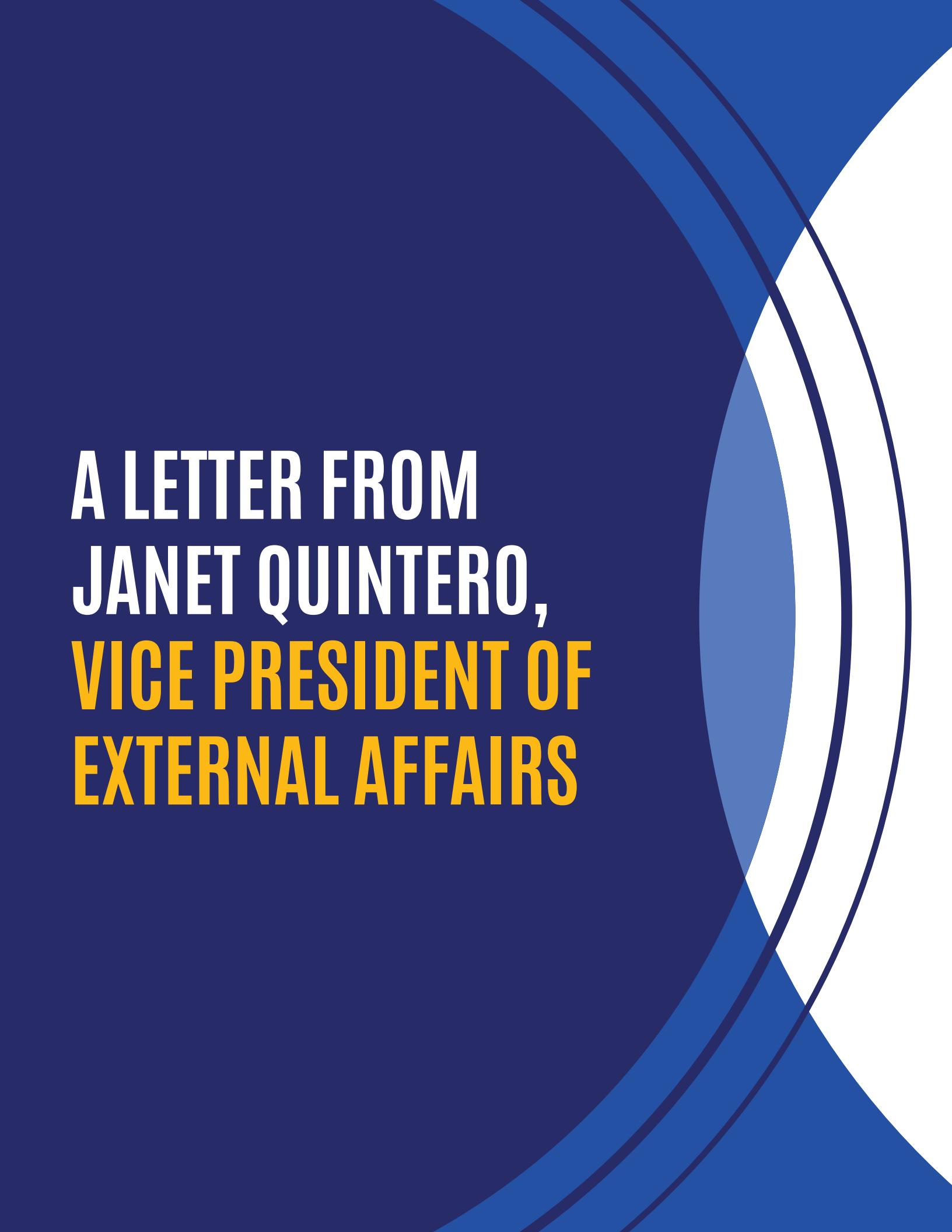




UNITED WAY
Southern Nevada

LEGISLATIVE REPORT 2025



A LETTER FROM JANET QUINTERO, VICE PRESIDENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Dear Colleagues,

The conclusion of the 83rd Legislative Session marks a historic feat for Nevada's nonprofit sector and United Way of Southern Nevada.

This session, our External Affairs team vastly scaled UWSN's partnerships, brand recognition, and impact with key leaders during our state's biennial policy-making process.

