

# NEVADA COMMISSION ON MINORITY AFFAIRS



**2023 Annual Report**



Department of Business and Industry  
Office of the Director  
January 2023

## NEVADA COMMISSION ON MINORITY AFFAIRS

### Commission Members

Gabriela Wyett, Chair

Angelica Villarta, Vice-Chair

Jonathon Lau

Nic Steele

Anabel Navarro

Nina Gallagher

Lance West

Juanny Romero

Demetrius Ware

### Staff

Angie Rojas, Management Analyst

## Table of Contents

About the Commission.....	1
Mission.....	1
Purpose.....	1
Duties.....	1
Subcommittee Purpose and Direction .....	2
The Year in Review .....	3
Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs (NCMA) and NCMA Academy.....	3
Workforce Development Subcommittee .....	5
Economic Development Subcommittee .....	10
Housing Subcommittee .....	11
Affordable Housing .....	11
Homeless and supportive housing.....	12
Affordable housing market by the numbers .....	12
Healthcare Subcommittee .....	15
Legislative Subcommittee.....	17
K-12 Education Subcommittee .....	18
Higher Education Subcommittee .....	20

## About the Commission

### Mission

The mission of the Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs is to advocate for and to provide a voice to minorities residing in the state of Nevada in matters relating to areas including but not limited to employment, economic development, housing, healthcare, education, and legislation.

### Purpose

The Purpose of the Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs is to be the central advisory body coordinating discussion and study of issues affecting Nevadans. These areas include, but are not limited to, employment, economic development, housing, healthcare, education, and legislation. The Commission also considers and facilitates legislation, funding sources, and community organizations geared toward making measurable improvements in those areas which will raise the quality of life among Nevada's minority community.

### Duties

The Commission shall, within the limits of available money:

1. Study matters affecting the social and economic welfare and well-being of minorities residing in the State of Nevada;
2. Collect and disseminate information on activities, programs and essential services available to minorities in the State of Nevada;
3. Study the:
  - (a) Availability of employment for minorities in this State, and the manner in which minorities are employed;
  - (b) Manner in which minorities can be encouraged to start and manage their own businesses successfully; and
  - (c) Availability of affordable housing, as defined in [NRS 278.0105](#), for minorities;
4. In cooperation with the Nevada Equal Rights Commission, act as a liaison to inform persons regarding:
  - (a) The laws of this State that prohibit discriminatory practices; and
  - (b) The procedures pursuant to which aggrieved persons may file complaints or otherwise take action to remedy such discriminatory practices;
5. To the extent practicable, strive to create networks within the business community between businesses that are owned by minorities and businesses that are not owned by minorities;
6. Analyze the information provided in the employment plans and reports for a redevelopment project submitted pursuant to [NRS 279.6093](#), [279.6097](#) and [279.60993](#);
7. Advise the Governor on matters relating to minorities and of concern to minorities; and
8. Recommend proposed legislation to the Governor.

### **Subcommittee Purpose and Direction**

The purpose of each subcommittee will be to work independently of the full body in support of the overall mission and objectives of the Commission. The subcommittees will also be charged with the responsibility of bringing to the full body a topic to be included as part of the Commission's legislative agenda. Subcommittees may meet monthly to monitor progress and/or to adjust priorities.

The Commission has identified the following subcommittees:

- Workforce Development
- Economic & Business Development
- Housing
- Healthcare
- Legislative
- K-12 Education
- Higher Education

DRAFT

## The Year in Review

### Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs (NCMA) and NCMA Academy

Each subcommittee worked diligently throughout 2023 building upon the groundwork laid, from 2022. With a combination of changes in leadership to five, newly appointed Commissioners, the Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs (NCMA) exceeded several milestones in accordance with NCMA's mission and direction.

Collectively, we aligned our subcommittees to focus on the necessities to reduce constraint and help eliminate the challenges based in our minority communities. Through these efforts, we also established our NCMA Academy which was created to provide outreach in partnership with community liaisons, state and federal agencies, and various organizations which have similar missions and initiatives. We have had three successful outreach sessions with large community participation and interaction with a goal of four to six NCMA Academies in 2024. In 2023 we concluded with the following three sessions:

- Northern Nevada Outreach Launch discussions focused on the Northern Nevada and Rural communities' pain points. Some of those in attendance were as follows:
  - Small Business Administration (SBA)
  - Nevada Small Business Development Center
  - Reno Airport Liaison
  - Community Leaders from Rural Nevada
  - Office of Small Business Advocacy
  - Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce
  - Washoe County Sheriff
  - Northern Nevada International Center
  - Latino Research Center
  - UNR's Multicultural Center
  - University Center of Economic Development, UNR
  - Truckee Meadows Community College, Office of Equity and Diversity
  - Washoe County School District, Office of Equity and Diversity
- Economic Development and Legislative Subcommittee Panel and Roundtable
  - Over 50 community partners and individuals in attendance
    - Most notable, the Office of Small Business and Advocacy (OSBA)
- Affordable Housing and Healthcare Subcommittees – Panel and Roundtable:
  - Volunteers in Medicine of Southern Nevada (VMSN)
  - Neighborhood Housing Services of Southern Nevada (NHSSN)
  - Nevada Housing Division – LIHTC
  - Secretary of State – Nevada Lockbox

With the influx of residents moving into Nevada, one of our concentrations and concerns has been the affordability of housing. Our Housing Subcommittee's initiatives have been spent looking to address the substantial shortage, and particularly the effects it is having on our minority communities. This subcommittee is researching statewide initiatives like the Home Means Nevada Fund, Welcome Home Community Housing Fund, and government programs like Emergency Rental Assistance to assist in the

disparity. The subcommittee advocates for innovative construction techniques, mixed-use developments, and supportive housing programs to tackle homelessness.

