseling, and prevention services for victims and survivors of domestic violence. Counseling is available for victims/survivors, teens, and court-ordered women. There are also 26-week and 52-week batterer's intervention groups.	Clark County. Website with locations and phone numbers Domestic violence hotline (702) 646-4981

Policies to Promote Responsible Fatherhood

Paternity Establishment

Establishing paternity gives a child born outside of marriage the same legal rights and privileges as a child born to married parents. Children gain access to family medical history and rights to inheritance, fathers' medical and life insurance benefits, social security and veterans' benefits, and child support. In addition, Native American children gain tribal enrollment rights.

In Nevada, unmarried parents can sign a Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity. Most hospitals assist with this process at the time of the child's birth. Parents can also obtain the Voluntary Acknowledgement form from the Bureau of Health Planning & Statistics Office of Vital Records before the child turns 21. The father can sign an Acknowledgement of Paternity even if he is married to someone else. If the child's mother is not sure who the father is, she can request assistance from the local Child Support Office in identifying and locating the alleged father. If the alleged father refuses to acknowledge paternity, the mother or the Nevada State Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (if the child is receiving public assistance) may bring a paternity action to establish paternity. A hearing is then conducted to establish paternity and genetic testing may be ordered. If the paternity of the alleged father is confirmed, he will be responsible for the cost of the genetic testing.ⁱ

Child Custody

If unmarried or divorced parents cannot reach agreement concerning child custody or visitation, a legal order can be made through the court system. Either parent may be granted custody of the child, or both may share equally in physical custody and/or decision-making responsibilities. There is no legal connection between payment or non-payment of child support and rights to visitation.

In Nevada, the court awards custody based on the best interests of the child. Nevada has two types of custody: legal and physical. Legal custody means that the parent makes major life decisions for the child, such as education, medical decisions, and religious practice. Physical custody refers to which parent(s) the child will live with. When a Joint Custody arrangement is entered, whether it is legal or physical custody, each parent has an equal right to the child and neither one is required to pay child support to the other. When a parent is awarded Sole Custody, that parent has complete control over the child, whether legally or physically.ⁱⁱ

Child Support

The Federal Child Support Enforcement Program was established in 1975 as Title IV-D of the Social Security Act to locate noncustodial parents, establish paternity and establish and enforce child support orders. General services available in all states and territories include voluntary in-hospital paternity acknowledgement, genetic testing, explanation of state guidelines for determining child support orders, and review of child support orders at least every three years at the request of either parent. State child support offices are responsible for collection and distribution of child support payments and can modify orders when appropriate. If a parent is behind in their payments, the office may use enforcement tools such as license revocation (including drivers, professional, recreational or occupational licenses), seizure of assets, property liens, passport denial, and federal and state tax refund offsets.ⁱⁱⁱ

Nevada's Child Support Enforcement program is run by Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Welfare and Supportive Services. To apply for child support services, parents can download and complete the Child Support Application and mail, fax, or hand deliver it to their local Child Support office. Go to the [website](#) or call (800) 992-0900 for more information.

The Family and Medical Leave Act

The federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) protects employees who have worked with the same organization for at least twelve months and worked at least 1,250 hours within the past year. It contains provisions for both fathers and mothers to take time off after the birth or adoption of a child, or during a serious illness, without fear of losing their jobs. Employees in companies with 50 or more employees are entitled to up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave, over a one-year period, to care for a new child, recuperate from a serious illness, care for a seriously ill family member, or handle issues arising from a family member's call to active military duty. The FMLA also gives employees the right to take up to 26 weeks of leave to care for a family member who is seriously injured or becomes ill while on active military duty.^{iv}

In addition to FMLA, the Nevada Small Necessities Law makes it unlawful to terminate an employee for attending school conferences or for receiving notification of a child's emergency at work. Employers with at least 50 employees must allow eligible employees to take up to four hours off per school year to attend parent-teacher conferences, school activities, or school-sponsored events, or otherwise be involved at the child's school.^v

Head Start

Head Start is a federally funded school readiness program for young children from low-income families. The program, currently delivered by about 1,700 local organizations – public and private, non-profit and for-profit – provides preschoolers with comprehensive services, such as education and health screenings, with the goal of building their skills across five school readiness domains: language and literacy, cognition and general knowledge, approaches to learning, physical development and health, and social and emotional development. Head Start encourages the role of parents (both mothers and fathers) as their child's first and most important teachers. Programs build relationships with families

that support positive parent-child relationships, family well-being, and connections to peers and community. Early Head Start, also managed by the federal Office of Head Start, is directed toward children up to the age of three and their parents. While the program is federally funded and managed, local agencies make decisions regarding service delivery based on the specific needs of their communities; for example, some may opt to include home-based services for families in their programs. Most states have multiple Head Start programs providing services for fathers.

To find information on Head Start programs in Nevada, go to this [website](#).

Policies to Promote Economic Stability

Child Care Assistance

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) works with states to provide support for children and their low-income families. Subsidized child care services are available to eligible families through certificates (vouchers), grants, or contracts with providers. Fathers and mothers may select a child care provider that satisfies applicable state and local requirements, including basic health and safety requirements.^{vi}

In Nevada, the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Child Care Program assists low-income families, families receiving temporary public assistance, and those transitioning from public assistance in obtaining child care so they can work. To qualify for child care subsidy benefits, households must meet financial and nonfinancial eligibility factors, such as falling under the maximum income limit, having a child who is under the age of 13 or has special needs, as well as other factors.^{vii}

