

# **Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council**

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

with

**Activities for FFY 2016**

**Draft Approved April 16, 2015**

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.

# Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council FFY 2016 Plan

## 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 for the operation of People First of Louisiana.  
**Accomplished in FFY 2014**

**Activity 1.1.2** Provide technical assistance and training opportunities through stipends, partnerships, staff support, etc.

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

**Activity 1.2.1** Provide information to individuals with developmental disabilities encouraging their participation on identified statewide boards, councils and committees and determine the number of individuals with developmental disabilities represented on targeted boards.

**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 and its alumni network.  
**Approximate Cost: \$80,000 in FFY 2016**

**Activity 1.3.2** Support up to two Council members' participation in Partners in Policymaking.  
**Approximate Cost: \$3,000 in FFY 2016**

**Activity 1.3.3** Provide financial and staff support for an advocacy leadership conference.  
**Approximate Cost: \$16,000 in FFY 2016**

**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.

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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.  
**Accomplished 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 2016**
- Activity 1.5.3** Support the Council leadership's participation in national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities.  
**Approximate Cost: \$7,000 in FFY 2016**
- Goal 2** Policies and practice will lead to improved quality of community-based supports and services for Louisianans with developmental disabilities.
- Objective 2.1** The quality of services to people with developmental disabilities in Louisiana will improve as a result of better informed individuals and families and market-driven providers.
- Activity 2.1.1** 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.) to assist individuals and families in making informed choices.  
**Accomplished in FFY 2012**
- Activity 2.1.2** Advocate for sharing provider data online to assist individuals and families in making informed choices regarding waiver providers.  
**Accomplished in FFY 2015**
- Activity 2.1.3** Monitor the restructuring of long-term supports and services to a managed care system and advocate for increased quality of services to be included in the reorganized system.
- Objective 2.2** Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) serving Louisianans with developmental disabilities will receive competitive compensation.

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- Activity 2.2.1** Advocate for
- competitive compensation to retain a viable stable qualified workforce of DSPs in Louisiana and
  - the dedication of a certain percentage of the HCBS rate to DSP costs (based on provider cost reports).

- Activity 2.2.1** Promote the vocation of DSPs by recognizing their important work through the funding of a media campaign.  
**Approximate Cost: \$10,000 in FFY 2016**

- 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 living in their own homes will be kept safe and their rights will be protected.

- Activity 2.5.1** Provide financial support for a SIL ombudsman pilot program in Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, and St. Bernard Parishes.  
**Accomplished in FFY 2014**

- Activity 2.5.2** Provide financial support for legal advocacy for adults with disabilities who are victims of abuse, neglect or exploitation and as a result require a legal remedy.  
**Accomplished in FFY 2014**

### 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 2016**

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- Activity 3.1.2** Collaborate with other advocacy groups to plan and support Disability Rights Day.  
**Approximate Cost: \$5,000 in FFY 2016**
- Activity 3.1.3** Advocate for systems change initiatives, revenue generating strategies, policies and practices needed to expand supports and services.
- Activity 3.1.4** Monitor the possible restructuring of long-term supports and services to a managed care system and advocate for an increased quantity of services to be included in the reorganized system.
- Objective 3.2** Admissions to residential facilities will decrease by increasing access to behavioral and medical intervention in the community and the discontinuation of people adjudicated into state-operated facilities.
- Activity 3.2.1** Advocate in collaboration with the Advocacy Center for
- additional providers with specialized expertise in behavioral services;
  - the development of a plan upon admission that includes specific activities, persons responsible and timelines for discharge or transition; and
  - improvement in 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. **Accomplished in FFY 2015**
- Activity 3.2.2** Monitor access to behavioral health services after the shift from Magellan to Bayou Health.
- Activity 3.2.3** Advocate for Self-direction to be exempted from medication administration requirements. **Accomplished in FFY 2015**
- Activity 3.2.4** Advocate for adequate rates that support services for people with complex medical and behavioral needs.
- 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
- the MFP grant program to target residents of private ICFs/DD. **Accomplished in FFY 2012**
- Activity 3.3.2** Advocate for initiatives that allow residents of private ICFs/DD to obtain waiver services.

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**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 in FFY 2012**

**Activity 3.4.2** Monitor collaborative efforts of OCDD and LDOE for the following: to identify gaps in educational services and services provided through OCDD and potential supports to children and families to maximize the benefits of education to developmental disabilities services for children with orthopedic and other severe significant disabilities such that children currently residing at the La. Special Education Center are able to receive special education services in their least restricted environment possible.