One of our challenges identified within the Workforce Subcommittee is Nevada's difficulty in continuing to develop a workforce with the skills necessary to satisfy the diversity of firms interested in expanding or relocating to the state. To address these concerns, the Commission partnered with various organizations such as Workforce Connections, College of Southern Nevada, University of Nevada Las Vegas, Governor's Office of Economic Development, the Urban Chamber of Commerce, among others, to provide a community-based perspective for challenges in Nevada's workforce.

The Commission's Economic Development Subcommittee worked to address certification processes for government and state contracting, offer resources and guidance to address the gap, and provide opportunities. Meanwhile, NCMA's Legislative Subcommittee has been proactive in engaging the Commission to discuss which Bill Draft Request (BDR) to present to the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) for the 2025 Legislative Session.

Our Healthcare Subcommittee narrowed their focus to uncovering the needs of some of our most vulnerable residents - adults with disabilities. The subcommittee's findings reveal significant challenges faced by this population, including higher rates of depression (41%), weight gain (39%), smoking (25%), diabetes (15%), and heart disease. With 742,257 adults in Nevada experiencing disabilities, constituting 30% of the adult population, the subcommittee highlighted the urgency of addressing these issues.

Despite the state's diverse population, there are ongoing issues with equitable representation for minority students and faculty, which was uncovered by the Education Subcommittee. Furthermore, the underrepresentation of minorities among full-time faculty, lower graduation rates for minority students, and insufficient support for multicultural centers are notable concerns. The subcommittee's analysis highlights the struggles faced in implementing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DE&I) efforts in 2023. Chronic underfunding and inadequate support for multicultural centers underscore the need for a genuine commitment to fostering a culture of diversity and inclusion at all levels of higher education.

As we delve into 2024, the Commission will continue its outreach and advocacy activities and initiatives; in particular, there will be a focus and emphasis on our rural communities and Northern Nevada. We look forward to the continuation of our NCMA Academy, its development and growth, and the positive impact it will continue to have on our minority community.

Gabriela Wyett, Chair

## Workforce Development Subcommittee

### Member:

- Commissioner Nic Steele (Subcommittee Chair)

**Overview:** Workforce development matters. Whether it is to reduce the workforce shortage, strengthen educational outcomes, and grow or diversify the economy, all roads lead to workforce development. The road to economic prosperity runs through Nevada and the work being done by so many organizations and communities to help drive a more resilient and ready workforce.

Workforce Development has no barriers, it is integrated in Nevada’s K-12 schools, higher education system, business and industry, and overlaps with other critical social services, such as transportation, childcare and affordable housing. When we think about how to lift families out of poverty and help Nevadans on a successful path it means access to meaningful employment that brings financial independence, purpose, and confidence. Workforce development is the policy tool that drives long-term transformational change for families that builds up entire communities.

Industry employment vastly ranges between Nevada’s two metropolitan areas. Leisure and hospitality are the main industries in Las Vegas, comprising over 25 percent of total employment. Trade, transportation, and utilities are the main industries in Reno-Sparks, accounting for 22 percent of total employment. Construction, mining, and financial activities fared well in Las Vegas and Reno both pre and post pandemic. The industries that experienced the most growth in the past five years were construction in Las Vegas (grew over 30 percent) and manufacturing in Reno (grew 45 percent).

The challenge Nevada continues to face is developing a workforce with the skills necessary to continue satisfying the diversity of firms interested in expanding or relocating to the state. To address these concerns, the Commission partnered with various organizations such as Workforce Connections, College of Southern Nevada, University of Nevada Las Vegas, Governor’s Office of Economic Development, the Urban Chamber of Commerce, among others, to provide a community-based perspective for challenges in Nevada’s workforce.

**Analysis and Recommendations:** The Commission aligns its analysis and recommendations with the [Governor’s Office of Workforce Innovation 2023 Annual Report & Strategic Plan](#). Recommendations in the report stress the need to (1) Convene and Collaborate to Increase Community Engagement, (2) Identify Best Practices with Data-Driven Solutions, and (3) Implement programming that builds a Nevada that works for everyone.

Building out a diverse workforce is an intentional exercise that goes beyond ensuring workforce demographics are reflective of the population. It should include a deliberate focus on cultivating spaces where all voices in the region are welcomed and embraced as a crucial part of the success and economic viability of the region. To do so requires a multi-pronged, coordinated approach to connecting organizations involved in the procurement of companies generating the workforce opportunities (“demand”), with organizations embedded in the various communities across the state that are often left outside of the normal workforce development programs to satisfy the continuing need for employees (“supply”).