Most notably in partnership with Nevada GrantLab and Assemblymember Howard Watts, we introduced and unanimously passed Assembly Bill 442, legislation which takes the first state in reforming the reimbursement model and lengthy timelines for state and federal grants administration. Our team worked tirelessly for over a year prior to the start of the session to workshop ideas, solicit feedback from legislators, and organize the sector around this bill and other key priorities. The outcome led to, for the first time, a sector-wide slate of nonprofit legislative priorities designed to amplify the sector's voice and push for changes needed to service our communities best.

To accomplish this work, our team worked early and strategically to engage elected officials and state agencies. Prior to the start of the legislative session, our team met with legislative leadership in both chambers as well as key committee leadership. In total, we engaged in 24 pre-session 1:1 meetings with legislators and various additional touchpoints through policy summits and external community events.

Once the legislature began, our team went right to work in engaging legislators and nonprofits: 62 1:1 meetings, organizing over 100 nonprofit leaders for Nonprofit Day at the Legislature including a successful press conference showcasing our legislative priorities, co-hosting a Northern Nevada Nonprofit Community Forum with the Nonprofit Legislative Caucus, a presentation on the federal funding freeze to the Joint Committee on Health and

Human Services, and so much more. In addition, we strengthened our partnerships with agencies across the state government by being in conversation with 13 agencies on ways both nonprofits and agencies could strengthen public-private partnerships.

We are proud to report AB 442 is now law in the state of Nevada and UWSN will maintain its role as the leading nonprofit administrator of the Nevada Ready! Pre-K program. As a result of the above efforts, state agencies are now required to communicate written notices and data to nonprofits on delayed payments and work with the Office of Federal Assistance to reform grant administration procedures. Moreover, UWSN successfully lobbied to retain its role in coordinating with private pre-K centers and applauds the \$12 million investment into Early Childhood Literacy and Readiness.

As we begin the interim, our team is ready to replicate successes and innovate new ideas to further scale our work. Already in the development are additional policy summits, a comprehensive data-driven response to ongoing federal funding challenges, and identifying additional opportunities to partner with public and private agencies. We look forward to continuing working together to achieve our shared vision for improving lives in Southern Nevada.

Thank you,



Janet Quintero

Vice President of External Affairs
United Way of Southern Nevada

GUIDING VALUES AND RUBRIC

UWSN advocates for all sectors of our community through a Community-Based Policy Framework. As with all of our work, our policy areas strengthen support for our workforce, students in the Pre-K through 12th-grade pipeline, Limited English Proficient (LEP) Nevadans, and nonprofits in the region that directly service these communities.

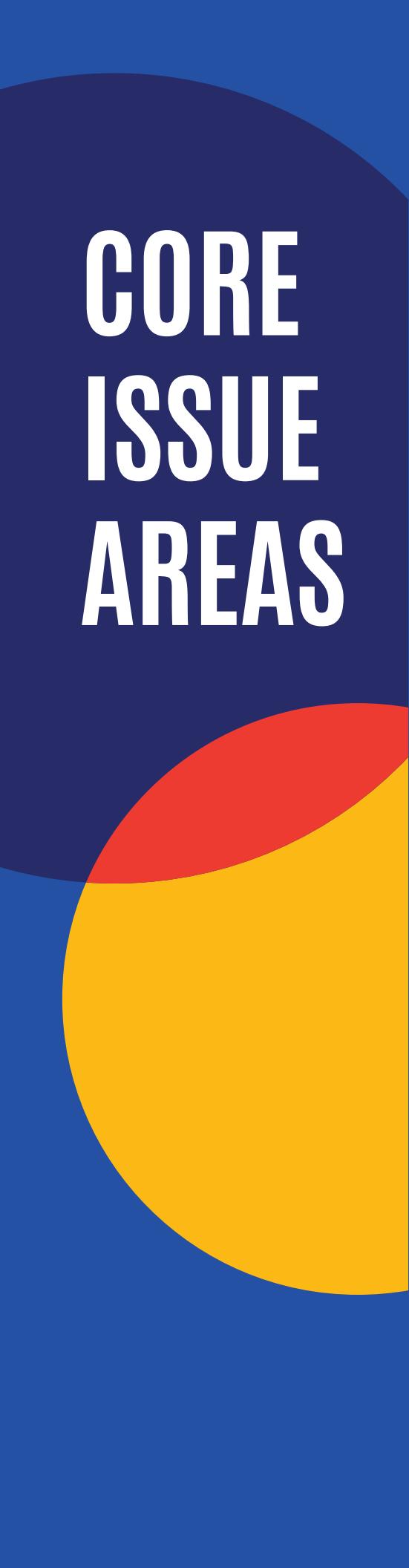
At the state legislature, our External Affairs team worked around the clock to inform and propose equitable solutions to the most pressing challenges facing Southern Nevada – and we are excited to share our advocacy efforts led to the passage of historic legislation for our community.

