

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council

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

with

Activities for FFY 2013

Ratified July 19, 2012

Most Recent Revision January 17, 2013

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: \$94,000 in FFY 2013

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

Activity 1.2.1 Provide information 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 2013

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

Approximate Cost: \$3,000 in FFY 2013

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: \$25,000 in FFY 2013

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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: \$10,000 in FFY 2013
- 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 2013
- 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 further development, implementation, and monitoring of the plan mandated by Act 299 of 2011.
- Activity 2.1.2** Advocate for sharing provider data online to assist individuals and families in making informed choices regarding waiver providers.
- Objective 2.2** Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) serving Louisianans with developmental disabilities will receive competitive compensation.
- Activity 2.2.1** Participate in and monitor activities of the Act 299 workgroup 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).
- Timeline: FFY 2015 (second bullet only)*

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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.
- Timeline: FFY 2015 (second bullet only)*

Objective 2.4 500 additional individuals with developmental disabilities will self-direct their waiver services.

- Activity 2.4.1** Promote self-direction through community education through the creation and dissemination of key selling points and benefits and resources to assist in the process (i.e., LaDDC News, Fact sheets, etc.)

Objective 2.5 People with developmental disabilities receiving Supported Independent Living (SIL) services are kept safe and their rights are protected.

- Activity 2.5.1** Provide financial support for a SIL ombudsman pilot program in Jefferson Parish.
Approximate Cost: \$90,000 in FFY 2013

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 residential facilities for people with developmental disabilities.

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 2013

- Activity 3.1.2** Collaborate with other advocacy groups to plan and support Disability Rights Rallies.

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Approximate Cost: \$5,000 in FFY 2013

- 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; and
 - improving the home and community based system by soliciting feedback from individual families using or trying to access behavioral health services and sharing that information with the DHH leadership.
- 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, and
 - the MFP grant program to target residents of private ICFs/DD.
Accomplished FFY2012 (second bullet only)
- Activity 3.3.2** Monitor and participate in the implementation of the Money Follows the Person (MFP) initiative to allow residents of private ICFs/DD to obtain waiver services.
- Activity 3.3.3** Collaborate with the Community Living Ombudsman Program (CLOP) on the implementation of the MFP initiative.
- Objective 3.4** The number of people at large public residential facilities will decrease thirty percent through transition to home and community-based services.
- Activity 3.4.1** Advocate for residents of the Special Education Center to be added to the Developmental Center pool of waiver slots.
Accomplished FFY 2012
- Activity 3.4.2** Monitor OCDD activities in reference to informing families of Special Education Center residents about home and community-

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based options and advocate with DHH leadership regarding this objective.

Activity 3.4.3 Provide information to the Department of Education and BESE on home and community-based services.

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

Objective 4.1 75,000 individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and professionals 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 Provide information to hospitals and health care professionals on resources available to individuals with developmental disabilities.

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 improved health outcomes for Louisiana citizens with developmental disabilities.

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

Activity 6.1.1 Advocate for BAYOU HEALTH policies to ensure people with developmental disabilities have access to adequate health care services.

Activity 6.1.2 Advocate for the implementation of ongoing multiagency health data collection, management, sharing and analysis to reduce redundancies for individual eligibility determinations and to increase early detection and intervention of health care issues.

Activity 6.1.3 Provide support for the modification of a curriculum for Nurse Practitioner (NP) and Physician Assistant (PA) students,

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development of a curriculum for online Continuing Medical Education (CME) units for physicians, and the expansion of Operation House Call to Shreveport that provides an understanding of experiences of individuals with significant disabilities and their families.

Approximate Cost: \$ 91,100 for FFY 2013

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.).

Completed in FFY 2012

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 2013

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 that result in students with developmental disabilities attaining competitive employment in integrated settings.

Activity 7.2.1 Advocate with the LSU-HSC Human Development Center and other collaborators for the development and implementation of policies and practices (i.e., college and career pathways) that ensure students with developmental disabilities have access to

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and opportunities that prepare them for post-secondary education and/or competitive, integrated employment.

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 Children participating in EarlySteps will demonstrate improved developmental outcomes through increased access to quality services.

Objective 8.1 EarlySteps will return to a transdisciplinary service delivery system.

Activity 8.1.1 Advocate for an accountability structure that ensures

- service delivery levels greater than 24 hours in a 6-month period have data-driven team justifications,
- family participation in quarterly team meetings, and
- outcomes in Individual Family Support Plans will be measureable.

Activity 8.1.2 Advocate for adequate support and training of Community Outreach Specialists.

Activity 8.1.3 Support the preliminary activities of the development of EarlySteps transdisciplinary training and mentoring materials.
Approximate Cost: \$19,000 in FFY 2013

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.

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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,
- implementation of ongoing multiagency employment data collection, management and analysis.
- LRS and OCDD will collaborate to mandate that all supported employment vendors/providers complete a university-based 40 hour training.

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.

Completed in FFY 2012

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 state level meetings.

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

Completed 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.

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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 developmental disabilities as part of the community-based workforce.

Approximate Cost: \$24,000 in FFY 2013

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

Completed 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 a city or parish recreation department supporting children with disabilities, including those who need positive behavior support, to participate in recreational activities offered to the general public.

Approximate Cost: \$50,000 in FFY 2013

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.

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Activity 11.1.1 Provide funding to the Arc of Baton Rouge 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.