## Commission Activities:

- a. Monitoring the launch of our region's inaugural Microbusiness Summit Resource Fair
  - a. Partner: Workforce Connections
  - b. Participation: Commissioner Steele will be a panelist
  - c. Description: The event will connect microbusinesses in Southern Nevada with essential resources and opportunities to foster economic growth in the region. GoDaddy is the founding sponsor of the summit, recognizing the value of highlighting microbusinesses and their contribution to the local economy.

The long-term impact of the Microbusiness Summit will be to accelerate economic growth in Southern Nevada. As microbusinesses become established and grow, they will create jobs and generate revenue, which will boost the local economy. This, in turn, will attract more businesses to the area and further stimulate economic growth. The summit's goal is to ensure that this economic growth is inclusive and benefits all members of the community.

The summit will provide microbusinesses with the following tools and resources:

- i. Networking opportunities with other microbusiness owners and experts
- ii. Educational workshops on topics such as marketing, finance, and legal compliance
- iii. Access to capital and other financial resources
- iv. One-on-one consultations with business advisors

- b. Nevada State University Leadership Academy
  - a. Description: Nevada State Leadership Academy (NSLA) is composed of two micro credential programs: the Supervisor Bootcamp and the Leadership Academy. Both programs utilize an employer-driven model of curriculum development and allow participants to add several specialty leadership areas to tailor the experience to their needs and interests.

Micro credentials provide competency-based recognition that allows a student to demonstrate mastery of a specific skill in a short-course format. Nevada State micro credentials are grounded in research and best practice and designed to be personalized, flexible, and performance based.

They offer a unique suite of stackable certificates and credentials, grounded in research and best practices, to equip your supervisors and leaders with the skills they need to thrive in today's dynamic workplace. Choose from applicable programs such as **Essential Skills for Supervisors**, and **Fundamentals of Leadership**, or delve deeper with **Leading with Emotional IQ** and **Leading Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**. Learning modules are designed to be personalized, flexible, and performance based.

To learn more about NSLA programming, view our [information sheet](#) and [recruitment flyer](#).

- c. Capital Readiness Program
  - a. Partner: College of Southern Nevada, Access Community Capital, and Urban Chamber of Commerce
  - b. Participation: Key organizer of the program
  - c. Description: The Silver State Capital Readiness Consortium comprised of Access Community Capital, the College of Southern Nevada, and the Urban Chamber of Commerce, was one of 43 awardees across the country tasked with preparing

underserved entrepreneurs to secure capital, in part through operating robust business incubator and accelerator services. The primary purpose is to create pathways for underserved populations in Nevada to reach the many federal and state programs offering economic and workforce development opportunities.

The Nevada Business Accelerator is an economic development initiative borne from the joint efforts of the member organizations of the Silver State Consortium. The mission is to increase economic inclusion and empowerment in the Nevada region by providing customized analysis, resources, and funding to accelerate the growth of scalable socially and economically disadvantaged (SEDI)-owned businesses. Our focus is on serving scalable, underserved SEDI-owned businesses in partnership with targeted regional and national stakeholders aligned around the shared mission of accelerating business development.

Programming will build entrepreneurial skills, peer networks, and access to critical funding – with an emphasis on serving communities in Southern Nevada, rural areas, and tribal regions where systemic barriers to securing loans and investments have been especially challenging. Offerings will include peer support groups, customized curriculum teaching financial management and business operations, technical assistance regarding public and private procurement processes, guidance with expanding into global markets, future-focused content on sustainability and innovation, and introductions to capital providers. To maximize accessibility, programming will be delivered through in-person workshops as well as virtual courses in seven different languages.

<http://nvcapitalreadiness.org/>

- d. United States Department of Labor and Transportation (USDOL and USDOT) roundtable
  - a. Partner: United States Department of Labor, United States Department of Transportation, Brightline West, Workforce Connections
  - b. Discussion centered on how the Biden-Harris Administration’s Investing in America agenda is creating good union jobs in the Las Vegas region and the opportunity to build equitable pathways to these jobs for all communities. The Administration has made a historic \$2 trillion dollars in investments in our nation’s infrastructure, manufacturing, and clean energy. USDOL and USDOT are working to ensure these investments create pathways for all communities, particularly underserved communities, to have access to workforce opportunities and wealth creation.
  - c. Learned more about infrastructure investments that will impact the southern Nevada community, specifically, the Brightline West High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail System Project.
- e. Monitoring impact of Trade Schools in Nevada
  - a. Description: The four-year college degree was the dream. For many, it still is. But you’d be surprised by the shift in thinking these days. While four-year college enrollment more than doubled since 1970, it’s dipped over the last 10 years, more during the pandemic.

Two-year trade schools, meanwhile, are seeing huge increases in enrollment. In 2022, construction students grew 19%, mechanics and repair students by 11%, precision and production students by 17% and culinary students saw a 13% growth.

