



**2023**

**Early Educator of the Year Award  
(EEOY)**

Kelly Carr, Education Programs Professional  
Anna Severens, Education Programs Professional

Office of Early Learning and Development (OELD)

Wednesday September 6, 2023



# Strategic Improvement Plan Alignment

- **Goal 1:** All children, birth through third grade, have access to quality early care and education.
- **Goal 2:** All students have access to effective educators.

**Input:** Expanded teacher recognition efforts and educational personnel awards.

**Output:** Increase in application submission rates for STOY, STAC, and educational personnel awards by 10% annually.

**Outcome:** Increase in educator preparation program enrollees and qualified mentors identified through recognition programs.



# EEOY Committee

- Kelly Carr, EPP, OELD
- Anna Severens, EPP, OELD
- Patrice Gardner, EPS, Head Start Collaboration Coordinator
- Alberto Quintero, EPP, EDLiFE
- Mia Pace, EPP, OELD
- Sara Wright, Senior Education Coordinator: University of Nevada, Reno Extension
- Mary Buchmann, EIO QRIS, OELD
- Carl Esteban, 2022 EEOY Award Winner





# Early Educator of the Year Award

*Who is eligible?*

- Infant Toddler (0-2 year olds) teachers
- Preschool (3-5 year olds) teachers
- Mixed age group (0-5year olds) teachers
- Public/private/charter
- Licensed in-home child care providers.



# EEOY Process

- Nominations due: April 23, 2023
  - Self-nominations
  - Peer/administrator nominations
  - Public nominations
- Applications due: May 26, 2023
- Application review period: June, 2023
- Interviews: July 10-July 20, 2023
- August 29-30, 2023: Site visits to surprise the EEOY award recipients (2)
- August 30, 2023: Press release
- September 6, 2023: State Board of Education presentation



# Process Improvements 2023

- In-home licensed Family Child Care providers (FCCs)
- Expanded nomination period
  - 2 months → year-round
- Smartsheet application process
  - English
  - Spanish

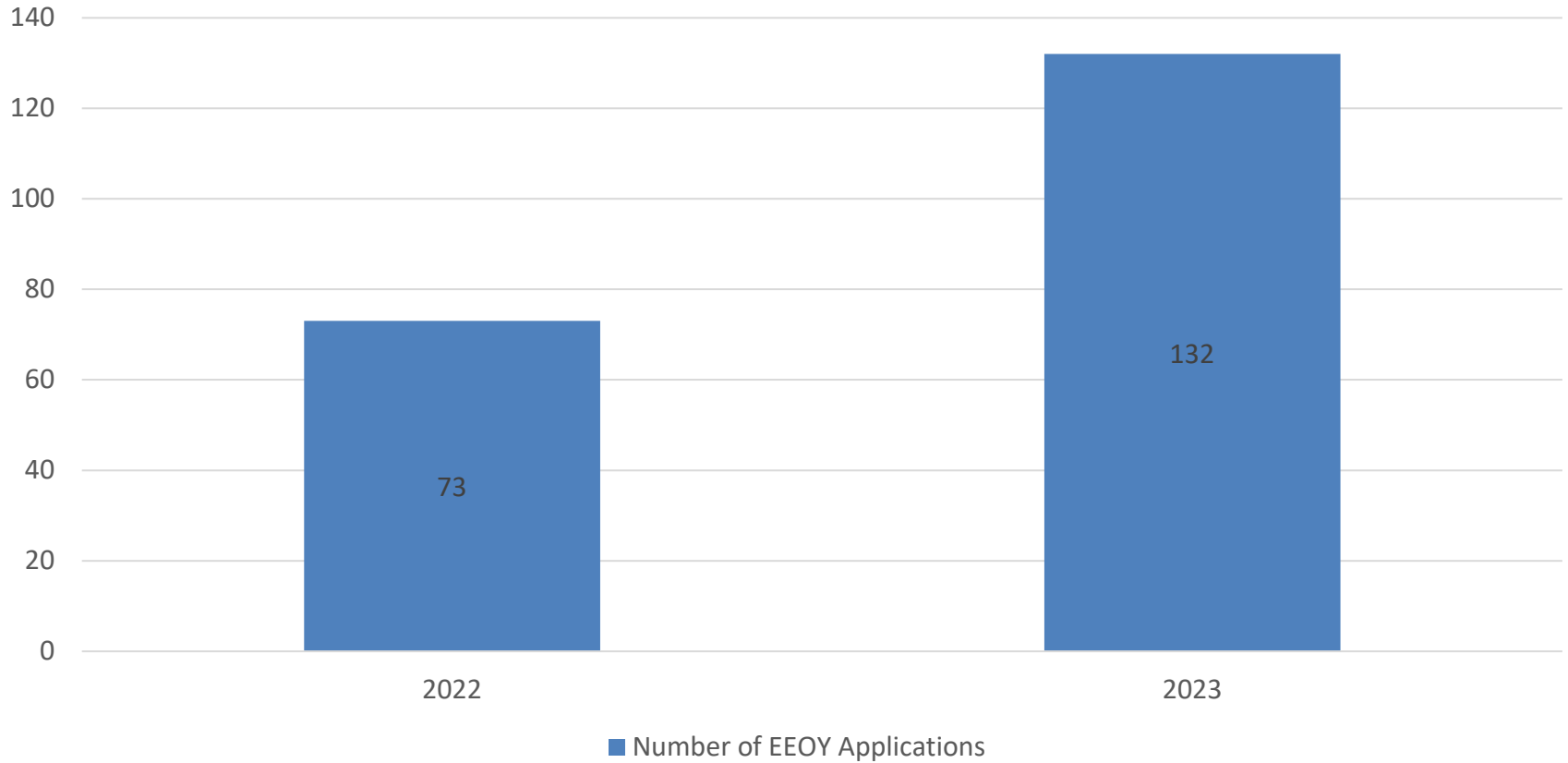
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# Nomination Rate Increase 81%

