



Developmental Disability Services in Louisiana

KNOW THE FACTS

- **An estimated 72,500 people in Louisiana have a developmental disability, roughly 1.6 percent¹ of the population.**
- **Many individuals with developmental disabilities and their families do not have equitable access to services based on where they live.**
- **An overwhelming majority of people with a developmental disability want to receive services in their own homes and communities. However, some essential services are not available to those who need them.**

What is a Developmental Disability?

A developmental disability is a severe, chronic intellectual or physical impairment that occurs before a person is 22 years old and is likely to continue indefinitely. The disability results in substantial functional limitations in three or more areas of life activity, reflects the person's need for a combination of individually planned services and is not attributed solely to mental illness.

Services and Programs

The State Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) serves as the Single Point of Entry into the Developmental Disabilities Services System. Human services districts/authorities are the entry point at the regional level, determining eligibility and offering services to a limited number of individuals and families. Depending on the service, it can be provided through private provider agencies or through individualized agreements with individuals and families who obtain their own service providers.

Supports and services that *may* be available to an individual with a developmental disability in Louisiana include the following:

The **Individual and Family Support Program** provides resources to people to allow them to live in their own homes or with their families. Services provided include, but are not limited to, respite, personal assistance, equipment, supplies and crisis intervention.



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(continued)



The **Flexible Family Fund Program** provides a monthly stipend to families of eligible children with severe disabilities until the age of 18.

Home and Community-Based Waiver Services are offered to children through the **Children's Choice Waiver** and adults through the **New Opportunities Waiver (NOW)**, the **Supports Waiver** and the **Residential Options Waiver (ROW)**. These waivers are offered to those with the most urgent and emergent needs. A variety of services and supports are provided to allow individuals to reside in the community.

The **EarlySteps Program** is Louisiana's early intervention system for children with disabilities and developmental delays, ages birth to three, and their families. Family service coordination and various services are available.

Support Coordination are services provided to individuals eligible for Medicaid to assist them in gaining access to the full range of needed services including medical, social, educational and other support services within OCDD.

Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (ICFs/DD) are 24 hour residential facilities, both public and private. ICFs/DD in Louisiana range in size from six bed community homes to large institutions with a census of up to 407.

¹ Larson, S.A., Lakin, K.C., Anderson, L., Kwak, N., Lee, J., & Anderson, D. (2001). Prevalence of mental retardation and developmental disabilities: Estimates from the 1994/1995 National Health Interview Survey Disability Supplements. *American Journal on Mental Retardation*, 106(3), 231- 252.