

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council

State Five-Year Plan Federal Fiscal Years 2022 – 2026

(October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2026)

Goals and Objectives

Ratified by Council January 21, 2021

FFY 2022 Action Plan

Activities Adopted by Council April 22, 2021

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.

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GOAL 1 Self-Advocacy and Advocacy Leadership

Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will have access to information and supports to become effective leaders of their communities and advocate for systems changes on behalf of themselves and other individuals with developmental disabilities.

Objective 1.1 Individuals with developmental disabilities of all ages will have access to opportunities to increase their awareness and knowledge of rights as a contributing member to society; including subject matters on (but not limited to) advocacy, voting, exploitation prevention, financial stability and responsibilities, and decision making.

Activity 1.1.1 Provide financial support and technical assistance for Partners in Policymaking and its alumni network.

Approximate Cost for FY2022: \$90,000

Activity 1.1.2 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 Cost for FY2022: \$215,000

Activity 1.1.3 Facilitate and support diverse advocacy events, including but not limited to Legislative Roundtables, toward training, services, and policies that will benefit individuals with developmental disabilities.

Approximate Cost for FY2022: \$30,000

Activity 1.1.4 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 1.1.5 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: accessible housing, COVID-19 issues, IEP guidance, successful educational outcomes and inclusive employment and other demonstrations of “It Can Be Done and You Can Do It” in all aspects of inclusive living, Partners in Policymaking®, assistive technology, inclusive after-school and recreational activities, ADA, DD Act, Civil Rights, IDEA and dispute resolutions, voting rights and accessible options, LRS services (especially transition) and how to access those services.

Approximate Cost for FY2022: \$51,000

Activity 1.1.6 Provide financial support for promotion, awareness, training and support in the implementation of Supported Decision Making.

Approximate Cost for FY2022: \$50,000

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Activity 1.1.7 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 1.1.8 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.

Objective 1.2 Louisiana's self-advocacy network, partner groups, and citizens with developmental disabilities will be supported in self-advocacy training, systems change advocacy, and through participation on a variety of boards and commissions.

Activity 1.2.1 Provide technical assistance and training opportunities designed to strengthen the self-advocacy network and the effectiveness of its systems change activities and promote self-advocacy participation in training of other self-advocates in leadership positions.

Approximate Cost for FY2022: \$25,000

Activity 1.2.2 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 1.2.3 Support Council members in participation in Council meetings and other functions.

Activity 1.2.4 Support Council members' participation in training and educational opportunities and Council leadership's participation in national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities.

Approximate Cost for FY2022: \$7,000

GOAL 2 Community Living and Supports

To be fully participating members of the community, individuals with developmental disabilities, including those with the most challenging needs, and their families will have access to quality supports and services inclusive of affordable healthcare, resources across various service delivery systems, and shall be treated equally by all members of the community.

Objective 2.1 Individuals with developmental disabilities will have increased access to appropriate and affordable healthcare, including primary and specialist providers, preventive health services and prevention of chronic diseases, dental care, sexual/reproductive health services and behavioral health services.

Activity 2.1.1 Provide information and financial support to coordinate rapid response during a natural disaster or state of emergency for individuals with the most severe disabilities and medical conditions and for Human Service

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Districts/Authorities and other service entities for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to be aware of disaster/emergency response resource entities.

Approximate Cost for FY2022: \$10,000

Activity 2.1.2 Advocate for adequate funding for waiver services.

Activity 2.1.3 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).

Activity 2.1.4 Advocate for utilization of the ROW 50 pilot and other opportunities to transition out of institutional settings.

Activity 2.1.5 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.

Activity 2.1.6 Advocate for and collaborate with Louisiana Department of Health on the creation of lists of providers by region to be posted on the Council and LDH's websites. This list should include home and community-based providers, primary care and specialist care providers, preventive health services, prevention of chronic disease services, dental, behavioral health and sexual/reproductive health services.

Objective 2.2 Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will have access to and be served by qualified trained professionals, including Direct Support Professionals, First Responders, and other professionals, who will value and promote inclusive community living.

Activity 2.2.1 Provide financial support to conduct training sessions 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 Cost for FY2022: \$50,000

Activity 2.2.2 Provide financial support to establish a training program on emergency preparedness and response relative to people with developmental disabilities.

Approximate Cost for FY2022: \$20,000

Activity 2.2.3 Publicize healthcare provider continuing education opportunities.

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Activity 2.2.4 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.

Objective 2.3 Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will have increased access to safe, affordable, and accessible housing allowing for inclusive community living. (Targeted Disparity – Disadvantaged population)

Activity 2.3.1 Conduct research and collaborate with appropriate entities to address accessibility and discrimination in housing for people with disabilities.

GOAL 3 Education and Employment

Individuals with developmental disabilities will have access to quality education in inclusive and safe environments throughout all stages of life and access to self-determined, individualized, equal and gainful employment opportunities that provide competitive wages and integrated work environments.

Objective 3.1 Parents of students with developmental disabilities will have increased access to early diagnosis, identification of needs, early intervention services, childcare and information and opportunities to collaborate with educators regarding individualized educational planning or programming to meet the needs of their students.

Activity 3.1.1 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 Cost for FY2022: \$40,000

Activity 3.1.2 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 3.1.3 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.

Activity 3.1.4 Provide information and promote inclusion and acceptance of effective models of school climate and culture.

Activity 3.1.5 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 within the same community and advocate for and monitor equitable funding based on Minimum

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Foundation Program (MFP), specifically regarding the charter compacts.

Activity 3.1.6 Advocate for educational systems change based on emergent education issues.

Activity 3.1.7 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.

Activity 3.1.8 Conduct outreach with appropriate entities on current services and training opportunities for traditional and special education teachers including ongoing support (i.e., high quality ongoing teacher education) which may lead to capacity building efforts to increase high quality educators.

Objective 3.2 Individuals with developmental disabilities will have increased employment outcomes upon transitioning from secondary educational settings, access to employment opportunities inclusive of services from highly qualified employment support providers and increased competitive and integrated opportunities from employers who are educated on how to support people with developmental disabilities.

Activity 3.2.1 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 Cost for FY2022: \$25,000

Activity 3.2.2 Provide financial support to conduct seminars with Chambers of Commerce throughout the state on the benefits of hiring people with developmental disabilities.
Approximate Cost for FY2022: \$32,000

Activity 3.2.3 Advocate for employment support professionals to complete high-quality professional development for the improvement of service provisions and employment outcomes.

Activity 3.2.4 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.

Activity 3.2.5 Share the benefits planning services to a variety of agencies and stakeholders.

Activity 3.2.6 Advocate for systems change based on emergent employment issues.

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- Activity 3.2.7** Advocate for information on post-secondary opportunities and access to LRS pre-employment transition services within school districts for all students with disabilities.
- Activity 3.2.8** Advocate for increased Louisiana Rehabilitation Services counselor positions, including administrative, legislative, and funding efforts.
- Activity 3.2.9** Conduct research to examine the effectiveness and advocate to support efforts of the Louisiana Medicaid “buy-in” program.