

**Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS)
LRS Director’s Quarterly Report
March 2022**

PROGRAM SERVICES

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 with an active Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or who meets the definition of a student with a disability as covered under Section 504 or who is a student who has a documented disability. 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 providing services to approximately 2,800 students statewide. That includes providing Pre-ETS in 41 of the 64 parishes and over 547 schools in the state.

Also, LRS currently has 14 active Third Party Cooperative Agreements (TPCA) with local or state education providers to provide Pre-ETS and is continuing to pursue additional TPCA’s with local and state education providers.

It is the goal of LRS to spend approximately \$10.6 million on Pre-ETS activities this state fiscal year.

Vocational Rehabilitation:

Vocational Rehabilitation Consumer Statistics (for current quarter):	
Number of Applications	882
Number of Eligibility/Delayed	721
Number of New IPEs	561
Number of Closed Rehab (Successful Closures)	268
Total Open VR cases as of March 31, 2022	8,857
Total Open Pre-ETS cases as of March 31, 2022	2,822

DD Open VR Cases: As of March 31, 2022

Disability Cause	New Orleans	Baton Rouge	Houma	Lafayette	Lake Charles	Alexandria	Shreveport	Monroe	Total
Autism	224	166	53	75	44	49	57	39	727
Cerebral Palsy	36	58	11	14	14	25	33	10	201
Intellectual Disabilities	197	100	33	49	52	71	106	65	673
Specific Learning Disabilities	433	408	91	47	20	148	141	215	1,503
Total	910	732	188	185	130	293	337	329	3,104

DD Closed Rehabilitated Cases: January 1, 2022 thru March 31, 2022

Case Status	Case Type	Disability Cause	Total
Closed-Rehab	VR	Autism	13
		Cerebral Palsy	2
		Intellectual Disabilities	18
		Specific Learning Disabilities	35
Total:			68

**Rehabilitation Employment Development Specialist (REDS):
July 1, 2021 – February 28, 2022**

Region	Number of Referrals	Number of Community Activities or Employer Contacts	Number of On-the-Job Training Contracts	Employment Placements	Successful Closures
Region 1	29	288	0	7	2
Region 2	28	257	0	19	14
Region 4	6	321	0	3	0
Region 5	9	228	0	8	4
Region 6*	2	20	0	1	0
Region 7	131	573	39	44	35
Region 8	12	205	0	5	0
Totals	217	1892	39	87	55

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Louisiana Rehabilitation Council (LRC):

The LRC continues to have quarterly meetings. The next LRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 28th. The meeting will be held in person at the Courtyard Baton Rouge Siegen Lane (10307 North Mall Drive, Baton Rouge, LA) unless there is an increase in COVID-19 cases. Meeting information will be posted to the Boards and Commissions' website. We are currently seeking to fill four vacant positions on the LRC. One vacant position represents individuals with disabilities who have difficulty representing themselves. A second vacant position is needed to represent Business, Industry and Labor. A third position is needed to fill the Director of a Federal Section 121 Project. Our final vacant position is for an advocate for individuals with disabilities.

Rehabilitation Employment Development Specialist (REDS):

Rehabilitation Employment Development Specialists (REDS) continue to make connections with employers Back to Work job fairs, SHRM meetings, virtual trainings, and webinars. They also continue to discuss challenging cases with other REDS, in order to obtain other perspectives from other professionals on how to proceed with difficult placement cases. This strategy appears to be very helpful.

Training:

On March 4, 2022, a virtual training series was initiated for field staff and will be held every other Friday through the month of July. This first session was attended by 144 LRS staff (94%). Each session is intended to cover topics relevant to providing quality services, technical assistance and guidance (and any associated forms), and beneficial resources for staff and consumers.

Staff are provided numerous training opportunities through various sources to obtain CEU's as well as enhance their knowledge and skills for better consumer services. Staff are also reminded to complete annual required trainings.