- b. COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN NEVADA
  - i. The College of Southern Nevada is often utilized as a pathway towards a traditional university education, but it also offers over 180 trade programs for students: ranging anywhere from certifications to two-year degrees. There are four major industry sectors, hospitality, culinary, tourism, advanced manufacturing, healthcare, logistics.
- c. SOUTHERN NEVADA TRADES HIGH SCHOOL
  - i. An independent and free charter school focusing on construction, carpentry, and home building. They also offer the academic and college ready-ness curriculum that a traditional high school would. But, unlike traditional high schools, students can likely find a job in the construction trades upon graduation. The school offers students the opportunity to work right out of high school, and they can pay for college and not graduate with a lot of debt, or they can go straight into the trades."
- d. Northern Nevada's Lyon County School District
  - i. has dramatically expanded their trade programs in their schools within the last few years.
- e. Opportunities
  - i. The College of Southern Nevada just built a center for advanced manufacturing, in partnership with the City of Henderson and Haas Automation.
- f. Workforce Talent Pipeline Summit
  - a. Partner: Workforce Connections and Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance
  - b. Description: This event brings together employers and education providers to address the region's workforce needs. The Summit is designed to foster meaningful conversations between those who shape the demand for skilled workers and those who prepare individuals to meet those demands. Creating strong talent pipelines in key industries is critical for Southern Nevada's economic success. Events such as the Workforce Talent Pipeline Summit give local business leaders a platform to bring forward challenges and allow them to connect meaningfully with policymakers and educators about potential solutions.
  - c. Solution:
    - i. Talent Pipeline Dashboard
      1. A new regional talent pipeline dashboard tool currently under development by data analytics firm Applied Analysis in partnership with the Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation. The dashboard is a first-of-its-kind online database of workforce development and higher education programs in the region designed to help business owners envision the region's future talent pipeline.

The dashboard will allow business owners and employers to search for an occupation or industry and receive a report highlighting both the currently available workforce for that occupation along with insights into the number of students currently enrolled in related programs. The tool also allows employers access to detailed information about the region's training programs, and to connect with providers.

LVGEA and Workforce Connections are requesting the public's assistance in populating the new talent pipeline dashboard with real time information. Any local companies or institutions that offer training or education programs **can submit their information** to be included in the dashboard.

2. PROPOSAL

- a. Recommend that Applied Analysis and GOWINN take the dashboard further and create tangible connections to the opportunities. For example, the dashboard can have links to the employer HR centers and agencies responsible for placing the jobs identified in the dashboard.

DRAFT

## Economic Development Subcommittee

### Member:

- Commissioner Anable Navarro (Subcommittee Chair)

**Overview:** The NCMA Subcommittee on Economic Development is committed to fostering opportunities for minority businesses, especially addressing the challenges faced by immigrant minorities. A key issue is their lack of familiarity with the certification process for minority-owned businesses and the associated advantages, particularly in securing government contracts at the state Level.

To address this gap, the subcommittee is actively working to provide resources and guidance, empowering immigrant minorities with the knowledge needed for successful certification. Collaborating with the NevadaSBDC, through workshops and outreach programs, they aim to demystify the process and highlight the tangible benefits, ultimately creating a more inclusive business environment.

**Analysis and Recommendations:** The Commission aligns its analysis and recommendations with the Governor's office of Economic Development. Working closely in partnership with the Nevada APEX Accelerator Program, Office of Entrepreneurship and the Emerging Small Business Office by empowering them with tools to develop and grow.

### Commission Activities:

- On September 22, 2023, SBA Administrator Isabella Guzman led an insightful webinar addressing critical aspects of the 8a Program. During the session, she underscored the program's ongoing availability and urged small businesses to leverage available resources for effective navigation in government contracting.

Because of the webinar, key changes were announced in the SBA certification process. Administrator Guzman emphasized the need for a narrative detailing social disadvantage, assuring participants of the confidentiality of submitted information under the Federal Act. Changes included a streamlined certification process with a 60 to 90-day timeframe, and an option for appeal within a 30-day window for additional details. Ongoing updates, temporary closure of the certification website. The process and information were promised to be accessible under the SBA/government contracting section, reflecting a commitment to transparency in the certification process.

- City of Las Vegas "Batteries included Youth Development program Entrepreneur week".
- Nevada Hispanic Microbusiness Initiative
- Junta comunitaria – United Way Hispanic Center
- SBA – Isabela Guzman – 8a program details
- NX Level – master Class, 11 weeks, 3 hrs. per session
- Meeting with Vegas PBS

## Housing Subcommittee

### Member:

- Commissioner Demetrius Ware (Subcommittee Chair)

### Affordable Housing

**Overview:** Presently, there is a substantial shortage of affordable housing in Nevada, amounting to an approximate deficit of 118,000 units. A considerable proportion of households have been affected by this scarcity, particularly minorities in our densely populated metropolitan regions Las Vegas and Reno. Because of factors including high population growth and supply, housing costs have been steadily increasing, becoming unaffordable for many Nevadans. Many minorities are encountering difficulties in identifying suitable and economically feasible housing, despite the burgeoning population. (Annual Housing Progress Report, 2022).

Nevada is employing a variety of strategic measures to tackle this housing crisis. The Home Means Nevada Fund, Welcome Home Community Housing Fund in Clark County and the Inexpensive Housing Trust Fund in Washoe County are examples of great programs providing assistance for the construction of affordable housing and home ownership, thereby fostering expansion within the housing industry. Furthermore, government programs such as Emergency Rental Assistance and the National Housing Trust Fund may also be utilized to provide vital support in bridging the gap. (Homeless Sensus Count ) (REYNOLDS, 2023).

