

**Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS)
LRS Director's Quarterly Report
December 2020**

PROGRAM SERVICES

Vocational Rehabilitation

| Vocational Rehabilitation Consumer Statistics (for current quarter): | |
|---|-------|
| Number of Applications | 558 |
| Number of Eligibility/Delayed | 799 |
| Number of New IPE's | 436 |
| Number of Closed Rehabilitated (Successful Closures) | 229 |
| Total Open VR Cases as of December 16th | 8,687 |
| Total Open Pre-ETS Cases as of December 16th | 2,137 |

DD Open VR Cases: October 1, 2020 thru December 16, 2020

| Disability Cause | New Orleans | Baton Rouge | Houma | Lafayette | Lake Charles | Alexandria | Shreveport | Monroe | Total |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Autism | 180 | 148 | 43 | 55 | 26 | 24 | 45 | 23 | 544 |
| Cerebral Palsy | 35 | 34 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 19 | 26 | 7 | 149 |
| Intellectual Disabilities | 193 | 59 | 30 | 31 | 35 | 41 | 68 | 41 | 498 |
| Specific Learning Disabilities | 306 | 235 | 61 | 16 | 8 | 77 | 101 | 184 | 988 |
| Total | 544 | 476 | 143 | 112 | 78 | 161 | 240 | 255 | 2,179 |

DD Closed Rehabilitated Cases: July 1, 2020 thru September 30, 2020

| Case Status | Case Type | Disability Cause | Total |
|----------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-------|
| Closed-Rehabilitated | VR | Autism | 13 |
| | | Cerebral Palsy | 2 |
| | | Intellectual Disabilities | 10 |
| | | Specific Learning Disabilities | 11 |
| Total: | | | 33 |

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. 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 2,600 students statewide. That includes providing Pre-ETS in 53 of the 64 parishes and over 340 schools systems in the state.

LRS currently has 13 active Third Party Cooperative Arrangements (TPCA) with local education providers to provide Pre-ETS and is continuing to pursue additional TPCA's with additional school districts.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Louisiana Rehabilitation Council (LRC):

The Louisiana Rehabilitation Council will meet on Thursday, January 28, 2021, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm via ZOOM.

The LRC has recently added new members but still needs to fill 4 vacant positions. The following positions are currently vacant:

- A representative of the area of rehabilitation technologies
- Director of a Federal Sect. 121 Project
- Representative of Business Industry and Labor
- Recipient of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Rehabilitation Employment Development Specialist (REDS):

LRS is in the process of hiring Rehabilitation Employment Development Specialist (REDS) for all regions. In October, both the Baton Rouge and Monroe Regions hired REDS to assist with job placement endeavors bringing the current REDS total to five. We are still seeking to fill vacancies in New Orleans, Houma, and Alexandria Regions.

Training:

Staff has been engaged in numerous training opportunities during the last quarter. The two-week New Counselor Academy was conducted in October. This year we had a virtual academy, and all District Supervisors assisted in with presentations. They shared their knowledge and expertise with the new staff and presented the new counselors with examples to follow, charts and reference sheets to use as a quick resource. New presentations were developed this year to assist the Counselors in better understanding resources available to consumers, assessments needed for services, financial need requirements, and services available for consumers. With so many things for Counselors to remember, we look for ways to assist the Counselor in organizing their time and having resources at their fingertips.

All counseling staff was invited to attend a virtual training on Assistive Technology presented by Eleanor Murrell. Ms. Murrell provided guidance on manual material, procedures, types of modifications, and a Q&A session.

State Office staff provided training to all staff on new approved flexibilities for Pre-Employment Transition Services. A statewide vendor training was also conducted to provide similar training with the vendors that provide Pre-ETS.

Our staff has become proficient in meeting consumers virtually. We are working our way to becoming a paperless system, and we are looking forward to adding electronic signature pads to our system in the upcoming days.