To achieve the key legislative goals described in this report, the organization worked with our internal staff and Public Policy Committee, Nevada GrantLab, and a network of business, nonprofit, and community leaders. Together, we identified policy priorities and implemented strategies that helped us all step up to advocate for the community we live in and serve. To facilitate this, we developed a rubric¹ to build strategic partnerships and lend the nonprofit perspective to legislation within our key policy areas.

For United Way of Southern Nevada, the broad reach of our organization increases the importance of advocacy efforts. UWSN's service area includes Clark County, which holds 72% of the total state

population and is represented by a significant proportion of elected offices at state and federal levels. Approximately three-quarters of both the Nevada State Assembly and State Senate represent communities UWSN partners with. In recognizing this important responsibility, our team worked early in the 2023-2025 interim to meet and engage legislators on the work of United Way and our funded partners. In doing so, our team built critical political relationships allowing us to hit the ground running at the start of the 2025 legislative session and key to the success of our legislative priorities.

¹ Attached in the appendix



CORE ISSUE AREAS

Nonprofit Sector

As a long-time convener of Southern Nevada's nonprofits, our current environment necessitates a unified voice to support the growth and stability of the sector. In partnership with Nevada GrantLab and the Nonprofit Legislative Caucus, Nevada's nonprofits for the first time introduced a priority slate of legislation to streamline public-private partnerships. Through active organizing efforts, including the signature Nonprofit Day at the Legislature, we amplified the impact of nonprofits and the communities we serve to pass critical legislation.

Student Success

Since 2018, UWSN and the Nevada Department of Education have assisted more than 5,000 students attain the education they deserve through Nevada Ready! Pre-K program. The program, which provides full-tuition scholarships for eligible families for full-day Pre-K programming, is essential to growing our workforce, providing strong educational foundations for our youngest learners, and bringing down childcare costs. Our External Affairs team continues to advocate for the program's expansion to serve more Nevada families.

Language Access

Southern Nevada is one of the most culturally and linguistically diverse regions in the country. As our community continues to grow and evolve, we continue seeing a stark need to ensure government and community services are equitable and accessible to Nevadans from all walks of life. United Way is a leader and incubator of language access initiatives targeted toward expanding resources or technical assistance to public-facing entities in our state. We are proud to support efforts in the legislature to increase language access services for limited-English Proficient and Nevadans with disabilities.

Community Resiliency

Centering the direct and future needs of our community underpins every aspect of our work and advocacy efforts. To build a Southern Nevada with a stronger economy and quality of life, our state needs creative solutions to solve the issues we face. We support legislation that effectively convenes nonprofit, business, and government leaders to coalesce around initiatives to foster equitable growth and opportunities for all Nevadans.

SIGNATURE LEGISLATION

BY CORE ISSUE AREA

NONPROFIT POLICY

AB 442

Sponsored by
Assemblymember Watts

AB 442 requires states agencies to notify in writing, to the extent practicable, the reason for grant reimbursement delays after 30 days of receiving a proper invoice. The bill also authorizes the Office of Federal Assistance to catalogue existing advance payment procedures and publish best practices within the State Plan for Maximizing Federal Assistance.

Vote: 42 - 0 (Assembly); 21 - 0 (Senate)

AB 197

Sponsored by
Assemblymember Backus

AB197 requires governmental entities to keep confidential certain personal information regarding donors, members, or volunteers of nonprofit organizations. It prohibits, with certain exceptions, a governmental entity from requesting or releasing such information. This provision aims to safeguard the identities of those who contribute to or support nonprofit causes, ensuring that their information is not disclosed without their consent.

Vote: 41-1 (Assembly), 21-0 (Senate)

AB 254

Sponsored by
Assemblymember Mosca

Assembly Bill 254 establishes the Community Project Grant Program to support nonprofit organizations across the state. The bill allows nonprofits to enter a competitive grant application process for monies allocated by the Legislature.