Collaborative initiatives that involve the participation of state entities, developers, and community stakeholders have already demonstrated a degree of achievement. Conducting inquiries into innovative construction techniques with the aim of identifying solutions that are both economically viable and green. Maximizing land utilization through mixed income / mixed-use developments to promote economic and social integration; furthermore, in urban regions, repurposing older structures and vacant commercial premises is a feasible and cost-effective strategy. (Annual Housing Progress Report, 2022).

Rural areas throughout the State are considered due to their inclusion in the more extensive housing crisis. As a result, feasible and human-centered alternatives surface, including the establishment of small-scale construction endeavors with local small developers that employ locally sourced labor. One viable strategy for mitigating the issue of limited availability of secure and affordable accommodation in remote regions is to improve the infrastructure supporting manufactured homes and mobile home parks. Moreover, the promotion of remote work not only mitigates housing shortages but also fosters economic growth and potentially entices a greater number of individuals to choose rural residences (Stephen Brown).

To effectively tackle the affordable housing crisis in Nevada, it is imperative to adopt a comprehensive and strategic approach. Maintaining cooperation among stakeholders, developing progressive legislation, investigating sustainable building methods, and allocating

resources in an environmentally and economically sustainable manner are all crucial elements in establishing a more equitable housing environment. To ensure that all Nevada residents have access to secure, affordable, and sustainable housing in the future, it is critical to tailor solutions to the unique requirements of rural and urban communities.

### **Homeless and supportive housing**

Sustainable resolution of the issues of homelessness and inadequate housing in urban areas necessitates the implementation of cost-effective strategies. It has been demonstrated that the "Housing First" approach, which provides supportive, permanent lodging without stringent requirements, has been effective, yet the need for supportive and transitional housing remains an urgent need as homelessness increases sharply in Nevada. Of the approximately 16,251 experiencing homelessness up from 13,972 in 2021, 794 families with children represented an astounding 54% increase year over year resulting in the largest increase in over a decade. As per the findings of the National Alliance to End Homelessness, individuals who obtained housing through the Housing First program incurred \$32,000 in annual expenses than those who resided in shelters. Therefore, supportive housing programs must include affordable housing in addition to essential services such as job training and mental health counseling; this is consistent with this approach. It is recommended that, to maximize the efficacy of these endeavors, specific demographic groups be targeted, including minorities and individuals with chronic health conditions. (Homeless Sensus Count ) (REYNOLDS, 2023).

Rapid re-housing and eviction prevention programs are two examples of early intervention and preventative strategies that have demonstrated substantial effectiveness. The HUD Office of Policy Development and Research disclosed that in comparison to traditional shelters, the involvement of homeless families in rapid re-housing initiatives fell by 56%. The integration of resources and expertise through cross-sector cooperation yields tangible benefits such as enhanced efficiency and efficacy in problem-solving. The implementation of public awareness campaigns has greatly enhanced community engagement, support, and resource mobilization for such initiatives. Accordingly, streamlining the approval processes for affordable housing complexes also results in decreased construction expenses and bureaucratic barriers. The provided figures illustrate continuous efforts to address the housing demands of urban regions, as evidenced by the approximately 7,159-unit increase in the number of affordable units undergoing or planned construction. In aggregate, these approaches guarantee long-lasting stability and an improved standard of living for individuals impacted by supportive housing issues and homelessness in urban areas through the application of methodologies grounded in data and empirical evidence (Statistics., 2022).

### **Affordable housing market by the numbers**

To effectively navigate the Nevada housing market, prospective tenants must possess a comprehensive comprehension of the distinctions that exist between market rates and affordable rents. The market rate rents in the state are contingent upon the industry's current demand, which fluctuates in tandem with economic trends and supply. As market dynamics dictate, these

rental prices may eventually be subject to substantial upward pressures without regulatory supervision. Conversely, the primary focus of affordable housing initiatives executed by governmental or non-profit organizations is the provision of support to low-income households. Because income levels generally dictate eligibility for affordable housing, rent increases are frequently correlated with inflation and are characterized by their consistency and predictability.

A more thorough analysis of the information presented has the potential to result in a clearer understanding of the current situation regarding affordable housing in Nevada. AHPR regions accounted for 31,334 subsidized units in 2022, an increase of 2.9% on a marginal level compared to the previous year. Notwithstanding a reduction in the aggregate growth rate of subsidized units, Washoe County witnessed a noteworthy net gain of 18%, as opposed to Clark County's 3%. Notwithstanding the advancements achieved in the enlargement of Very Low-Income (VLI) lodgings, the housing assistance requirements of an estimated 246,570 impoverished households in Washoe and Clark Counties underscore the enduring necessity for affordable housing. Regarding the expansion of housing supply in the future, initiatives such as the Affordable Housing Trust Fund in Washoe County and the Welcome Home Community Housing Fund in Clark County inspire optimism. The forthcoming availability is expected to increase as a result of the 7,159 units currently in the AHPR pipeline, an undertaking supported by ARPA funds and dedicated personnel. To address the persistent imbalance between housing supply and demand in Nevada, it is imperative to promote collaboration among diverse administrative sectors and utilize housing choice vouchers as one of the available resources. This measure will promote greater equity in housing access for households with modest incomes.

