

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council

**State Five Year Plan
Federal Fiscal Years
2012 – 2016**

with

Activities for FFY 2012

**Developed April 21, 2011
Ratified July 21, 2011**

The Council's mission is to advocate for and support people with developmental disabilities to exercise control over their lives and participate fully in the community.

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QUALITY ASSURANCE

Goal 1 1,000 self-advocates and family members of persons with developmental disabilities will advocate for policies and practices that promote the self-determination, independence, productivity, integration and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life.

Objective 1.1 Louisiana's self-advocacy organization consisting of people with developmental disabilities will promote advocacy by guiding local chapters and provide leadership training to individuals with developmental disabilities.

Activity 1.1.1 Provide financial support and technical assistance for the operation of People First of Louisiana. People First will develop a plan to become self-sustaining by 2016.

Approximate Cost: \$100,000 in FFY 2012

Objective 1.2 Individuals with developmental disabilities will participate on cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions.

Activity 1.2.1 Provide information and technical assistance to People First of Louisiana board members and other leaders to participate on the Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (GACDA), Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) Regional Advisory Councils (RACs), and other identified coalitions.

Objective 1.3 75 to 100 individuals with developmental disabilities and parents of young children with developmental disabilities will develop skills in leadership development and systems change activities.

Activity 1.3.1 Provide financial support and technical assistance for Partners in Policymaking.

Approximate Cost: \$80,000 in FFY 2012

Activity 1.3.2 Support up to two Council members' participation in Partners in Policymaking.

Approximate Cost: \$3,000 in FFY 2012

Objective 1.4 375 people with developmental disabilities and their family members will advance their knowledge of home- and community- based supports and services and promote advocacy leadership through participation in conferences and other training events.

Activity 1.4.1 Contract with Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers (FHF) to financially support stipends for persons with developmental disabilities and their family members to participate in training, conferences, meetings, and events.

Approximate Cost: \$30,000 in FFY 2012

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Activity 1.4.2 Provide financial support for the continuation and expansion of a training program for people with developmental disabilities by individuals with developmental disabilities on advocacy, independence, self-determination, productivity, integration, and inclusion leadership topics.

Approximate Cost: \$8,000 in FFY 2012

Objective 1.5 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.

Activity 1.5.1 Support individuals with developmental disabilities and family members of individuals with developmental disabilities in participation in Council meetings and other functions.

Activity 1.5.2 Support Council members' participation in training and educational opportunities.

Approximate Cost: \$3,000 in FFY 2012

Activity 1.5.3 Support the Council leadership's participation in national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities.

Approximate Cost: \$7,000 in FFY 2012

Goal 2 Improve the quality of community-based supports and services for Louisianans with developmental disabilities.

Objective 2.1 The quality of waiver services in Louisiana will improve through the development and implementation of a comprehensive home- and community-based services plan.

Activity 2.1.1 Participate in the development of the plan mandated by Act 299 of 2011.

Activity 2.1.2 Advocate for the use of the National Core Indicators to indicate the degree that Medicaid home- and community-based (HCBS) waiver services are responsive to individual needs.

Objective 2.2 Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) serving Louisianans with developmental disabilities will receive competitive compensation.

Activity 2.2.1 Advocate for

- the starting DSP compensation level to be at or above the national average and
- the dedication of a certain percentage of the HCBS rate to DSP costs (based on provider cost reports).

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Objective 2.3 DSPs serving Louisianans with developmental disabilities will display a minimum skills set and have access to a graduated certification process with corresponding compensation increases.

- Activity 2.3.1** Advocate for
- the development of a (or use of existing) comprehensive and evidence-based training curriculum and certification for DSPs statewide and
 - the implementation of graduated pay increases for DSPs to correspond with performance on a graduated certification process.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

Goal 3 Changes to policies and practices in Louisiana's developmental disability system will result in adequate funding and availability of quality supports and services in the community and reduce reliance on public and private intermediate care facilities for people with developmental disabilities (ICFs/DD).

Objective 3.1 4,000 people on the waiting list will begin receiving home- and community-based services by educating stakeholders, policy makers and the public about the waiting list and needed systems reforms.

