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PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Amy Riley
The Children's Cabinet Communications Manager
775.527.3007
ariley@childrenscabinet.org

Nevada Wins Nationwide Grant Competition to Expand High-Quality Prenatal-to-Age-Three Services to Nevada Infants and Toddlers and Their Families

Pritzker Children's Initiative awards Nevada and The Children's Cabinet planning grant to establish actionable prenatal-to-age-three policy agenda

NEVADA, April 16, 2019 – Nevada has been announced a winner of the Pritzker Children's Initiative (PCI) Prenatal-to-Age-Three State Grant Competition, awarding cross-sector coalitions in 11 states, including Nevada, planning grants to develop and strengthen high-quality prenatal-to-age-three services. With research showing that a child's brain develops faster in the first three years than at any later period in life, building the foundation for all future learning, behavior and health, PCI opened the grant competition to identify states with a strategic vision for supporting infants, toddlers and their families. Nevada, with a multi-organization effort lead by The Children's Cabinet and Children's Advocacy Alliance, presented an innovative plan to put the state's youngest children on a path for future success in school and life.

"We are so proud to be selected as one of 11 states across the country to develop an ambitious prenatal-to-age-three agenda," said Kim Young, Executive Director of The Children's Cabinet. "The Pritzker Initiative grant signifies a decisive step to making sure that all Nevada families with young children have the tools they need to support their children's learning and healthy development."

In Nevada, a prenatal-to-age-three coalition will be formed to leverage public and private partnerships to build on the critical ongoing investments for the 111,170 babies and toddlers across our state. Over the next nine months, the group will focus on expanding access to high-quality early childhood care and supportive services and will create a detailed strategy to serve an additional 25 percent of low-income families with children prenatal to age three.

The Children's Cabinet, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization located in Nevada.



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Keeping Children Safe & Families Together

Recipients of the grants have each been awarded \$100,000 to establish a coalition of state- and community-level partners inside and outside government to develop an ambitious prenatal-to-age-three policy agenda and action plan, focused on expanding access to high-quality programs designed to support children’s healthy development and build a strong foundation for future learning. These Planning Grant recipients will also be eligible for Implementation Grants based on the quality of the plan they develop over the next six to nine months. Led by The Children’s Cabinet and Children’s Advocacy Alliance, the coalition will include city government, philanthropic organizations, Department of Education, Head Start, tribes, home visiting professionals, community health workers, advocacy, chambers of commerce (business), libraries, and parent advocacy groups.

“This grant competition has illuminated the nation’s commitment to supporting infants and toddlers. We knew that there was widespread agreement on the importance of the earliest years in a child’s life, but we were delighted to see the innovative thinking by states to significantly expand services to families with infants and toddlers,” said Gerry Cobb, director of the Pritzker Children’s Initiative. “The most promising applications integrated approaches that build on locally-driven efforts and maximize the best practices across child care, health, early childhood education and human services to address new challenges facing infants, toddlers and their families. Nevada submitted a proposal that brings diverse leaders to the table to coordinate across fields and establish a unified policy agenda and action plan supporting infants, toddlers and their families.”

To ensure the innovations, policies and best practices developed in state coalitions are shared and effectively implemented, grant winners will also join the PCI-funded [National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers](#) (NCIT). Through critical community-based approaches and a shared commitment to the healthy development of our youngest children, NCIT can invest deeper in state and local programs and policies across the country.

Research shows that when we invest in the first three years of a child’s life the returns for states are the highest, and we can reduce the need for more expensive interventions later in life. In addition to the economic benefits, high-quality early childhood development programs can reduce chronic disease and health care costs, and their benefits include better education outcomes and higher incomes as adults. Healthy development in early childhood helps prepare children for the educational experiences of kindergarten and beyond. When infants and toddlers get what their growing brains need, they become healthy kids who are confident, empathetic and ready for school and life.

About the Pritzker Children’s Initiative (PCI)

The Pritzker Children’s Initiative (PCI), a project of the J.B. and M. K. Pritzker Family Foundation, is committed to building a promising future for our country by investing in and supporting solutions in early childhood development for children prenatal to age three, with the goal of every child reaching kindergarten ready to learn. More information about PCI can be found [here](#).

About The National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers (NCIT)

The National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers (NCIT) is committed to advancing policies and programs that ensure families have the support they need to give their infants and toddlers the



foundation for a strong start in life. Funded by the Pritzker Children’s Initiative, a program of the J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation, this effort brings together national partners, early childhood leaders, policymakers and practitioners inside and outside state and local government to create and strengthen promising policies and programs and share what works so that more states and communities can support the healthy development of our youngest children. More information about NCIT can be found [here](#).

About The Children’s Cabinet

The Children’s Cabinet is a Nevada nonprofit organization dedicated to keeping children safe and families together. Since 1985, The Children’s Cabinet has collaborated with public partners and community leaders to identify gaps in service and to meet the needs of a wide-ranging age group—from small children to young adults. Services include child care resources, parenting classes, education and work experience programs, outreach to runaway, homeless, and foster youth, and family counseling. With the help of donations and other community support, The Children’s Cabinet is able to provide its many programs and services at no charge. For more information about Children’s Cabinet, please visit www.childrencabinet.org or call 775-856-6200. Follow us on Facebook, www.facebook.com/childrencabinet and Twitter at www.twitter.com/ChldrnsCabnt.

