

Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) LRS Director's Quarterly Report September 2018

Vocational Rehabilitation:

- Statistics:

Numbers in delayed status by Eligibility Category as of 9/21/18.

Category	Number
Category 1	0
Category 2	0
Category 3	241
Category 4	150
Category 5	34
Total	425

As of 9/21/2018, LRS has **7,881 Active (Open) Cases**.

- Due to an increase in funding received for this SFY, the Order of Selection (OOS) Category 2 was opened on July 16, 2018. This enabled LRS to begin serving 464 individuals with disabilities who were in delayed status waiting for services. This category remains open for services. LRS projects opening Order of Selection Category 3 on October 1, 2018. This will enable the agency to serve an additional 241 individuals currently in delayed status waiting for services in this category.

Training:

- The training department will be conducting a Counselor Academy in March of 2019. Staff members are working on revamping the training content to incorporate the new requirements from WIOA. A work group was established to help facilitate the changes and include new information regarding new processes and performance measures such as Measurable Skills Gains, Educational Credential Attainment and Effectiveness in Serving Employers.
- Louisiana Rehabilitation Association and the National Rehabilitation Association's Southwest Region has scheduled its 2019 training conference on February 11 – 12, 2019 in Baton Rouge. Individuals interested in learning more or in assisting with the conference can contact Tiffany Anthony at 928-1400 or tanthony@uplifted.org

Pre-ETS/JAG:

- LRS recently revised Pre-ETS procedures and continues to provide on-going training to staff to ensure effective practices in providing Pre-ETS. LRS also received guidance from the Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Center (WINTAC) and the Rehabilitation Services Administration that affects LRS Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) Third Party Cooperative Arrangements (TPCAs). LRS will be canceling or revising all Pre-ETS TPCAs.

Employment:

- LRS continues to participate as a member of the SAME Task Force that has been working on a process to increase opportunities for individuals with disabilities to be employed in state government. Brenda Bohrer will be LRS' central point of contact for state agencies.

HR Updates:

- LRS is in the process of hiring additional staff to enable increased capacity in areas of the state that had the most need. Five Rehabilitation Counselor positions were posted to the Civil Service webpage for applicants to apply in the Houma, Lake Charles, New Orleans, Monroe and Shreveport offices. Postings closed on 9/21 & 9/22 and interviews will begin soon. To increase awareness of the opportunities, notification was sent to our partner universities with Rehabilitation Counseling programs, LSU Health Science Center and Southern University, to share with their graduates & students.

Independent Living:

- The Statewide Independent Living Council has its next quarterly meeting on October 4th and 5th at the American Red Cross Building in Baton Rouge. Further information can be found on the SILC webpage at <http://gov.louisiana.gov/page/silc>

Supported Employment/CRP:

- LRS staff met with WINTAC staff and representatives from the DD Council, East Baton Rouge School Board, Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, and the ARC. We discussed the progress of the Customized Employment pilot in Louisiana and future steps to continue the sustainability of the program in Louisiana. LRS plans to have future teleconferences and face to face meetings to continue the discussion.

Randolph Sheppard:

- LRS and the Elected Committee of Blind Vendors are in the process of selecting a new manager for Randolph-Sheppard Vending Facility 7128, New Orleans Post Office.