

***Louisiana  
Developmental Disabilities  
Council***

***State Plan  
FFY 2007 - 2012***

***Goals and Objectives  
FFY 2010***

## QUALITY ASSURANCE ACTIVITIES

**GOAL**      **People have information, skills, opportunities and supports to live free of abuse, neglect, financial and sexual exploitation, and violations of their human and legal rights.**

Objective 1    1,588 persons with developmental disabilities and family members will be trained to become effective advocates.

Strategy 1.1      Continue financial support for the Partners in Policymaking program.

**Approximate Cost: \$78,000 for FFY 2010**

*Strategy 1.1.1*      Solicit applications from potential participants and meet with the selection committee by November of each year to select a new Partners class. Improve the application form and screening process to ensure selection of participants most likely to successfully complete the training program. Conduct individual session evaluations and modify the program as warranted.

Strategy 1.1.2      Maintain a system to keep track of graduates and maintain supportive connections between graduates (i.e., develop a listserv; recruit graduates as mentors for current participants).

*Strategy 1.1.3*      Coordinate and fund a reunion of graduates in conjunction with a refresher course to enhance leadership skills.  
**ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2008**

Strategy 1.2      Continue to contract with Families Helping Families (FHF) to financially support stipends for persons with developmental disabilities and their family members to participate in training conferences, meetings, events, and community memberships that advance their knowledge of home- and community-based supports.  
**Approximate Cost: \$46,000 for FFY 2010**

Strategy 1.3      Provide guidance and assistance to boards of regional Human Services Authorities and Districts (HSA/D) in developing and implementing effective training and technical assistance plans that ensure HSA/D's board members are knowledgeable and prepared to address systems issues that result in improved community-based service delivery systems.

- Strategy 1.4 Provide financial support for the development and implementation of training for people with developmental disabilities by individuals with developmental disabilities on topics that increase skill and knowledge in areas related to communicating needs and wants, abuse and neglect and other areas identified by individuals with developmental disabilities through the “My Choice” project.  
**Approximate Cost: \$10,000 for FFY 2010**

**Total Approximate Cost: \$134,000 for FFY 2010**

Objective 2 The statewide self-advocacy organization will be supported and strengthened through collaboration with the Louisiana Self-Advocacy Project.

- Strategy 2.1 Continue supporting the operation of People First of Louisiana.  
**Approximate Cost: \$110,000 for FFY 2010**

*Strategy 2.1.1* Fund and support staff positions and training for the organization’s officers and leadership to coordinate all self-advocacy activities in the state. Develop and support local self-advocacy chapters and support volunteer advisors across the state. Ensure that all meetings are conducted in an accessible format (i.e., sign language interpreters, large print, etc.). Provide funds to support People First board members to participate in meetings and executive committee members to represent People First at meetings and events.

- Strategy 2.2 Facilitate, as requested, the appointment and participation of individuals with developmental disabilities, especially those with cognitive disabilities, on state and regional boards and committees.

**Total Approximate Cost: \$110,000 for FFY 2010**

Objective 3 Members of the Council and its committees will be supported to serve as effective advocates for state and national systems change and receive staff and administrative support to effectively implement the Council’s mission and goals.

- Strategy 3.1 Support individuals with developmental disabilities and family members of individuals with developmental disabilities in participation in Council meetings and other functions.

- Strategy 3.2 Support Council members with developmental disabilities or family members of individuals with developmental disabilities in participating in training and educational opportunities.  
**Approximate Cost: \$3,000 for FFY 2010**

Strategy 3.3 Support the Council leadership's participation in national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities.

**Total Approximate Cost: \$3,000 for FFY 2010**

Objective 4 The lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families will be enhanced by continuing a collaborative relationship among the Council, the Advocacy Center, and the Louisiana State University Human Development Center (LSU HDC).

Strategy 4.1 Multiply the impact of the efforts of the three developmental disability programs by focusing on and coordinating mutually agreed upon objectives.

*Strategy 4.1.1* Promote efficiency and cost-effectiveness for the three programs through joint ventures such as producing and distributing a joint newsletter in print and on-line.  
**Approximate Cost: \$13,386 for FFY 2010**

*Strategy 4.1.2* Collaborate on efforts to gain public input.

**Total Approximate Cost: \$13,386 for FFY 2010**

Objective 5 The parents or family members of 25 individuals residing in developmental centers will be educated on the value and benefits of transition from institutional services to individualized community supports and resources that are available in the community (including housing).