Vote: No Action

AB 535

Sponsored by
Assembly Committee on Revenue

Assembly Bill 535 addresses the administration of sales and use tax exemptions for organizations established for religious, charitable, or educational purposes. The bill aims to revise existing provisions to ensure clarity and efficiency in the exemption process

Vote: 42-0 (Assembly), 21-0 (Senate)

SB 413

Sponsored by
Senator Cruz-Crawford

The bill appropriates funds to the Division of Emergency Management within the Office of the Military to administer the Nonprofit Security Grant Pilot Program to allow nonprofits to fund security and physical reinforcements for their organizations.

Vote: No Action.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION POLICY

AB 185

Sponsored by
Assemblymember Anderson

Assembly Bill 185 aims to expand access to licensed childcare by addressing zoning and homeowners' association (HOA) restrictions on home-based childcare facilities. AB185 prohibits unit-owners' associations in common-interest communities from banning the operation of licensed childcare facilities.

Vote: 32-10 (Assembly), 16-4 (Senate)

AB 358

Sponsored by
Speaker Yeager

Assembly Bill 358 appropriates funds to the United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra for the statewide implementation of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program.

Vote: No action

SB 58

Sponsored by
Nevada Department of Education

Senate Bill 58 expands access to state-funded prekindergarten programs by revising eligibility criteria and grant distribution methods.

Vote: No action

SB 146

Sponsored by
Senator Taylor

Senate Bill 146 funds to the United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra for the United Readers Program. This initiative aims to enhance early childhood literacy by providing free books to children from birth until kindergarten.

Vote: No action

SB 460

Sponsored by
Senator Cannizzaro

Senate Bill 460 revises provisions governing the Early Childhood Literacy and Readiness Account to expand access to pre-kindergarten programs for families of all income levels, contingent upon available funds, and allocates new funding for the construction of new childcare centers.

Vote: 38-4 (Assembly), 21 - 0 (Senate)

LANGUAGE ACCESS POLICY

AB 127

Sponsored by
Joint Interim Committee on Government Affairs

AB127 appropriate funds to the Office for New Americans within the Office of the Governor. These funds would provide grants to counties and cities to implement language access plans.

Vote: No action

AB 335

Sponsored by
Assemblymember Torres-Fossett

Assembly Bill 335 improves support for English learners (ELs) in public schools by requiring each school district superintendent to appoint an administrator dedicated to supporting English learners and mandating that all licensed teachers receive training in English language acquisition to better support EL students.

Vote: 41-0 (Assembly), 19-2 (Senate)

AB 367

Sponsored by
Joint Interim Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

Assembly Bill 367 is a comprehensive measure codifying language access services provided to voters with Limited English Proficiency or disability by the Secretary of State's office. The bill also funds a Language Access Coordinator within the office to carry out the provisions of the bill.

Vote: 41-0 (Assembly), 17-4 (Senate)

SB 115

Sponsored by
Senator Cruz-Crawford

Nevada Senate Bill 115 enhances bilingual education by establishing specific requirements and allows for school districts to offer financial incentives for bilingual educators.

Vote: 38 -4 (Assembly), 17-3 (Senate)

SB 188

Sponsored by
Senator Doñate

Nevada Senate Bill 188 addresses language access in healthcare settings for individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP) by mandating certain healthcare facilities and providers take reasonable steps to provide language assistance to LEP individuals under specific circumstances.

Vote: 35-7 (Assembly), 13-8 (Senate)

COMMUNITY RESILIENCY AND INVESTMENT POLICY

AB 226

Sponsored by
Assemblymember Mosca

Assembly Bill 226 requires corporations receiving tax abatements to submit to the Governor's Office of Economic Development a Community Benefits Agreement within two years of receiving approval of such credit.

Vote: 34 - 7 (Assembly), 19-2 (Senate)

AB 238

Sponsored by
Assemblymember Jauregui

Assembly Bill 238 enacts the Nevada Studio Infrastructure Jobs and Workforce Training Act by offering substantial tax incentives to attract production studios. The bill also stipulates provisions for a comprehensive Community Benefits Package outlining community investments by such studios.

Vote: 22-20 (Assembly), No Action (Senate)

AB 285

Sponsored by
Assemblymember Mosca

Assembly Bill 285 establishes the Nevada State Service Corps within the Department of Administration. The bill enhances workforce development and community service opportunities for young Nevadans by creating a program that engages them in meaningful service projects across the state.

