

Innovative Early Childhood Services in Rural Nevada

Community Chest, Inc.



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Community Chest

WHO WE ARE: Community Chest is a non-profit agency serving children and families in rural Nevada since 1991. We provide holistic solutions with the goal of building and sustaining strong families and communities.

WHAT WE DO: Community Chest provides a diverse range of services which include:

- Counseling
- Home Visiting
- Youth Development Programs
- Early Childhood Programs
- Food assistance
- Library services



WHO DO WE SERVE: We currently have programs serving Storey, Lyon, Mineral, Churchill, Douglas, Carson City and Northern Nye counties in Nevada.

Purpose of Today

To share innovative strategies
Community Chest has
implemented to increase access to
early childhood supports in rural
Nevada.



Expected Outcomes



- Spark ideas to expand early childhood supports in your community.
- Facilitate conversations around early childhood needs and ways to meet them.
- Provide opportunities for ongoing collaboration between our early childhood champions.

Where we were 10 years ago

- 4 mobile preschool classrooms serving two counties.
- A community needs assessment showing early childhood services as the number one need.
- Zero to few child care centers in our rural service area with long waitlists and expensive tuition.
- Continuous requests from clients and community members for early childhood resources and supports.
- Robust youth programs for youth 6-14 in one community.

Where we are now

- Seven mobil preschool classrooms in six communities and four counties
- Two Before and After School Programs
- Three Early Childhood Centers in Storey County
- Home Visiting in Seven Counties
- Early Childhood Community Health Workers serving three counties



COW (Classroom on Wheels) Bus



Nevada Families First





FREE in-home service!

100% voluntary

No income restrictions

Evidence Based Curriculum (PAT)

Prenatal - Kindergarten entry

Resource identification & Referral

School Readiness

Licensed Early Childhood Centers



ECE Community Health Workers

- Literacy events
- Building at home libraries
- Collaboration between home and school
- Child Find events and screenings
- Resources and referrals



Looking Toward the Future

- Additional center in Hawthorne
- Additional center in Lockwood
- Advocate to expand the accepted age a of early childhood services to 8yrs old or 3rd grade
- Additional ECE CHWs to support more communities



How did we get here?



- Wrap around services and combined program models
 - Diverse and unusual funding streams/support
 - Meaningful community partnerships
 - Thinking outside of the box
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Staff growth and Retention

- Growing staff from within the organization and programs
- Intentionally changing the ECE workforce narrative and celebrating it as an honored profession
 - Closing the pay gap
 - Providing benefits
 - Ensuring those who love this profession can retire from it
- Reflective supervision
- Creating a family centered company culture that supports work/life balance



Group Activity - The building blocks of early childhood

- Using the building manipulatives and labels on your table brainstorm with your groups to build your dream Early Childhood Supported community.
 - What resources would be available?
 - What supports are needed to make this possible?
 - What will...





Questions?