Activity 3.1.1 Provide financial and other support for the grassroots advocacy organization Louisiana Citizens for Action Now (LaCAN).
Approximate Cost: \$125,000 in FFY 2012

Activity 3.1.2 Collaborate with other advocacy groups to plan and support Disability Rights Rallies.
Approximate Cost: \$5,000 in FFY 2012

Activity 3.1.3 Advocate for systems change initiatives, revenue generating strategies, policies and practices needed to expand supports and services.

Objective 3.2 Admissions to developmental centers will cease by increasing access to behavioral and medical intervention in the community and the discontinuation of people adjudicated into developmental centers.

Activity 3.2.1 Advocate in collaboration with the Advocacy Center

- for additional short-term emergency placement for behavioral and medical stabilization,

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- for increased capacity of the HCBS system to address the needs of individuals with behavioral and medical support needs and
- to educate juvenile court judges, the Louisiana Court Appointed Special Advocates Association, and others about alternatives to ordering people to developmental centers.

Objective 3.3 The number of people in private ICFs/DD per capita in Louisiana will decrease to reach the national average through the transition of people to home- and community-based services.

- Activity 3.3.1** Advocate for
- changes to the rate structure of the Residential Options Waiver to encourage private ICF/DD providers to convert their beds so individuals can transition to waiver services,
 - a Money Follows the Person (MFP) policy to allow residents of private ICFs/DD to obtain waiver services and
 - the MFP grant program to target residents of private ICFs/DD.

Goal 4 Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will obtain the information, training, and support they need.

Objective 4.1 75,000 individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will obtain information, training, and support.

Activity 4.1.1 Provide funding (from state general funds) and technical assistance to nine Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers across the state.

Activity 4.1.2 Collaborate with Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) to provide information to individuals with disabilities and their families.

Goal 5 The Community and Family Support System will continue to deliver flexible, individualized, and person-centered supports.

Objective 5.1 3,500 individuals with developmental disabilities will receive (Act 378 of 1989) state-funded supports.

Activity 5.1.1 Oversee implementation of, and advocate for, the continuation of the Community and Family Support System Plan.

HEALTH

Goal 6 Policies and practices will result in adequate access to health care among Louisiana citizens with developmental disabilities.

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Objective 6.1 Access to quality medical services for individuals with developmental disabilities will increase.

Activity 6.1.1 Advocate for Coordinated Care Network (CCN) policies to ensure people with developmental disabilities have access to adequate health care services.

Objective 6.2 Families will have access to information regarding Medicaid providers.

Activity 6.2.1 Disseminate Medicaid's web-based listing of providers searchable by region through a variety of methods (i.e. Council's website and Facebook page, FHF, etc.).

Objective 6.3 Louisiana recipients of waiver services aged 22 and older will have access to dental services.

Activity 6.3.1 Advocate for the New Opportunities Waiver and Supports Waiver to be amended to include dental services.

EDUCATION

Goal 7 Changes in policies and practices will result in inclusive, evidence-based, and safe educational settings for students with developmental disabilities.

Objective 7.1 1,000 people will become active in systems advocacy for increased access to inclusive education opportunities among students with developmental disabilities in all publicly funded schools through the support of a statewide family-driven special education grassroots advocacy organization.

Activity 7.1.1 Provide financial and other support to Louisiana Together Educating All Children (LaTEACH) for the promotion of appropriate, inclusive education for all students.
Approximate Cost: \$110,000 in FFY 2012

Activity 7.1.2 The Council will be represented on a variety of education policy-making/advisory bodies.

Objective 7.2 Changes in policies and practices will result in competitive employment in integrated settings as the first and desired outcome for youth and young adults with developmental disabilities.

Activity 7.2.1 Participate in the development and implementation (if awarded) of the Partnerships in Employment Systems Change grant with the LSU-HSC Human Development Center and other collaborators.

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Objective 7.3 There will be an increase in the number of charter schools, early education programs, and other publically funded education facilities that approximate the percentage of students statewide served with developmental disabilities across all LEAs.

Activity 7.3.1 Advocate for improved oversight and monitoring of admissions and service delivery to students with disabilities in Charter Schools, early education programs, and other publicly funded education facilities in collaboration with the Advocacy Center.

Objective 7.4 Students will be protected from discipline practices that cause harm and/or violate their rights.

