

Governor's Office of Disability Affairs

Report to the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council

June 30, 2019

[Click here for Governor's Office of Disability Affairs Monthly Newsletters](#)
or find newsletters located on the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs webpage.

Governor's Office of Disability Affairs Conference

The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs (GODA) will host its Annual Conference on July 26, 2019 at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, LA. The Conference will be held on the 29th Anniversary of the signing of the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

The GODA Conference will feature a Keynote Presentation from Kristi Avalos, the founder and CEO of Accessology and national expert in accessibility, the ADA, and national disability related issues. The GODA Conference will also include sessions on education, employment, healthcare, housing, transportation, and emergency preparedness.

Due to the overwhelming response, availability is limited. GODA encourages all interested parties to register immediately.

To register for the GODA Conference please click [here](#).

Employment First Grant – Regional Capacity Building and Collaboration

Through the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs, Louisiana has received an [Employment First Technical Assistance Grant from the US Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy](#). One component of the grant is Capacity Building with two regions of the state and is aligned with the recommendation in our [Employment First Report](#) on page 19-20.

The two regions that were selected are:

Region 3 –

Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John, St. Mary, Terrebonne

Region 4 –

Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Vermilion.

Meetings were held in both regions in May. Thirty-five (35) people attended in each region. The regions are developing plans to continuing the collaboration.

The collaborative regional teams include but are not limited to the following:

- Individuals and Families
- Service Providers
- Business, Industry, and Labor
- Education
- Regional Government Offices

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The Statewide Independent Living Council Inclusion Gala

The Statewide Independent Living Council will host an Inclusion Gala for individuals with and without disabilities. The Inclusion Gala will be held on August 10 at 7:00pm at the Wyndam Garden located at 1801 West Pinhook Road in Lafayette. This event is open to adults with disabilities and anyone else who has a connection with the disability community. The Gala will be an opportunity to recognize important people who have carried on the Independent Living philosophy in the community. For information and to RSVP please visit the link below. Only 100 seats available. This event is sponsored by the Statewide Independent Living Council ,New Horizons, and Humana.
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/silc-inclusion-gala-tickets-62865587665>

The Statewide Independent Living Council Job and Resource Fairs

The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) will host a series of Inclusion Job and Resource Fairs this fall. The SILC encourages all interested parties to find out more about possible career opportunities and resources available to the community by with interfacing over 40 vendors. The job fairs will take place in various locations throughout the state (see the schedule below) from 10am to 2pm. These job and resource fairs will provide valuable information regarding employment and other important resources for individuals with disabilities.

The Inclusion Job and Resource Fairs Schedule:

- Oct. 9: Lake Charles- Civic Center, 900 Lakeshore Dr, Lake Charles
- Oct.10: Baton Rouge- BREC Ball Room, 6201 Florida Blvd, Baton Rouge
- Oct.11: Lafayette- Robichaux Rec Center, 1919 Eraste Landry Rd, Lafayette
- Oct. 16: Monroe- West Ouachita Sr. Center, 1800 N 7th St, West Monroe
- Oct. 23: Shreveport- David Raines Community Center, 2920 Round Grove Lane
- Oct. 30: Pineville- Pineville Community Center, 2450 Hwy 28 East, Pineville
- Oct. 31: Hammond- Hammond Recreation Center, 601 W. Coleman Ave.
- New Orleans- TBA
- Thibodaux-TBA
- Jefferson Parish- TBA

Individuals with disabilities are strongly encouraged to attend. For more information or if you would like to be a vendor for this event, contact Jessica Lewis at 225-219-7552. This event is sponsored by the Statewide Independent Living Council and Healthy Blue.

[Click here for the 2018 Governor's Office of Disability Affairs Annual Report](#)
or find the report located on the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs webpage.