

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council

**State Five Year Plan
Federal Fiscal Years
2017 – 2021**

with

Activities for FFY 2021

RATIFIED

September 5, 2020

The Council's mission is to increase independence, self-determination, productivity, integration, and inclusion for Louisianans with developmental disabilities by engaging in advocacy, capacity building, and systems change.

La DD Council - FFY 2021 Action Plan

Page 1 of 9

Ratified September 5, 2020

Goal 1 Individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members will have information, training, support and leadership to effectively advocate and impact systems change by educating policy makers.

Objective 1.1 Louisiana's self-advocacy network will be supported in self-advocacy and in systems change advocacy.

Activity 1.1.1 Provide technical assistance and training opportunities designed to strengthen the self-advocacy network and the effectiveness of its systems change activities.

Approximate FFY 2021 Cost: \$20,000

Activity 1.1.2 Accomplished during FFY 2019

Objective 1.2 Individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members will have access to opportunities and support to build skills to be effective leaders in systems change advocacy.

Activity 1.2.1 Provide financial support and technical assistance for Partners in Policymaking and its alumni network.

Approximate FFY 2021 Cost: \$90,000

Activity 1.2.2 Addressed during FFY 2017- 2019

Activity 1.2.3 Provide financial support and information, training, technical assistance, and leadership to a grassroots network of individuals with developmental disabilities and family members of individuals with developmental disabilities to effectively educate policy makers on the development/improvement of programs and services for people with developmental disabilities.

Approximate FFY 2021 Cost: \$215,000

Activity 1.2.4 Facilitate and support advocacy events, including but not limited to Legislative Roundtables, a Conference, and advocacy training sessions including targeting youth and young adults with developmental disabilities.

Approximate FFY 2021 Cost: \$50,000

Activity 1.2.5 Addressed during FFY 2020

Objective 1.3 Individuals with developmental disabilities and family members of individuals with developmental disabilities will have support to be effective leaders in systems change through participation on a variety of boards and commissions

Activity 1.3.1 Provide information and support for participation of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions and advisory bodies.

Activity 1.3.2 Support Council members in participation in Council meetings and other functions.

Activity 1.3.3 Support Council members' participation in training and educational opportunities.

Approximate FFY 2021 Cost: \$3,000

La DD Council - FFY 2021 Action Plan

Page 2 of 9

Ratified September 5, 2020

Activity 1.3.4 Support the Council leadership's participation in national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities.

Approximate FFY 2021 Cost: \$7,000

Objective 1.4 Individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and professionals will obtain the information, training, and support they need.

Activity 1.4.1 Provide financial support (from the entirety of state general funds) and technical assistance to nine Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers across the state.

Activity 1.4.2 Produce and provide information important to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families through a variety of electronic and social media (Council website, Facebook, and LaDDC News),

Activity 1.4.3 Produce and disseminate videos and other visual materials featuring information important to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families regarding but not limited to the following topics: self-advocacy, obtaining employment, grade promotion/graduation pathways, and accessing home and community-based services, including waivers.

Approximate FFY 2021 Cost: \$51,000

Activity 1.4.4 Provide financial support to develop an emergency response resource in partnership with other organizations to have a clearing house of educational materials, videos, etc. for people with developmental disabilities and their family members.

Approximate FFY 2021 Cost: \$7,500

Activity 1.4.5 Provide financial support to provide information on rights, accessible options and information related to voting.

Approximate FFY 2021 Cost: \$7,000

Goal 2 Individuals with developmental disabilities, including those with the most challenging needs, and their families will have access to individualized, appropriate, and quality supports and services as needed to be fully participating members of their community.

Objective 2.1 Addressed during FFY 2017

Objective 2.2 Accomplished during FFY 2018

Objective 2.3 Accomplished during FFY 2019

Objective 2.4 Funding will be available to provide home and community-based waiver services to people with developmental disabilities.

Activity 2.4.1 Advocate for adequate funding for waiver services.

Objective 2.5 Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will have access to the same level and quality of services administered by the Local Governing Entities (LGEs) across the state.

La DD Council - FFY 2021 Action Plan

Page 3 of 9

Ratified September 5, 2020

Activity 2.5.1 Oversee implementation of the Community and Family Support System Plan and advocate for adequate funding, the expansion of services, and consistent implementation of policy across regions, including, if necessary, changes in law and/or contracts with local governing entities (LGEs).

Objective 2.6 Louisiana will reduce reliance on institutional services for people with developmental disabilities.

Activity 2.6.1 Advocate for utilization of the ROW 50 pilot and other opportunities to transition out of institutional settings.

Objective 2.7 Individuals with developmental disabilities will benefit from changes, consistent with Council positions, in policy and practice in state and local agencies and programs.

Activity 2.7.1 Advocate for systems change based on emergent community support issues.

Activity 2.7.2 Provide financial support for promotion, awareness, training and support in implementation of Supported Decision Making
Approximate FFY 2021 Cost: \$50,000

Activity 2.7.3 Provide financial support to establish pilot programs in multiple regions across the state on first-responder tactics, approaches and resources in fostering relationships with and dealing with individuals with developmental disabilities and training for people with developmental disabilities on how to interact with first responders
Approximate FFY 2021 Cost: \$50,000

Activity 2.7.4 Provide financial support to establish a training program on emergency preparedness and response relative to people with developmental disabilities
Approximate FFY 2021 Cost: \$20,000

Activity 2.7.5 Provide financial support to coordinate rapid response during a natural disaster or state of emergency for individuals with the most severe disabilities and medical conditions.
Approximate FFY 2021 Cost: \$10,000

Activity 2.7.6 Provide financial support to respond to COVID-19 or other natural disaster.
Approximate FFY 2021 Cost: \$2,500

Objective 2.8 Individuals receiving waiver services through the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) will have access to a full range of quality health care services that result in improved overall health outcomes.