Activity 7.4.1 Educate legislators, policy makers and the general public about harmful practices (e.g., restraint and seclusion, corporal punishment, unnecessary use of law enforcement, etc.) and alternative positive evidence based options (e.g., positive behavior practices, etc.) and advocate for policies and practices that promote the safe and effective practices in collaboration with the Advocacy Center.

Goal 8 EarlySteps will return to a transdisciplinary service delivery system.

Objective 8.1 Children participating in EarlySteps will demonstrate improved developmental outcomes.

Activity 8.1.1 Advocate for a system of supports and services through EarlySteps that promote improved developmental outcomes for participating children.

EMPLOYMENT

Goal 9 Changes in public policy and practice will result in an increase of 1,000 people with developmental disabilities in integrated individualized employment.

Objective 9.1 Louisiana will develop and implement an Employment First plan.

Activity 9.1.1 Advocate for

- policies that incentivize services for individualized integrated, competitive employment and dis-incentivize segregated, sheltered day habilitation services,
- sheltered workshops to transition people into individualized, competitive, paid employment and discontinue admissions into segregated day programs,
- collaborative policy making and practices across state agencies that promote students being supported in and transitioning into competitive paid employment,

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- implementation of ongoing multiagency employment data collection, management and analysis.

Activity 9.1.2 Participate in the development and implementation (if awarded) of the Partnerships in Employment Systems Change grant with the LSU-HSC Human Development Center and other collaborators to enhance statewide collaborations that will facilitate the transition process from secondary and post-secondary school, or other pre-vocational training settings, to competitive employment in integrated settings.

Activity 9.1.3 Support family members and other advocates to serve on the Louisiana work team in developing an Employment First agenda and implementation plan including participation in national conferences (Alliance for Full Participation) and state level meetings.

Approximate Cost: \$8,000 in FFY 2012

Objective 9.2 The capacity of the employment provider system will improve through evidence-based practice in collaboration with the LSU-HSC Human Development Center.

Activity 9.2.1 Provide financial support to the Human Development Center to disseminate a curriculum and provide training to agencies on recommended practices for supporting people with disabilities in employment

Approximate Cost: \$72,000 in FFY 2012

Activity 9.2.2 Advocate for the development of a collaborative cross-agency infrastructure supporting the use of consistent definitions and practice, standardized training curriculum and technical assistance for employment providers.

Objective 9.3 The Louisiana Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program's federal draw down will increase.

Activity 9.3.1 Advocate for Louisiana to draw down the entire VR grant award and serve individuals with the most severe disabilities.

Objective 9.4 Family members and others will be knowledgeable about options for integrated, competitive employment in collaboration with the Advocacy Center and the LSU-HSC Human Development Center.

Activity 9.4.1 Provide financial support to conduct a media campaign to educate employers, individuals with disabilities, family members, and provider agencies about the benefits of having people with

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developmental disabilities as part of the community-based workforce.

Approximate Cost: \$24,000 in FFY 2012

Activity 9.4.2 Provide funding for an employment education campaign targeting individuals and their family members that emphasizes the benefits of competitive employment.

Approximate Cost: \$40,000 in FFY 2012

RECREATION

Goal 10 More people with developmental disabilities will participate in inclusive community recreation activities.

Objective 10.1 Inclusive recreation programs will be developed in at least two areas of the state.

Activity 10.1.1 Provide funding to support training and technical assistance that builds the capacity of two parish or city recreation departments supporting children with disabilities, including those who need positive behavior supports, to participate in recreational activities offered to the general public.

Approximate Cost: \$50,000 in FFY 2012

CHILD CARE

Goal 11 The number of quality, affordable, inclusive child care services accessible to parents of children with significant disabilities will increase.

Objective 11.1 The capacity of the Louisiana's child care system to support children with significant disabilities will improve.

Activity 11.1.1 Provide funding to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to increase the capacity of child care centers statewide regarding inclusion to accept children with developmental disabilities.

Approximate Cost: \$32,500 in FFY 2012

Activity 11.1.2 Advocate for

- state-subsidized day care centers to be paid according to a formula that provides a higher rate for children with disabilities,
- the day care center star rating system to include inclusive practices and
- DCFS to publish a web-based listing of inclusive day care centers searchable by region.