As of the conclusion of 2022, the total number of affordable housing units in Nevada increased marginally, amounting to 31,334. In comparison to the previous year, 891 additional units were added because of the 2.9% expansion. In 2022, there were 8,576 additional units classified as Very Low Income (VLI) with the number of units increasing in metropolitan markets, Henderson, North Las Vegas, Las Vegas, and Reno. The unit counts of Clark County Unincorporated, Mesquite, and Sparks, conversely, all declined.

From 2022 to 2023 there has been an increase in affordable housing starts from 1137 to 1666 (financed using tax exempt bonds or tax credits), This expansion was primarily caused by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the Home Means Nevada Initiative, and the Welcome Home Community Housing Fund in Clark County. On the contrary, further endeavors encountered obstacles caused by COVID-19 protocols, disruptions in the supply chain, labor shortages, and inflation. In 2022, a total of eight restoration projects and eight new projects were successfully completed, resulting in the construction of approximately 900 additional units and the preservation of 39 existing apartments. With a total of 420 units and 59 senior residences, the Decatur & Alta development in Las Vegas represents the largest undertaking to date. Construction has been completed on this structure. The significant increase in available subsidies and aid, including Housing Choice Vouchers, played a role in maintaining the ratio of supported families to low-income families in Washoe and Clark Counties at a ratio of four to one. The



continued necessity for assistance in 2022 is demonstrated by the comparable number of over 21,000 households that maintained their eligibility for Emergency Rental Assistance, which is the same as the previous year.

By 2022, substantial regional collaboration persisted, with Clark County serving as a specific area of emphasis. The data mentioned above highlights the intricate characteristics of the Nevada housing market, offering valuable perspectives on the state's accomplishments and deficiencies in the affordable and market-rate housing domains. (Annual Housing Progress Report, 2022), (Statistics., 2022), (Fadali, 2021).

**Recommendation:** Addressing affordable housing requires a continued multi-faceted approach that combines financial investment, regulatory reform, collaborative partnerships, and a focus on sustainability. By pursuing these strategies, we can continue to make significant strides in addressing the pressing need for affordable housing and fostering more inclusive, equitable communities for all its citizens. Streamline regulatory processes by simplifying and expediting the approval processes for affordable housing developments to reduce construction costs and accelerate project timelines.

**Commission Activities:**

- 2023 Nevada Housing Coalition Annual Conference
- Cultivated relationship District 7 assemblyman Cameron Miller
- DBLITD Home ownership & educational Service

**Sources:**

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/80th2019/Bill/6091/Overview>

Annual Housing Progress Report. (2022).

Fadali. (2021). *Taking Stock 2020: 2020 Annual Affordable Apartment Survey*. Retrieved from Nevada Housing Division.

REYNOLDS, T. J. (2023). *STATE OF NEVADA*. DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS & INDUSTRY HOUSING DIVISION.

Statistics., U. B. (2022). *Local Area Unemployment Statistics*. Retrieved from

<https://www.bls.gov/lau/data.htm>

Stephen Brown, R. K. *The Nevada Housing Market*

## Healthcare Subcommittee

### Member:

- Commissioner Nina Gallagher (Subcommittee Chair)

Focus: Adults with disabilities

**Overview:** Adults with disabilities in Nevada experience health disparities and are more likely to have the following:

- Have depression by more than 41% than those without a disability.
- Gain weight by more than 39%
- Choose to smoke by more than 25%
- Have diabetes by 15%
- Have heart disease.

There are **742,257 adults in Nevada** who have a disability. This equals to 30% or about 1 in 3 adults in Nevada.

### **Disability Types**

1. Mobility: Serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs – 14%
2. Cognition: Serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions- 14%
3. Independent Living: Serious difficulty doing errands alone, such as visiting a doctor's office – 8%
4. Hearing: Deafness or serious difficulty hearing - 7%
5. Vision: Blind or serious difficulty seeing, or even when wearing glasses - 6%
6. Self-care: Difficulty dressing or bathing- 5%

Disability Healthcare costs:

- \$6 Billion per year, or up to 34% of the state's healthcare spending
- About \$14,225 per person with a disability

During the 2023 82nd Legislative session, Senate Bill (SB) 4 was passed which introduced an opportunity for the state of Nevada to expand the coverage options and population currently covered under the Senior and Disability Prescription (SRx/DRx) Program. With the passage of SB4 the current SRx/DRx program will be ending December 31, 2023, and the SRx/DRx Program will no longer cover subsidies up to \$37/month of Medicare Part D monthly premiums.

**Effective August 11, 2023** the SRx/DRx Program will no longer accept applications.

**Effective December 31, 2023** the SRx/DRx Program will end.

**Effective January 1, 2024**, all SRx/DRx Program members will be responsible to pay the full amount of their Medicare Part D plan monthly premium.

**Analysis and Recommendations:** Numerous programs and services are available in Nevada to support and address the needs of adults with disabilities. The commission recommends prioritizing programs that demonstrate a positive impact by decreasing the percentage of individuals with disabilities or improving their condition. Our goal is to provide programs that promote improvement rather than merely sustaining the problem.

