

NPHF Monthly Newsletter



Each month the main picture will feature a different city in Nevada. If you have a scenic picture of your county please email, andrea@nphf.org

Resilient in the Face of Change

Susana Llanas-Reyes is a BSW student attending Truckee Meadows Community College and working at the Nevada Health Authority.

Would you share about your background?

I was born and raised in the vibrant city of Guanajuato, Mexico, and I currently live in Reno, Nevada. I am the first one in my family to attend college, which makes me feel blessed and grateful. My parents taught me the value of effort and dedication in pursuing anything I want. My family passed on to me the beautiful Spanish culture, which has taught me resilience and helped me overcome difficulties in adapting to a new culture.

Where do you currently work and what do you do?

I am currently employed with the Nevada Health Authority as an Administrative Assistant II. I assist with customer service by answering phone calls about health insurance coverage and benefits. I also help my team with administrative duties.

Why did you decide to pursue a social work degree?

My values have greatly influence my journey toward becoming a social worker. Serving others is a way to help and show love to those who are in need. Additionally, with my daily tasks and duties, I have become increasingly aware of the struggles associated with poverty. I have observed that our society has numerous pressing needs, particularly in terms of health support. One significant issue is mental healthcare, which is often undervalued because physical illnesses tend to be more visible than mental struggles.Continued on Page 2



Upcoming Webinars

**Social Work Careers in DHS;
Pathways, Perks, & Perplexities**
with Tina Gerber-Winn
September 24th @ 6:30-7:30pm

[Click to Register](#)

**Build Your Network - Meet other
Scholarship Recipients**
(only for Scholarship Recipients)
Nov. 5th @ 12:00-1:00pm

[Click to Register](#)

Steps to Licensure Exam, Plus Q&A
TBD
December 2025



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What have you found most interesting so far in your job?

Believing that I can play a significant role in someone's life and advocate for better policies and resources.

As a student in their beginning phase of becoming a social worker, what do you look forward to most?

In my first semester, it was really challenging because college added more responsibilities. I met an English Professor, who helped me to build self-confidence. He taught me how to cultivate a mindset in his class by encouraging me to make mistakes, learn from them, and emphasizing that learning is a process for everyone willing to acquire new knowledge. That opened my mind to learning something new during challenging moments.

Has there been a person in your life that has been encouraging you as you pursue this degree?

Yes, I have many people who encourage me, my two kids, Jester and Christian, my supportive husband, and my enthusiastic coworkers. They have always been my inspiration, and I know that I can count on them.

RESOURCE CORNER

NPHF reached out to Elizabeth Gomez, Program Officer for the Nevada HEAL program to find out what students need to know and how they can prepare if they are interested in the loan forgiveness program.



Program Overview

The State funded student loan forgiveness initiative aims to increase and retain healthcare professionals in Nevada. At least 15% of money available for the program's student loan repayment funding each year will be used to repay student loans for providers who commit to practicing within an underserved community in urban or rural Nevada (employment locations in Reno or Las Vegas must meet specific criteria).

What additional information should students know about the program?

2025 marks the first year of the NV-HEAL program! This state-funded initiative provides \$1 million annually to medical providers to help repay their student loans. In our inaugural year, we awarded a total of 67 providers—many of them social workers. We hope to secure additional funding to expand this benefit to even more providers across Nevada.

The next application cycle starts mid-January 2026 and will be open for 30 days. Applicants are required to be licensed by the time they apply. If they are unemployed, they have 60 days from the approval of their application to start employment in an underserved location.

What should students be thinking about now to prepare them to apply for the HEAL program in the future?

Students should have a desire to work in an underserved community. There are underserved communities in all Nevada counties.

Who has received loan forgiveness awards from this program?

Social workers from the school districts, mental health clinics, and even the Public Defender's Office were among those who received this benefit.

Who is the best person to contact regarding this program?

Email is the best for of communication:

Elizabeth Gomez, NV-HEAL Program Officer, elizabeth.gomez@nevadatreasurer.gov

Website: <https://www.nevadatreasurer.gov/FinancialSecurity/AB-45/About/>

SOCIAL WORK

WORD SEARCH

s	m	r	t	a	d	v	o	c	a	c	y	n	y	x
e	t	a	t	i	l	i	c	a	f	j	z	t	t	b
r	k	a	t	n	e	m	p	o	w	e	r	a	i	i
i	m	o	s	v	s	p	u	z	o	k	j	e	u	d
e	n	h	c	s	i	e	o	y	w	v	i	t	q	l
r	h	t	m	o	e	g	m	v	x	e	b	a	e	a
a	g	c	e	t	m	s	t	o	c	u	l	t	i	c
c	l	j	a	g	s	p	s	l	l	s	q	j	m	i
f	e	m	x	e	r	d	e	m	p	t	v	u	k	n
l	u	q	s	t	b	i	e	t	e	i	q	s	h	i
e	f	l	a	y	w	h	t	u	e	n	a	t	p	l
s	f	j	i	d	s	i	s	y	i	n	t	i	m	c
m	n	g	n	q	o	f	r	j	p	s	c	c	a	s
n	o	i	t	n	e	v	r	e	t	n	i	e	c	s
o	i	e	q	s	e	r	v	i	c	e	i	w	a	c

advocacy

assessment

service

clinical

justice

equity

competence

empower

integrity

intervention

facilitate

self care