

## **Nevada Statewide Youth Action Council Update – May 2025**

As of May 2025, the Nevada Statewide Youth Action Council (YAC) continues to grow and evolve as a youth-led initiative supporting individuals with disabilities across the state. The council now meets twice a month, on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays, from 6:00–7:00 PM. While we began meeting over Zoom, a suggestion from one of our members led us to transition to GroupMe. This platform not only enables us to hold real-time conversations but also keeps everyone informed through shared messaging and streamlined communication.

YAC currently has four active members representing Las Vegas, Sparks, Reno, and Elko. We've recently updated our membership criteria to include youth ages 14 and up, acknowledging that life experience and comprehension can vary greatly, especially for those with developmental disabilities. We also expanded eligibility to include youth who may not have a disability themselves but have a family member with a disability. These changes were brought forward and agreed upon collectively by the council. This shift reflects our commitment to creating a more inclusive and supportive space that meets youth where they are, not just by age but also by their life experiences.

We're also thrilled to extend outreach opportunities to all YAC members alongside Youth Outreach Specialist Haiyen Vang. Additional events will be available during the school year as schedules permit. Most recently, on June 21st, Haiyen and Stacy (a YAC member) supported a fundraiser for DeeDee from the Rural Center for Independent Living. Together, they helped sell fruit kabobs and Jayme's Delights during the Levitt AMP summer concert at the Brewery Arts Center in Carson City.

Looking ahead, the entire council is preparing to attend the 2025 APRIL Youth Conference in Oregon this October. Two members are currently applying for scholarships, and one is exploring the opportunity to pitch a workshop proposal. While the scholarship application is limited to two individuals due to APRIL's guidelines, our goal is for all four members to attend, learn from the national youth-led movement, and bring that energy home. This experience will serve as the foundation for planning YAC's annual youth conference in Nevada.

Finally, we're proud to announce the upcoming launch of the YAC website in early July! While accessibility features are still being finalized, the site will serve as an important resource for our community and future members to learn more about YAC's mission, activities, and opportunities. [www.sites.google.com/view/nvyac](http://www.sites.google.com/view/nvyac)

We're building a space where young people with disabilities can connect, lead, and thrive together.