**Commission Activities:**

- Collaborated with community leaders in the health sector to share information and explore new opportunities to assist adults with disabilities.
- Partnered with local community members, with a specific focus on senior primary health care, as a sizable proportion of those with disabilities in the state are senior citizens.
- Participated in various expos to disseminate information about resources available to this population.
- Engaged with medical professionals to gain additional insights into educational opportunities and services available for this demographic.

The Subcommittee will continue to communicate with community partners, health educators and state agencies like ADSD to further investigate and disseminate relevant information.

**Sources:**

Ref: Adults who qualify to use services.

<https://data.census.gov/mdat/#/search?ds=ACSPUMS1Y2022&cv=ucgid&rv=DIS&wt=PWGTP&g=795P200US3200101,3200102,3200103,3200401,3200402,3200403,3200404,3200405,3200408,3200409,3200410,3200411,3200412,3200413,3200414,3200415>

Ref: Adults with(out) health insurance.

<https://data.census.gov/mdat/#/search?ds=ACSPUMS1Y2022&cv=ucgid&rv=HICOV,DIS&wt=PWGTP&g=795P200US3200101,3200102,3200103,3200401,3200402,3200403,3200404,3200405,3200408,3200409,3200410,3200411,3200412,3200413,3200414,3200415>

Ref: Individuals who fall under the poverty level with disabilities

[https://data.census.gov/mdat/#/search?ds=ACSPUMS5Y2021&vv=\\*POVPIP&cv=ucgid&rv=DIS&wt=PWGTP&g=7950000US3200101,3200102,3200103,3200401,3200402,3200403,3200404,3200407,3200408,3200409,3200410,3200411,3200412,3200413](https://data.census.gov/mdat/#/search?ds=ACSPUMS5Y2021&vv=*POVPIP&cv=ucgid&rv=DIS&wt=PWGTP&g=7950000US3200101,3200102,3200103,3200401,3200402,3200403,3200404,3200407,3200408,3200409,3200410,3200411,3200412,3200413)

Ref: Data collected for ethnicity groups except Hispanics. Values in numbers and not percentages

[https://data.census.gov/mdat/#/search?ds=ACSPUMS5Y2021&cv=ucgid&rv=DIS\(1\),RAC1P&wt=PWGTP&g=7950000US3200101,3200102,3200103,3200401,3200402,3200403,3200404,3200407,3200408,3200409,3200410,3200411,3200412,3200413](https://data.census.gov/mdat/#/search?ds=ACSPUMS5Y2021&cv=ucgid&rv=DIS(1),RAC1P&wt=PWGTP&g=7950000US3200101,3200102,3200103,3200401,3200402,3200403,3200404,3200407,3200408,3200409,3200410,3200411,3200412,3200413)

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/InterimCommittee/REL/Document/8177>

## Legislative Subcommittee

### Member:

- Commissioner Juanny Romero (Subcommittee Chair)

**Overview:** Under the recommendation of the Commission's former Vice Chair and Chair of the Legislative subcommittee, Commissioner Myisha Williams-Boyce, two BDRs, unfortunately missed the submission to the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) for consideration in 2022 for the upcoming 2023 session. However, the first BDR for Commission Support Staff is requesting the appropriation of funding for a part-time, potentially full-time position that provides support and assistance to complete tasks on behalf of the Commission. The additional support would streamline operation efficiency within the Commission and reduce the current workload burden of one designated employee/ management analyst.

The second BDR for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) Contract Designation cites the Harry Reid International Airport Disparity study debriefing at the Clark County Commissioner's Chambers on 7/26 /2018 had reported substantial disparities in use of minority contractors with Harry Reid International Airport contracts. There is interest within the Commission regarding the State's ability to designate contract opportunities for DBEs to help address the disparity.

**Analysis and Recommendations:** We are finalizing the two BDR's which have been allocated to NCMA, to submit to LCB before its official date of September 1, 2023, for our next legislative session in 2025.

### Commission Activities:

- Meeting with Hope for the Kids Charity
- Meeting with EmployNV
- Meeting with Progressive Democrat for New American Leaders
- Meeting with AAPI Democrat Caucus
- Meeting with Assemblyman Dr. David Orentlicher
- Meeting with Legislative Counsel Bureau
- Meeting with Nevada Commission on Mentoring
- Meeting with Send Network on Church Planting
- Attended roundtable discussion with Senator Cortez Masto
- Attended Public Policy class at UNLV

## K-12 Education Subcommittee

### Member:

- Commissioner Lance West (Subcommittee Chair)

**Analysis and Recommendations:** We need to continue community conversations, virtual and in-person, conversations invite feedback and reflection on the draft portrait. [Nevada Future of Learning Network \(nvfutureoflearning.org\)](https://nvfutureoflearning.org)

Need school-level research and development based on the NV Future of Learning Network. School teams engage in a design process to test, implement, and evolve the portrait within their learning communities.

