

# INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL OF NEVADA, INC.

P.O. BOX 7440 • RENO, NV 89510  
910 ROBERTA LANE • SPARKS, NV 89431  
PHONE (775) 355-0600 • FAX (775) 355-0648

## Statement from the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada Regarding the Head Start Transition

July 1, 2026

BATTLE MOUNTAIN  
BAND COUNCIL

CARSON COLONY  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DRESSVILLE  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DUCK VALLEY  
SHOSHONE-PAIUTE  
BUSINESS COUNCIL

DUCKWATER  
SHOSHONE  
TRIBAL COUNCIL

ELKO BAND  
COUNCIL

ELY SHOSHONE  
COUNCIL

FALLON BUSINESS  
COUNCIL

FT. McDERMITT  
PAIUTE-SHOSHONE  
TRIBES

GOSHUTE BAND  
COUNCIL

LAS VEGAS PAIUTE  
TRIBAL COUNCIL

LOVELOCK TRIBAL  
COUNCIL

MOAPA BUSINESS  
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PYRAMID LAKE  
TRIBAL COUNCIL

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SOUTH FORK  
BAND COUNCIL

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SUMMIT LAKE  
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TIMBISHA SHOSHONE  
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WALKER RIVER  
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COUNCIL

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WELLS BAND  
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WINNEMUCCA  
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YOMBA TRIBAL  
COUNCIL

The Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Inc. (ITCN) recognizes the significant impact that the conclusion of ITCN's administration of the Tribal Head Start program will have on Native children, families, educators, and communities across Nevada. We understand the disappointment surrounding this outcome and extend our deepest appreciation to the staff, Tribal leaders, and families who have dedicated themselves to the success of these programs over the years.

For decades, ITCN has proudly administered the Office of Head Start grant on behalf of participating Tribal communities throughout Nevada. This responsibility has always been guided by a commitment to ensuring Native children have access to high-quality early childhood education that reflects their cultures, traditions, and communities.

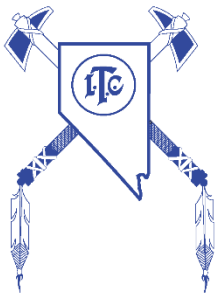
In December 2025, ITCN engaged in extensive discussions with the Office of Head Start regarding the long-term sustainability of the grant due to circumstances outside the control of the ITCN Executive Board. Throughout this process, ITCN worked diligently with participating Tribes and federal partners to identify solutions that would allow services to continue. Unfortunately, despite these efforts, no viable path forward was identified under the existing grant structure. As a result, the ITCN Executive Board, in collaboration with the participating Tribes, made the difficult decision to relinquish the grant to allow a new agency the opportunity to assume administration of the program and restore services to the affected communities.

While ITCN's administration of the Office of Head Start grant concluded on June 30, 2026, our commitment to Nevada's Tribal communities has not. ITCN remains steadfast in its mission to serve Tribal communities through its many programs and services, including child care assistance, workforce development, health initiatives, family support services, and other programs designed to strengthen Tribal communities across Nevada.

At the same time, ITCN remains committed to working alongside Tribal governments, the Office of Head Start, and our federal partners to support a successful transition by identifying a qualified agency that can assume administration of the grant for the seven affected Tribal communities. We will continue to assist in these efforts however possible, with the shared goal of restoring high-quality early childhood services for Native children and families as quickly and seamlessly as possible.

ITCN also extends its sincere gratitude to the teachers, advocates, administrators, support staff, and Tribal leaders whose dedication has positively impacted generations of Native children and families. Their passion, compassion, and commitment have left a lasting impact on the communities they served.

As Tribal communities navigate this transition, ITCN wants families to know that support remains available. The Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada's Child Care Development Fund (ITCN CCDF) Program continues to provide child care assistance to eligible families residing within ITCN CCDF service areas. Families in the Fort McDermitt, Elko, Yerington, and Walker River communities may qualify for ITCN CCDF services if they meet program eligibility requirements.



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While the program is not available to every Tribal community in Nevada, ITCN encourages families who may be eligible to contact our office to learn more about available child care assistance and other resources. We remain committed to supporting Native children and families however we can during this transition.

Families interested in learning more about ITCN CCDF services may visit [www.itcnccdf.org](http://www.itcnccdf.org) or call (775) 355-0600.

ITCN remains dedicated to strengthening opportunities for Native children and families and will continue collaborating with Tribal, state, and federal partners to expand access to quality early childhood education and other essential services throughout Nevada.

For questions regarding available programs and services, please contact the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada at (775) 355-0600 or visit [www.itcn.org](http://www.itcn.org).

Sincerely,

Serrell Smokey

ITCN Executive Board President

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