Strategy 5.1 Develop and implement a Solicitation of Proposals (SOP) for a 1-year pilot project to identify and educate parents/family members on the value and benefits of transition from institutional services to individualized community supports.  
**ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2007**

**OTHER SERVICES AVAILABLE OR OFFERED TO INDIVIDUALS IN A COMMUNITY, INCLUDING FORMAL AND INFORMAL COMMUNITY SUPPORTS THAT AFFECT THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE**

**GOAL** Individuals have access to other services available or offered in a community, including formal and informal community supports that affect their quality of life.

Objective 6 Individuals with developmental disabilities will receive quality community services through an improved monitoring process.

Strategy 6.1 Advocate for the implementation of a peer review monitoring process for providers.

Strategy 6.2 Educate self-advocates and families on quality indicators (e.g. Department of Health and Hospitals' Outcomes and Indicators across Individuals with Developmental Disabilities, Adults with Physical Disabilities, and Older Adults) and provider responsibilities.

*Strategy 6.2.1* Develop fact sheets and disseminate information through a variety of mediums and sources (i.e. *TriAngle*, the Council website, FHF website, newsletters and workshops, and support coordinators).

Strategy 6.3 Advocate for the full implementation of the DSP registry.

Objective 7 2,500 individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will receive individual and family supports through support of grassroots systemic advocacy.

**ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2008**

Objective 8 An additional 2,000 waiver slots will be available to individuals with developmental disabilities through reform of the long term care system that better aligns resources to meet demand as a result of grassroots systemic advocacy, collaboration, coordination, and education of legislators, policy makers and other stakeholders.

Strategy 8.1 Oversee implementation of the Community and Family Support System Plan.

Strategy 8.2 Provide financial and other support to LaCAN for the coordination of grassroots advocacy efforts regarding individual and family supports.

**Approximate Cost: \$130,000 for FFY 2010**

*Strategy 8.2.1* Conduct and evaluate an annual LaCAN leader and FHF directors' training event; support FHF directors and LaCAN leaders in conducting and evaluating regional LaCAN events; and collaborate and coordinate LaCAN activities with other advocacy groups.

- Strategy 8.3 Advocate for the transition of individuals from developmental centers to their own homes and communities; closure of remaining developmental centers; reallocation of resources to home- and community-based waiver services; and elimination the waiver waiting list.
- Strategy 8.4 Collaborate with other advocacy groups to plan and support an annual Disability Rights Rally at the State Capitol.  
**Approximate Cost: \$9,000 for FFY 2010**
- Strategy 8.5 Support and actively participate in the Governor's Long-Term Care reform efforts consistent with the Long-Term Care Executive Order  
**ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2007**
- Strategy 8.6 Educate legislators on the need for long-term care reform and the expansion of individualized supports through face-to-face visits by Council members.
- Strategy 8.7 Continue to conduct a media campaign to educate policy makers, individuals with disabilities, family members, and provider agencies about of the needs of those on the waiver waiting list and the benefits that community living opportunities affords recipients.  
**Approximate Cost: \$8,000 for FFY 2010**
- Strategy 8.8 Monitor the transition of the guardianship program from OCDD to Governor's Office for Disability Affairs (GODA) to ensure the effectiveness of the program.  
**ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2009**

**Total Approximate Cost: \$147,000 for FFY 2010**

Objective 9 75,000 persons with developmental disabilities and their families will continue to obtain the information, training, and support they need through support to FHF.

Strategy 9.1 Continue supporting FHF.

Objective 10 300 direct support professionals (DSP) will be recruited and/or supported through collaboration with the LSU HDC in the development and distribution of recruitment materials.  
**ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2008**

Strategy 10.1 Develop Council-approved brochures, posters, radio spots, DVDs, and other recruitment materials describing the career of DSPs.  
**ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2007**

Strategy 10.2 Distribute the approved recruitment materials to workforce development and career placement offices at community colleges, vocational technical schools, colleges, and universities, one-stop career centers, libraries, etc.  
**ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2008**

Objective 11 DSPs will be compensated at or above the southern regional average.

Strategy 11.1 Work collaboratively with OCDD, Medicaid, LSU HDC and others on initiatives to establish a career ladder and increase wages for DSPs.

Objective 12 Emergency management plans of the Red Cross, state and parishes will include emergency preparation and responses that address the needs of 5,000 people with developmental disabilities.

Strategy 12.1 Collaborate with the Red Cross, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and Parish Offices' of Emergency Preparedness to ensure the needs of people with developmental disabilities are included in emergency planning (e.g. communications, preparation, evacuation and sheltering).

Strategy 12.2 Continue to collaborate with members of the Developmental Disability Network in efforts to include people with disabilities in emergency planning and preparedness.

Objective 13 People with disabilities will have expanded social and friendship network opportunities as a result of an online interactive web-based Louisiana community.