### Commission Activities:

#### NV DOE Report -

[https://doe.nv.gov/Boards\\_Commissions\\_Councils/Boards\\_and\\_Commissions/Home/](https://doe.nv.gov/Boards_Commissions_Councils/Boards_and_Commissions/Home/)

English Language Arts Instructional Materials Submission-

Nevada Instructional Materials Review Process

[https://doe.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/ndedoenvgov/content/Boards\\_Commissions\\_Councils/State\\_Board\\_of\\_Education/2023/March/316/6a\\_EnglishLanguageArts-InstructionalMaterialsSubmission\\_mdr3.1.2023\\_PM.pdf](https://doe.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/ndedoenvgov/content/Boards_Commissions_Councils/State_Board_of_Education/2023/March/316/6a_EnglishLanguageArts-InstructionalMaterialsSubmission_mdr3.1.2023_PM.pdf)

Rubrics looked at alignment to standards and social justice. Private School Analysis of Primrose School of Las Vegas (two campuses), Clark County, Approve the licensing for a two-year period for:

- Bishop Manogue Catholic School, Washoe County
- Noble Collegiate Academy: NCA Learning Center & Baby University, Clark County
- The Wharton School (Online), Clark County Approve the licensing for a four-year period for:
- Las Vegas Day School, Clark County, Bishop Manogue Catholic High School, Washoe County,

[https://doe.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/ndedoenvgov/content/Boards\\_Commissions\\_Councils/State\\_Board\\_of\\_Education/2023/March/316/Later\\_HS\\_Start\\_Times\\_Support\\_Articles.pdf](https://doe.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/ndedoenvgov/content/Boards_Commissions_Councils/State_Board_of_Education/2023/March/316/Later_HS_Start_Times_Support_Articles.pdf)

#### Clark County Clark County School District

- Discussion by the Attendance Zone Advisory Commission to reassign students in Grades K-5 from Robert and Sandy Ellis Elementary School to Shirley and Bill Wallin Elementary School.
- Discussion by the Attendance Zone Advisory Commission to reassign incoming 9th-grade students each year and newly enrolled students in the areas as described, from Coronado High School to Green Valley High School
- Discussion by the Attendance Zone Advisory Commission to reassign students in Grades K-5, living in the area as described, from Indian Springs Elementary School to James H. Bilbray and William and Mary Scherkenbach Elementary Schools
- Discussion by the Attendance Zone Advisory Commission to reassign incoming 6th-grade students each year and newly-enrolled students in the area as described, from Indian Springs Middle School to Edmundo “Eddie” Escobedo Sr. Middle School
- Discussion by the Attendance Zone Advisory Commission to reassign newly enrolled students in the area each year as described from Indian Springs High School to Centennial High School
- Discussion by the Attendance Zone Advisory Commission to reassign incoming ninth grade students each year and newly enrolled students to the area as described, from Arbor View High School to Centennial High School

**Washoe** [Washoe County School District](#)

- legislation related to Nevada Revised Statutes 392.4601 through 392.472 related to student behavior and discipline <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/nrs-392.html>
- Update on staff trainings on addressing student behavior and the implementation of Care Solace <https://www.caresolace.org/>
- The Board of Trustees approved the agreement with Centegix to install crisis alert equipment and software in Washoe County School District schools and administration buildings [Eureka County School District](#)

DRAFT

## Higher Education Subcommittee

### Member:

- Commissioner Jonathon Lau (Subcommittee Chair)

**Overview:** While Nevada boasts many ethnicities and a diverse population and is a state with no ethnic majority, this diversity hasn't fully translated into its higher education system. Despite positive strides, the state confronts ongoing challenges in ensuring equitable representation and success for its minority students and faculty. Though minorities comprise about a third of Nevada's undergraduate population, they are vastly underrepresented among full-time faculty, that make up only a quarter. While commendable initiatives aim to bridge this gap, graduation rates for minority students remain concerningly lower. Financial burdens, inadequate academic preparation, and limited access to guidance contribute to these discrepancies. Furthermore, multicultural centers, intended to serve as havens for student groups, often lack sufficient support and funding, leaving students feeling isolated, disengaged, and unwelcome on their school's campuses.

**Analysis and Recommendations:** Nevada's 2023 diversity, equity, and inclusion (DE&I) efforts in higher education have faced challenges. Despite campuses boasting resources for their highly diverse student body, multicultural centers that are crucial in the support of the minority population on campuses remain chronically underfunded and inadequately supported. Staff are constantly rotating to the point of some of the campuses having extended periods of open leadership positions or no faculty at all to operate the center and its functions. This is particularly concerning considering all Nevada colleges and universities have substantial minority populations, ranging from 45% to 75%. Leadership needs a genuine concern to better the culture of diversity and inclusion across all facets of higher education. This goes beyond multicultural centers and requires leadership commitment at every level. This will create a lasting point to adequately support these multicultural centers, the students, and the faculty for the long-term. By implementing these recommendations, Nevada can move towards a higher education system that truly reflects its diverse population and empowers all students to thrive.

### Commission Activities:

- Participated in monthly Equity Task Force Committee meetings to discuss how Washoe County could better motivate and prepare students for success going to college.
- Attended University of Nevada, Reno Multicultural events (Lunar New Years, Powwow, Holi Hai, API night market, API mural unveiling, Unity Graduations, Pack Midtown, ribbon skirt making).
- Attended Northern Nevada Diversity Summit at the University of Nevada, Reno with the theme "Effective Inclusion: Understanding & Supporting Experiences of Belonging".
- Attended Freedom to Learn Teach-In where students and community members shared experiences and ideas about education censorship and bans on the accurate teaching of US history.

- Attended the University of Nevada, Reno's State of the University Address.

DRAFT