Activity 2.8.1 Publicize healthcare provider continuing education opportunities.

La DD Council - FFY 2021 Action Plan

Page 4 of 9

Ratified September 5, 2020

Activity 2.8.2 Advocate for waivers to provide access to services listed in the Freedom of Choice Provider Listing, continue exemptions and flexibilities initiated with COVID-19; and consider individualized emergency preparedness considerations for people with severe disabilities and medical issues.

Objective 2.9 Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will have information and training on sexuality, sexual abuse and exploitation.

Activity 2.9.1 Provide financial support for training on sexuality and relationships and to build awareness and skills with recognizing and handling sexual abuse and exploitation of people with developmental disabilities and publicize available webinars on these topics.

Approximate FFY 2021 Cost: \$55,000

Activity 2.9.2 Accomplished in FY 2020

Goal 3 Students with disabilities will have access to quality, individualized educational programs that address their unique skills, interests, and goals in inclusive environments.

Objective 3.1 Individualized Education Plan (IEP) team members will have increased levels of information and support to demonstrate effective individualized programming consistent with best practice and to enable each member to participate fully as members of the IEP team.

Activity 3.1.1 Advocate for increased focus and capacity within Louisiana Department of Education to address Special Education, including specific areas/issues (i.e., disability/topical/etc.).

Activity 3.1.2 Advocate for support structure in school systems that assures adequate understanding and skill to develop and implement IEP's and increased infrastructure of training and technical assistance provided to parents and schools simultaneously.

Objective 3.2 Addressed in FFY 2017 - 2020

Objective 3.3 Students with developmental disabilities will benefit from changes, consistent with Council positions, in policy and practice in educational agencies and programs.

Activity 3.3.1 Advocate for educational systems change based on emergent education issues.

Objective 3.4 An increased number of students with disabilities are included in school culture.

Activity 3.4.1 Provide information and promote inclusion and acceptance of effective models of school climate and culture.

La DD Council - FFY 2021 Action Plan

Page 5 of 9

Ratified September 5, 2020

Activity 3.4.2 Provide financial support to establish a Post-Secondary Inclusive Education Alliance to provide mentoring and technical assistance, host training events and develop resources designed to build the capacity of Louisiana postsecondary institutions in providing inclusive postsecondary education opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout Louisiana.
Approximate FFY 2021 Cost: \$ 40,000

Goal 4 Students with disabilities are considered from the initial phases to the completion of planning and program development of educational policies and initiatives.

Objective 4.1 Accomplished during FFY 2017

Objective 4.2 All schools (charter/magnet) accepting public dollars and early childhood centers will accept and serve all students with disabilities appropriately.

Activity 4.2.1 Advocate for Type 2 and Type 5 charter schools to be required to meet 85% rule of enrolling students with disabilities at rates similar to those found in traditional public schools and advocate for and monitor equitable funding based on Minimum Foundation Program (MFP).

Activity 4.2.2 Addressed in FFY 2020

Activity 4.2.3 Addressed in FFY 2019 - 2020

Objective 4.3 Stakeholders will have increased opportunities to provide authentic input that will impact decisions on policies effecting students with disabilities.

Activity 4.3.1 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.

Goal 5 Individuals with developmental disabilities including those with the most substantial employment support needs will have access to quality individualized services and funding that support competitive integrated individualized employment, and career and financial goals.

Objective 5.1 An increased number of individuals with developmental disabilities will have access to qualified providers who offer a stable workforce of supported employment professionals with recognized skills sets demonstrated to be effective in supporting people with disabilities getting and maintaining employment.

Activity 5.1.1 Advocate for employment support professionals to complete high-quality professional development for the improvement of service provisions and employment outcomes.

Activity 5.1.2 Addressed in FY 2017 - 2020

Activity 5.1.3 Provide funding to build the capacity of employment providers in customized employment in a manner which will lead to certification through a competency-based certification program.

Approximate FFY 2021 Cost: \$50,000

La DD Council - FFY 2021 Action Plan

Page 6 of 9

Ratified September 5, 2020

Objective 5.2 An increased number of individuals with developmental disabilities will have information and access to an integrated workforce development system that is fully funded.

Activity 5.2.1 Advocate for employment providers to have access to financial incentives to support unserved and underserved populations including people with the most substantial employment support needs in competitive integrated individualized employment.

Objective 5.3 Individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and professionals in the various service systems will have increased expectations that people with developmental disabilities can have successful competitive, integrated, individualized employment.

Activity 5.3.1 Share the benefits planning services to a variety of agencies and stakeholders.

Activity 5.3.2 Share Developmental Disabilities Council employment videos featuring individuals with developmental disabilities on their jobs.

Activity 5.3.3 Provide financial support to conduct seminars with Chambers of Commerce throughout the state on the benefits of hiring people with developmental disabilities.

Approximate FFY 2021 Cost: \$32,000

Objective 5.4 Individuals with developmental disabilities will benefit from changes, consistent with Council positions, in policy and practice in employment agencies/programs.

Activity 5.4.1 Advocate for systems change based on emergent employment issues.