**Activity 3.4.3** Provide information to the Department of Education and BESE on home and community-based services.  
**Accomplished in FFY 2015**

**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 financial support (the entirety of 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.

**Activity 4.1.3** Provide information important to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families through a variety of electronic and social media (Council website, facebook, LaDDC News, etc.)

**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.

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## HEALTH

**Goal 6** Policies and practices will result in improved health outcomes for Louisiana citizens with developmental disabilities.

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

**Activity 6.1.1** Advocate for DHH to implement a process of health data analysis for individuals served.

**Activity 6.1.2** Provide support for the modification of a curriculum for Nurse Practitioner (NP) and Physician Assistant (PA) students, 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.  
**Accomplished in FFY 2014**

**Activity 6.1.3** Provide support for the modification of a curriculum for Continuing Nurse Education that provides an understanding of treating individuals with developmental disabilities.  
**Accomplished in FFY 2015**

**Activity 6.1.4** Provide support for the modification of a curriculum for Dental and Dental Hygienist students and Continuing Dental Education that provides an understanding of treating individuals with developmental disabilities.  
**Accomplished in FFY 2015**

**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.).  
**Accomplished in FFY 2012**

**Objective 6.3** Individuals with developmental disabilities will have increased access to dental services.

**Activity 6.3.1** Advocate for the Louisiana Oral Health Coalition Plan to be amended to include increased access to dental services for people with developmental disabilities.

**Activity 6.3.2** Disseminate information about where people can get free and/or reduced cost dental services.

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- Activity 6.3.3** Identify dentists who have participated in training (6.1.4) and disseminate the information to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

### 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: \$100,000 in FFY 2016**

**Activity 7.1.2** The Council will be represented on a variety of education policy-making/advisory bodies and support stakeholders who serve on boards.

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

**Activity 7.2.2** Provide information on and monitor the appropriate implementation of Act 833 of 2014.

**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 local education agencies (LEAs).



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**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.

**Activity 7.3.2** Advocate for financial and accountability structures that support the inclusion of all students, including young children in Early Childhood settings.

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

**Activity 7.4.1** Monitor and advocate as necessary against the use of harmful practices (e.g., restraint and seclusion, corporal punishment, unnecessary use of law enforcement, etc.) and advocate for alternative positive evidence based options (e.g., positive behavior practices, etc.) and 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** Provide funding for training/mentoring in the Early Intervention Primary Service Provider Model including implementation of accountability measures.

**Approximate Cost: \$6,000 in FFY 2016**

### **EMPLOYMENT**

**Goal 9** Changes in public policy and practice will result in more people with developmental disabilities in integrated individualized employment.

**Objective 9.1** Louisiana will implement Employment First practices.

**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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- LRS and OCDD will collaborate to mandate that all supported employment vendors/providers complete a university-based, 40-hour training. **Accomplished** (fourth bullet only)
- 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. **Accomplished** (fifth bullet only)

**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.

**Accomplished in FFY 2012**

**Activity 9.1.3** Provide funding for provision of the LRS-required training in the 40-hour Supported Employment Core Curriculum and the development and provision of a competency-based mentoring program for Employment Support Professionals who have completed the required 40-hour training.

**Accomplished in FFY 2015**

**Objective 9.2** The capacity and quality 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

**Accomplished in FFY 2012**

**Activity 9.2.2** Provide funding for a paid apprenticeship program for individuals with developmental disabilities.

**Approximate Cost: \$60,000 in FFY 2016**

**Activity 9.2.3** Advocate for measures to enhance and ensure the quality of supported employment services through

- certification of Employment Support Professionals (ESPs), and
- a system of accountability to include outcomes-based monitoring and a complaint process.

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

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

**Activity 9.3.2** Assist Louisiana Rehabilitation Services in promoting partnerships with Local Education Agencies to utilize local and state education funds as match for the federal Vocational Rehabilitation grant.

**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.

**Accomplished 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.

**Accomplished 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 one area 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.

**Accomplished in FFY 2012**

**Activity 10.1.2** Promote examples of and guidance for adults involved in inclusive recreational/leisure activities.

### **CHILD CARE**

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

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**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 Arc of Baton Rouge to increase the capacity of child care centers statewide regarding inclusion to accept children with developmental disabilities.

**Accomplished in FFY 2013**

**Activity 11.1.2** Advocate for Medicaid funds supporting children in Pediatric Day Health Care Centers to be used to support children in inclusive settings.