Vote: No action

SB 132

Sponsored by
Senator Nguyen

Senate Bill 132 makes an appropriation to the Nevada Clean Energy Fund (NCEF) to secure and implement grants for qualified clean energy projects, supporting the expansion of clean energy infrastructure and initiatives across Nevada.

Vote: 36-6 (Assembly), 14-6 (Senate)

SB 220

Sponsored by
Senator Lange

Senate Bill 220 enacts the Nevada Film Infrastructure, Workforce Development, Education and Economic Diversification Act by offering substantial tax incentives to attract production studios. The bill also stipulates provisions for a comprehensive Community Benefits Package outlining community investments by such studios.

Vote: No action

SB 268

Sponsored by
Senator Flores*

Note: Bill was brought forwarded by UWSN-funded partner Future Smiles

Nevada Senate Bill 268 expands access to dental care by requiring health insurance policies to cover certain dental services provided by licensed dental hygienists without the supervision of a dentist, a practice common within nonprofit providers.

Vote: 42-0 (Assembly), 21-0 (Senate)

PREPARING FOR A LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Less than 6 months after the conclusion of the 82nd Legislative Session, our team began reimagining renewed objectives and a plan of action for the next session. The resulting objectives emerged as: positioning United Way of Southern Nevada as a policy leader through stronger political relationships and brand recognition, identifying and carrying sector-wide legislative priorities, and seeking appropriate funding from the legislature to continue signature programs. Below lists a series of key milestones or engagements that, while only a glimpse into the work of the External Affairs team, laid the groundwork for effective leadership in 2025.

September 2023

Nonprofit Legislative Session Debrief

UWSN hosted Assemblymembers Erica Mosca, Brian Hibbetts, former Senator Scott Hammond, and the Governor's Office of Economic Development or a nonprofit town hall event to debrief the challenges and success of the sector at the state legislature.

November 2023

Nonprofit Caucus Bus Tour

Organized by the Nonprofit Legislative Caucus, UWSN participated in a multi-site tour with legislators to showcase the sector's on-the-ground impact.

November 2023

Presentation to the Commission on School Funding

UWSN coordinated and led a presentation to the Commission on School Funding, the appointed body tasked with making

recommendations to the Legislature on the pupil-centered funding formula, on the need to expand Pre-K funding.

November 2023

Nevada GrantLab Study

In partnership with Nevada GrantLab, UWSN facilitated a conversation between nonprofit leaders on GrantLab's newly commissioned study finding the underfunded, under-resourced nature of the nonprofit sector in Southern Nevada

February - April 2024

Beginning meetings with Legislators

External Affairs team began to meet with legislative leadership and members of Interim Government Affairs and Education committees to introduce UWSN programs and workshop policy ideas. The policy brief Advance and Prompt Payment is developed in March.

April 2024

2024-2025 Policy Committee Meets for the First Time

The External Affairs team established a new slate of members for the internal Public Policy Committee from the business, research, and education sectors to workshop UWSN's policy agenda.

May 2024

Presentation to Interim Government Affairs

UWSN coordinated a presentation to Interim Government Affairs on our Language Access Grant Program and its impact on Southern Nevada.

August 2024

First Language Access Policy Summit

UWSN hosted the first statewide Language Access Summit at Las Vegas City Hall. The program featured a number of panels, training, and working sessions to co-create and devise language access policy.

August 2024

Launch of Democracy Fellowship

UWSN launched the Democracy Fellowship, a year-long civic engagement program educating high school students on community organizing and the legislative process.

September 2024

Connecting Candidates Forum

UWSN hosted its second biennial candidates forum with Democratic and Republican candidates running for office -- engaging community leaders, nonprofits, and future elected officials

November 2024

Nonprofit Caucus Summit

UWSN facilitated a Legislative 101 training

hosted by the Nonprofit Caucus Summit to expose and train nonprofits on the legislative process.

December 2025

United Voices Event

UWSN's Democracy Fellows hosted their capstone event, United Voices, bringing together legislators and nonprofit leaders to meet with over 50+ students to talk about education and youth-related issues.

January 2025

South Asian Legislative Town Hall

UWSN hosted a South Asian Town Hall in the Boyd Room with Assemblymembers D'Silva and Nadeem.

January 2025

Northern Nevada Nonprofit Community Forum

The Nonprofit Legislative Caucus and UWSN hosted a community forum for Northern Nevada nonprofits in Carson City for a series of trainings and presentations from legislators on the legislative process.