Strategy 13.1 Provide funding for the maintenance of a *Facebook* page and *Disaboom* website specific to people with disabilities in Louisiana.  
**Approximate Cost: \$5,000 for FFY 2010**

**Total Approximate Cost: \$5,000 for FFY 2010**

## **HOUSING ACTIVITIES**

**GOAL Adults choose where and with whom they live.**

Objective 14 Persons with disabilities will have increased access to housing through Council efforts.

- Strategy 14.1 Provide funding for a website for a collaborative grant project with the Advocacy Center, LSU HDC, and the Fair Housing Action Center to provide fair housing education and outreach.  
**ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2007**
- Strategy 14.2 Fund consulting and technical assistance to housing developer(s) to insure the availability of affordable, accessible, and integrated housing.  
**ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2007**
- Strategy 14.3 Provide financial support for the development of a Home of Your Own program in Baton Rouge and training on how to develop a Home of Your Own program in six other regions of the state.  
**ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY2009**
- Strategy 14.4 Provide financial support to develop and maintain a website with housing information for people with developmental disabilities such as housing advocacy issues, housing terminology, training opportunities, and resources for developing and maintaining local Community Housing Action Networks (CHAN).  
**ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY2009**

## HEALTH ACTIVITIES

**GOAL**      **People are healthy and benefit from the full range of needed health services.**

Objective 15 Health care for persons with developmental disabilities will become a priority in Louisiana as a result of the Council's collaboration with at least eight advocacy bodies, programs and projects.

- Strategy 15.1 Participate in collaborative advocacy bodies, including but not limited to the Emergency Management Disability Coalition, Office of Aging and Adult Services Redesign Workgroup, Louisiana Birth Defects Monitoring Network Advisory Board, Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Governor's Task Force, Act 648 Autism Insurance Implementation, and Department of Health and Hospitals Medical Care Advisory Committee.
- Strategy 15.2 Support outreach efforts to the disability community for health related systems like LaCHIP, LaMOMS, and the Family Opportunity Act.

Objective 16 Consumer-directed health care practices will be improved as a result of Council action.

- Strategy 16.1 Council members and other stakeholders will participate in the implementation of ACT 552 of 2008 to ensure consumer choice, flexibility, and control of services to support independent living in the community (i.e., rule making, policy development, etc.).
- Strategy 16.2 Research and advocate for a voluntary registry and data management system that improves first responders' emergency response that provides access to person-specific information.

## EDUCATION AND EARLY INTERVENTION ACTIVITIES

**GOAL**        **Students reach their educational potential and infants and young children reach their developmental potential.**

Objective 17 700 people will become active in systems advocacy about inclusive education through support of a statewide family-driven special education grassroots advocacy organization and other education initiatives.

- Strategy 17.1 Continue to provide financial and other support to LaTEACH for the promotion of appropriate, inclusive education for all students.  
**Approximate Cost: \$60,000 for FFY 2010**

*Strategy 17.1.1* Provide leadership and guidance throughout the policymaking process; support LaTEACH members to engage with the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), legislators and other policymakers; provide coordination in the grassroots education advocacy efforts through coordinators based in each BESE district; develop and implement strategies to address concerns in areas of assessment, accountability, curriculum, least restrictive environment, discipline, pupil progression, graduation, and exit issues as identified through a parent needs assessment; collaborate with the Louisiana Department of Education (DOE) to disseminate information to special education students and their families.

- Strategy 17.2 Educate the general public on the rights and abilities of persons with developmental disabilities through the Council's public awareness efforts.

*Strategy 17.2.1* Collaborate with DOE, GODA, FHF and other agencies and organizations to initiate and implement public awareness activities in conjunction with National Inclusive Schools Week.

*Strategy 17.2.2* Increase outreach to all schools (private, parochial, etc.) through advertisement (signs, media alerts, etc.) of the annual statewide Inclusive Schools Art Contest; display contest entries in a location frequently used by the general public (e.g., public library, state archives, DOE) and include a demonstration of alternative techniques used by an artist with a disability; host an annual Awards Ceremony to recognize winning contestants and educate attendees on the rights and abilities of persons with developmental disabilities.  
**Approximate Cost: \$1,500 for FFY 2010**

*Strategy 17.2.3* Collaborate with local, state and national organizations to advocate for accessible literacy materials and activities in libraries.

*Strategy 17.2.4* Advocate for the inclusion of the ability awareness component in service learning programs for students in grades K-12. Provide incentive funding to eight recipients to include Ability awareness components in their service learning programs.  
**Approximate Cost: \$8,000 for FFY2010**

**Total Approximate Cost: \$69,500 for FFY 2010**

Objective 18 The Council will be represented on at least seven educational decision making bodies to represent the interests of students with developmental disabilities.