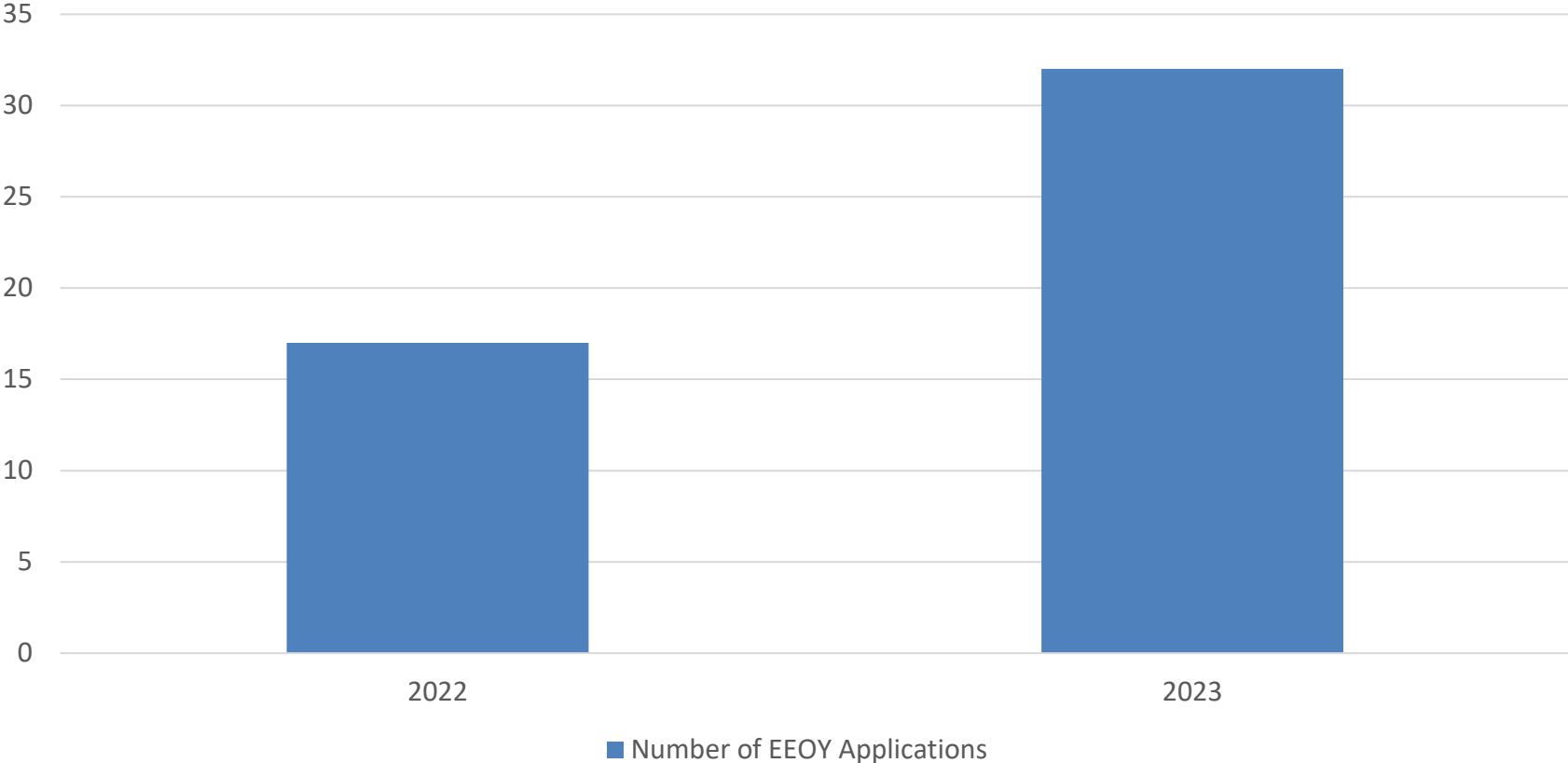
Number of EEOY Nominations





# Application Rate Increase +88%

Number of EEOY Applications

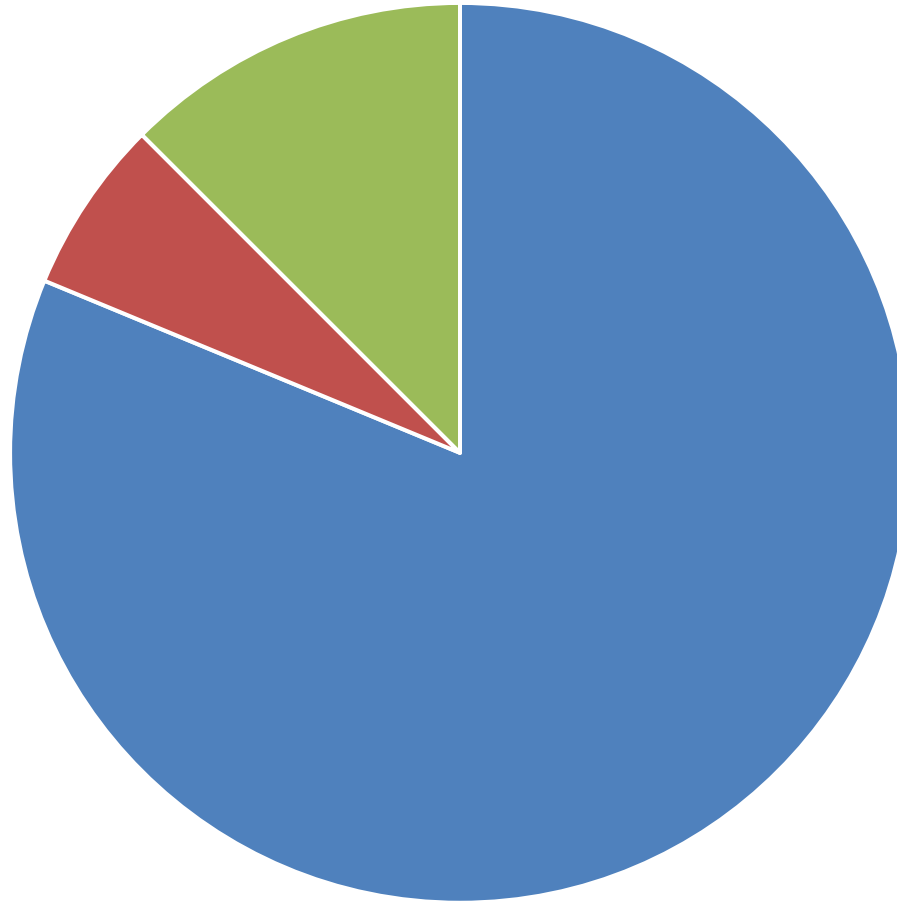






# Populations to Consider

Type of Applicants



# District Representation in Applications

Clark 15

Washoe 10

Carson 3

Humboldt 2

Churchill 1

Elko 1



# State Level Opportunities and Events

**nevaeyc**

Nevada Association for the  
Education of Young Children

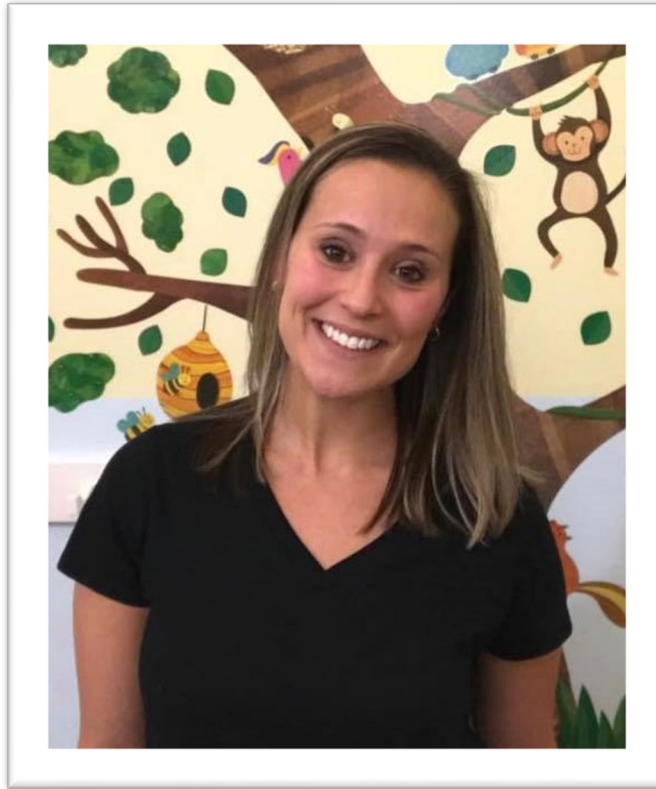
- National Association for the Education of Young Children
  - Paid membership account
- *Nevada* Association for the Education of Young Children
  - Conference fees
  - Travel/meals/lodging stipend
