

**Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS)
LRS Director's Quarterly Report
October 2021**

PROGRAM SERVICES

Pre-Employment Transition Services:

Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) provides Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) to students with disabilities between the ages of 16 and 21 with an active Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or who meets the definition of a student with a disability as covered under Section 504 or who is a student who has a documented disability. Pre-ETS include Job Exploration Counseling, Work-Based Learning Experiences, Counseling on Post-Secondary Opportunities, Workplace Readiness Training and Training on Self Advocacy. LRS is currently serving approximately 2,411 students statewide. That includes providing Pre-ETS in 55 of the 64 parishes.

Also, LRS currently has 14 active Third Party Cooperative Arrangements (TPCA) with local or state education providers to provide Pre-ETS and is continuing to pursue additional TPCA's with local and state education providers.

It is the goal of LRS to spend approximately \$10.7 million on Pre-ETS activities this state fiscal year.

Vocational Rehabilitation:

Vocational Rehabilitation Consumer Statistics (for current quarter):	
Number of Applications	794
Number of Eligibility/Delayed	723
Number of New IPEs	598
Number of Closed Rehab (Successful Closures)	225
Total Open VR cases as of September 30th	8,893
Total Open Pre-ETS cases as of September 30th	2,411

DD Open VR Cases: As of September 30, 2021

Disability Cause	New Orleans	Baton Rouge	Houma	Lafayette	Lake Charles	Alexandria	Shreveport	Monroe	Total
Autism	224	163	52	70	35	41	55	32	672
Cerebral Palsy	39	55	11	11	14	21	36	8	195
Intellectual Disabilities	219	97	35	46	51	57	97	61	663
Specific Learning Disabilities	375	351	92	48	19	132	142	203	1,362
Total	857	666	190	175	119	251	330	304	2,892

DD Closed Rehabilitated Cases: July 1, 2021 thru September 30, 2021

Case Status	Case Type	Disability Cause	Total
Closed-Rehab	VR	Autism	9
		Cerebral Palsy	2
		Intellectual Disabilities	17
		Specific Learning Disabilities	9
Total:			37

REDS Report: July 1, 2021 – September 30, 2021

Region	Number of Referrals	Number of Community Activities or Employer Contacts	Number of On-the-Job Training Contracts	Employment placements	Successful closures
Region 2	12	74	0	5	4
Region 4	2	67	0	0	0
Region 5	2	77+	0	4	0
Region 7	37	165	12	16	9
Region 8	0	61	0	0	0
Totals	53	444+	12	25	13

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Louisiana Rehabilitation Council (LRC):

The LRC continues to have quarterly meetings. The next LRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 29th. It will be via ZOOM. Meeting information will be posted to the Boards and Commissions' website.

Rehabilitation Employment Development Specialist (REDS):

Rehabilitation Employment Development Specialists (REDS) continue to make connections with employers and attend community activities such as job fair committee meetings, LWC Back to Work job fairs, SHRM meetings, virtual trainings, and webinars. They also continue to discuss challenging cases with other REDS, in order to obtain other perspectives from other professionals on how to proceed with difficult placement cases. This strategy appears to be very helpful.

LRS is still seeking applicants for the REDS position in the Houma and Alexandria Regions. We will continue to post the positions on Civil Service and seek qualified applicants interested in working with people with disabilities.

Training:

Several LRS staff virtually participated in the GODA Conference which provided valuable information on accessibility, education, employment, healthcare, voting, emergency preparedness, self-determination, leadership, advocacy, and interactions with law enforcement, all as it pertained to individuals with disabilities.

Staff was provided in-house training on new and/or updated information to policy manual materials and how to utilize a new "Vendor Portal" in our AWARE data system which created easier access to information between staff and service providers.

Brenda Bohrer, Program Coordinator, completed training with Virginia Commonwealth University and is actively working on certification requirements to serve as a Community Work Incentive Coordinator (CWIC) for LRS consumers receiving Social Security benefits.

LRS continues to be involved in a pilot project with Southern University/WINTAC/E3 Grant focused on the practice of utilizing Integrated Resource Teams (IRT). A training event was conducted with various local agencies in the Hammond area to educate interested parties on this practice and to create a Community Academy (representatives from various agencies) to support the provision of IRTs with consumers being served by LRS.

LRS will resume offering graduate training assistance to staff in an effort to increase the quality of service provision to our consumers, and to elevate staff morale by financially supporting this accomplishment.

Throughout the year, all staff are required to participate in various trainings. These trainings include a minimum of 10 hours of approved trainings such as: Career Pathways (3 hours), Pre-Employment Transition Services (3 hours), Performance and Compliance (2 hours), Labor

Market Trends and Information, (1 hour), and Ethics and Confidentiality (1 hour). Supervisors are also required to complete one hour of additional continuing education training through CPTP. Training is a valuable method in enhancing our program and providing quality services.

Hurricane Ida:

Multiple regions were affected by Hurricane Ida which required certain offices to be closed due to damages sustained or power outages.