



Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council



SELF-DETERMINATION ♦ INDEPENDENCE ♦ PRODUCTIVITY ♦ INTEGRATION ♦ INCLUSION

The Louisiana DD Council (Council) works to promote the self-determination, independence, productivity and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life. The Council identifies and addresses pressing needs, including inequities in employment, education, housing, community supports and health care. In 2015, the Council received \$1,357,983 in federal funding authorized under the Developmental Disabilities Act to support its work. More than 60% of Council members are people with developmental disabilities or family members.

Key Facts

- Over 5 million Americans and approximately 74,000 people in Louisiana have developmental disabilities (severe, lifelong disabilities such as cerebral palsy, autism, epilepsy, and intellectual disabilities that manifest at birth or before age 22).

Areas of Need

- People with developmental disabilities have the highest unemployment rate of any group of Americans: up to 80% of people with developmental disabilities are not employed.
- Over 13,000 Louisianans with developmental disabilities remain on a long waiting list for services to help them remain in their own homes or with their families.
- Approximately one-third of students with disabilities in Louisiana graduate high school.
- Louisiana lacks an accessible public transportation system.

Some Louisiana DD Council accomplishments

- The education and advocacy efforts of the Council led Louisiana toward providing more individualized, community-based supports and reducing its reliance on segregated institutions over the past twenty-seven years. Specifically, Louisiana policy makers:
 - Appropriated funding for more than 12,000 waiver slots for people to live in their homes and communities at a fraction of the cost of institutionalized services;
 - Implemented a needs based system for allocating resources thereby creating incredible cost savings; and
 - Reduced the number of public developmental centers from nine to one. The number of people with developmental disabilities living in state institutions in Louisiana has declined drastically over the past three decades.
- Other Council efforts include:
 - The provision of organizational support and job coach mentoring to supported employment providers to build their capacity to support people in competitive, integrated jobs and provided the public with information on the benefits of employing individuals with developmental disabilities;
 - An early behavioral intensive intervention model for children with autism and their families was developed and adopted into early intervention practices;
 - The provision of training, information and support to tens of thousands of individuals to enable them to navigate the service delivery system and advocate for quality services; and
 - Advocacy for changes to the education system that will provide a pathway to a high school diploma for students with disabilities.

To learn more about the Louisiana DD Council, visit www.laddc.org.