- Serve on EEOY interview panel
- Invitations to speak at special events and engagements representing the early childhood workforce of Nevada

# 2023 Award Recipient



Rebecca Howell, Pre-K teacher  
Bernice Matthews, Sparks, NV  
Child and Family Services | WCSD

# 2023 Award Recipient



Bethany Johnson

*Bold and Bright Academy* Owner/Director/Teacher

In-home licensed child care provider

Las Vegas, NV

# 2023 Award Finalists



Amanda Fortuna  
Pre-K teacher  
Bernice Matthews ES  
WCSD



Denise Greig  
Pre-K teacher  
Whitney ES  
CCSD



Sally Morgan  
Toddler teacher  
WNC (NSHE)  
Carson City



# QUESTIONS

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# Anticipated Questions from SBE

- What are the barriers to in-home licensed family child care providers in the application and nomination process? In general, why are they a marginalized group?
- Why is there a disproportionate number of applicant from infant toddler vs Pk teachers?
- What will you do to increase nominations from more rurals?
- What percent of people who are nominated apply. Why is that so low? What can be done to increase that ratio?
- To what do you attribute to the increase in the number of applicants from 17 to 32 (+88%), what did you do differently this year?
- What are your goals as a committee for next year?
- What is the application process like?
- What is the interview process like?