Strategy 18.1 The Council will continue to be represented on planning and policy review groups including but not limited to: State Performance Plan/Steering Committee, Low Incidence Disabilities Consortium, Louisiana State Positive Behavioral Support Advisory Committee, State Improvement Grant Management Team, State Autism Team, Significant Disabilities Leadership Committee, Lafayette Parish School Board Parent Advisory Committee, Lafayette Parish School Improvement Committee, School to Prison Reform, the State Interagency Coordination Council, and on the Louisiana Children's Cabinet.

Objective 19 Thirty children with autism and their families will receive early intervention services that will result in improved language skills.

- Strategy 19.1 The Council will collaborate with OCDD and LSU HDC to build a pilot project that provides support to early intervention providers with delivering effective evidence-based early intervention services to young children with autism.  
**Approximate Cost: \$60,000 for FFY 2010**

**Total Approximate Cost: \$60,000 for FFY 2010**

## **EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES**

**GOAL People get and keep employment consistent with their interests, abilities and needs.**

Objective 20 Young adults with developmental disabilities will gain employment experience through a governmental internship program developed by the Council in collaboration with other state agencies.

- Strategy 20.1 Implement the “Count Us In” Government Internship program to provide young adults with developmental disabilities the opportunity to intern at the State Capitol and other state and local offices.  
**ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2008**

Objective 21 The number of people with developmental disabilities obtaining and maintaining integrated, community employment and careers will be increased through Council initiatives.

- Strategy 21.1 Provide financial support to disseminate a curriculum and provide training to agencies on recommended practices for supporting people with disabilities in employment.  
**Approximate Cost: \$ 68,655 for FFY 2010**

- Strategy 21.2 Provide financial support to conduct an “outreach campaign” to educate employers, individuals with disabilities, family members, and provider agencies about the benefits of having people with developmental disabilities as part of the community-based workforce.  
**Approximate Cost: \$ 24,000 for FFY 2010**

- Strategy 21.3 Advocate for policies that provide incentives for integrated competitive employment versus segregated day programs (i.e. differential reimbursement rates favoring community employment outcomes).

Strategy 21.4 Collaborate with the Advocacy Center, LSU HDC and Louisiana Rehabilitation Services on initiatives designed to increase employment opportunities of people with developmental disabilities.

**Total Approximate Cost: \$92,655 for FFY 2010**

Objective 22 The Council will learn the status of employment for people with developmental disabilities in Louisiana and have the data to effectively plan and advocate for meaningful employment options for people with developmental disabilities.

Strategy 22.1 Provide financial support for an intensive study of the state of employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

**ACCOMPLISHED IN 2009**

Strategy 22.2 Establish an agenda to address the issues identified in the study for meaningful employment options for people with developmental disabilities.

**TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITIES**

**GOAL People have transportation services for work, school, medical, and personal needs.**

Objective 23 Transportation choices and opportunities for persons with disabilities will be expanded through the Council's collaboration with other agencies on at least one transportation program in Louisiana.

Strategy 23.1 The Council will support efforts to expand transportation services and develop new transportation services in the state through interagency collaborative efforts.

Strategy 23.2 The Council will be represented on Mayor's Councils on Disabilities to advocate for accessible public transportation in major metropolitan areas.

## RECREATION ACTIVITIES

**GOAL**      **People benefit from inclusive recreational, leisure and social activities consistent with their interests and abilities.**

Objective 24 Fifty individuals with developmental disabilities will have opportunities to enjoy increased or enhanced recreational activities through Council collaborative efforts.

- Strategy 24.1      Advocate for the involvement of people with developmental disabilities in projects funded or supported by Louisiana Serve Commission (LA Serve).  
**ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2007**
- Strategy 24.2      Facilitate the involvement of representatives of LA Serve in inclusive recreational opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.  
**ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2007**
- Strategy 24.3      Expand the existing Positive Behavioral Support recreation project by replicating inclusive recreational opportunities to individuals with disabilities, including those who require positive behavioral supports with additional recreation departments in other parishes.  
**ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2009**
- Strategy 24.4      Collaborate with the Louisiana Indian Education Association (LIEA) to facilitate the inclusion of ten American Indian students with disabilities in activities funded or supported by LIEA.

## CHILD CARE ACTIVITIES

**GOAL**      **Children and families benefit from a range of inclusive, flexible child care options.**

Objective 25 Childcare providers in each region of the state will have access to training on supporting children with disabilities in inclusive day care settings.

- Strategy 25.1      Develop an SOP and contract to utilize training modules developed by Partnership for All Children Together (Project PACT) to implement and evaluate a train-the-trainer program for Department of Social Services' Regional Entities charged with training child care providers.  
**Accomplished in FFY 2008**