Rental Assistance

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides rental assistance to low-income families and individuals through a number of methods. HUD subsidizes privately owned apartments, allowing low-income tenants to rent them at reduced rates. In the Public Housing program, local housing agencies manage rental housing for low-income tenants, while HUD provides professional and technical assistance in their planning, development, and management. The Housing Choice Voucher Program, better known as Section 8, provides eligible families and individuals with vouchers that they can use to pay for all or part of the rent at housing units of their choice. Generally, eligibility for the HUD rental assistance programs is based on annual gross income, assets, family size, and other considerations such as elderly or disabled status. Local housing agencies generally set the fixed eligibility rules for their regions, determine assistance amounts, and manage waiting lists for assistance.^{viii}

Nevada has no additional state provisions for rental assistance.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly the Food Stamp program, provides low-income individuals (both men and women) and families with funds delivered in an electronic benefit transfer card, or EBT card) that can be used to purchase food. SNAP is administered within the Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Services and is federally funded, but applications, delivery, and outreach are handled at the state or local level. In general, individuals and households are eligible to receive SNAP if they have less than \$2,250 in countable resources and earn less than 130 percent of the poverty line in gross monthly income. However, characteristics of recipients (for example, age or disabled status) can affect eligibility requirements, and states have flexibility in determining eligibility, particularly with regard to what is considered a countable resource. In many states, individuals over the age of 18 and under the age of 50 are limited to three months of SNAP benefits every three years unless they are working or in a work or training program 20 hours a week. Some states have waivers to this rule for all or part of the state – for detailed state eligibility requirements, consult the [state SNAP agency](#).^{ix}

The Nevada State Division of Welfare and Supportive Services provides SNAP benefits for residents of Nevada who 1) work for low wages, 2) are unemployed or work part time, 3) receive welfare or other public assistance payments, 4)

are elderly or disabled and live on a small income, or 5) are homeless. Qualifying families receive SNAP benefits based on the *USDA Thrifty Food Plan*, an estimate of how much it costs to buy food to prepare nutritious, low-cost meals for their household.^x Individuals or families may apply for SNAP benefits online, or by mailing, faxing, or dropping off an application at their local Welfare Office.^{xi}

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program grants federal funds to states for developing and implementing their own welfare programs that provide assistance and work opportunities to needy families.

In Nevada, TANF divides its assistance into two programs: 1) The NEON program is a work program for households containing work-eligible individuals. The household must meet the requirements established in the Personal Responsibility Plan. 2) The Child Only program is designed for households who do not have a work-eligible individual. The adults do not receive assistance either due to their ineligibility or because the caregiver is not the child's parent (Relative Caregiver) and is not requesting assistance for themselves.^{xii}

In addition to TANF, Nevada has a Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF) program. TTANF assistance is defined by the Tribe's approved Plan and is separate from Nevada's TANF State Plan. The Washoe Tribe operates and provides Tribal TANF program assistance for Washoe Tribal members or descendants of Washoe Tribal members and their families residing within its tribal reservation and colony jurisdictions of Dresslerville, Carson Colony, and Stewart Communities, and near reservation areas of Douglas County and the County of Carson City. While eligible families cannot receive State and Tribal TANF simultaneously, an eligible Tribal TANF recipient may choose to return to State TANF, depending upon meeting program eligibility requirements at the time.^{xiii}

Other Helpful Resources

Project ASSIST

The Nevada Department of Health and Human Services runs Project ASSIST, Nevada's central resource directory for anyone seeking information about organizations, programs or agencies that may provide services and supports for children and young adults up to 21 years old who have a disability, and their families. The [website](#) provides information about parent support groups, respite care, screening and diagnosis, early intervention programs and vocational training.

Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

In 2005, the Nevada legislature officially established the Council in the Office of the Attorney General. The purpose of the Council is three-fold: 1. Raise awareness about domestic violence. 2. Make legislative recommendations to the Attorney General to help prevent domestic violence. 3. Provide financial support to programs working to prevent domestic violence in the state. For more information call (775) 684-1223 or go to their [website](#).

Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence (NNADV)

The state and federally funded NNADV provides statewide advocacy, education and support of organizations in Nevada that help domestic violence survivors and their families. It does not offer direct crisis services. The network's [website](#) has a domestic violence resource library with materials in English and Spanish. For more information, go to this [website](#) or call (775) 828-1115.

References

- ⁱ For more information on paternity establishment in Nevada, see https://dwss.nv.gov/Support/1_1_2_1Establishing_Paternity/.
- ⁱⁱ For more information on Child Custody in Nevada, see <http://cordellcordell.com/resources/nevada/nevada-child-custody-questions/>.
- ⁱⁱⁱ For more information on the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement, see www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css.
- ^{iv} For more information on the Family and Medical leave Act, see <http://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/whdfs28.pdf>.
- ^v For more information on Nevada's Small Necessities Law, see <http://www.ncsl.org/print/employ/fam-medleave.pdf> and <http://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/nevada-family-medical-leave.html>.
- ^{vi} For more information on the Child Care and Development Fund, see <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/about/what-we-do>.
- ^{vii} For more information on Nevada's Child Care Program, see <https://dwss.nv.gov/Care/Childcare/> and <https://dwss.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dwssnvgov/content/Care/Child%20Care%20Manual.pdf>.
- ^{viii} For more information on Rental Assistance, see http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/topics/rental_assistance.
- ^{ix} For more information on SNAP and to find services in your state, see <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/apply>.
- ^x For more information on the USDA Thrifty Food Plan, see https://dwss.nv.gov/SNAP/SNAP_FAQ/.
- ^{xi} For more information on SNAP in Nevada, see <http://www.benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details/1585>.
- ^{xii} For more information on TANF in Nevada, see: <http://www.benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details/1853>.
And https://dwss.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dwssnvgov/content/Home/Features/Chapter%20A_1000%2012-15-15.pdf.
- ^{xiii} For more information about Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF), see https://dwss.nv.gov/TANF/TANF-Tribal_Program_Categories/.