February 2025

NACFA Presentation

Nevada GrantLab and UWSN presented to the Nevada Advisory Council on Federal Assistance, composed of executive and legislative branch leaders, on Advance and Prompt Payment for endorsement consideration

February 2025

LEGISLATIVE SESSION BEGINS

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

FEBRUARY 2025

United Way Day at the Legislature

UWSN, in partnership with United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra, hosted United Way Day at the Legislature to push for shared, statewide funding priorities.

Philanthropy Day at the Legislature

UWSN, in partnership with the Moonridge Group, hosted Philanthropy Day at the Legislature -- convening over 30 philanthropists from across the state for panels and connections with elected officials.

Presentation on Federal Funding Freeze to the Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

In response to the Trump Administration's Executive Order temporarily freezing and/or terminating grants to nonprofits, UWSN was presented to a special joint meeting of the Committees on Health and Human Services to show its initial impacts on the sector.

MARCH 2025

Nonprofit Day at the Legislature

We convened over 100+ nonprofit leaders from across the state for the largest Nonprofit Day yet -- complete with full-day of connectivity, a widely-covered press conference, and meetings with elected officials to push forth sector-wide legislative priorities.

AB 442 Introduced and presented to the Assembly Government Affairs

AB 442 was formally introduced by the legislature and presented to Assembly Government Affairs -- garnering over 45 nonprofit and business support in favor of the bill.

Democracy Fellowship Day the Legislature

UWSN's Democracy Fellowship traveled to Carson for a special day at the legislature to meet with executive and legislative branch leaders to understand the legislative process and lobby for issues of their choosing.



APRIL/MAY 2025

Presentation to Assembly Ways and Means, Senate Government Affairs, and unanimous passage of AB 442.

UWSN worked collaboratively with state agencies on a final amendment to AB 442. During the final week of the legislative session, the External Affairs team rapidly prepared to present to two committees and worked with legislators to achieve unanimous, bipartisan support for the bill.

AB 442 signed into law.

JUNE 2025

The Nevada State Legislature adjourns

A number of UWSN's priority bills are signed by the Governor, including AB 442 and additional funding for early literacy programming.

APPENDIX

ENDORSEMENT RUBRIC

QUESTIONS	0	1	2	3
Does this priority align with the organization's values and mission?	No alignment	Vaguely related to our issue specific areas	Issue specifically speaks to a signature initiative or component of the mission statement	Strong alignment with the mission and effectively convenes the nonprofit sector
Does this priority align with any of the organization's ongoing programs?	No program	Expired or previous program	Current program, low impact	Current program, high impact
Does this priority merit special consideration because of the bill's sponsor?	Direct opposition to core policy areas	Not a strategic relationship	UWSN ally/ strong advocate	Legislative or Executive Branch-leadership or strong policy supporter of UWSN
Does this priority merit special consideration because of the bill's strongest supporters or non legislative actors strongly supporting the bill?	No support	Little to no consideration warranted	Some nonprofit or corporate leader in support of a measure	Strong nonprofit AND private support
Does staff have capacity to assume responsibilities outlined in Tier 2?	No capacity			Staff do have capacity to participate in activities outlined.
Does staff have capacity to assume responsibilities outlined in Tier 3?	No capacity			Staff do have capacity to participate in activities outlined.

QUESTIONS	0	1	2	3
Does the organization have in-house subject matter expertise on the issue?	No staff or pertinent experience	Vague alignment or one staff member with experience	More than one staff member with subject-matter expertise	More than two staff members with extensive experience
Are any of the constituencies UWSN serves impacted by this issue?	Less than 25% of individuals impact by policy proposed are served by our funded programs or partners	25% - 49% of individuals impact by policy proposed are served by our funded programs or partners	50% - 69% of individuals impact by policy proposed are served by our funded programs or partners	70 - 100% of individuals impact by policy proposed are served by our funded programs or partners
Is this an issue of importance to executive or board-level leadership?	No alignment with CEO/ Board	Low alignment with CEO/Board	Value alignment with CEO and/or board	Identified priority by CEO AND Board
If the organization forgoes supporting this measure, would it negatively impact operations or other policy work?	No impact	Medium		High negative impact to operations or other policy



UNITED WAY
Southern Nevada

UWSN.org