

**Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS)
LRS Director's Quarterly Report
April 2023**

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 **3,318** students statewide.

LRS currently has 14 active Third Party Cooperative Arrangements (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.

Vocational Rehabilitation

Vocational Rehabilitation Consumer Statistics (for current quarter):	
Number of Applications	1,000
Number of Eligibility/Delayed	927
Number of New IPEs	672
Number of Closed Rehab (Successful Closures)	321
Total Open VR cases as of March 31, 2023	8,642
Total Open Pre-ETS cases as of March 31, 2023	2,928

DD Open VR Cases: As of March 31, 2023

Disability Cause	New Orleans	Baton Rouge	Houma	Lafayette	Lake Charles	Alexandria	Shreveport	Monroe	Total
Autism	239	154	37	85	25	51	53	40	684
Cerebral Palsy	24	46	11	14	8	14	23	2	142
Intellectual Disabilities	139	85	19	37	34	60	55	73	502
Specific Learning Disabilities	261	269	79	24	11	136	49	231	1060
Total	663	554	146	160	78	261	180	346	2388

DD Closed Rehabilitated Cases: January 1, 2023 through March 31, 2023

Case Status	Case Type	Disability Cause	Total
Closed-Rehab	VR	Autism	22
		Cerebral Palsy	2
		Intellectual Disabilities	20
		Specific Learning Disabilities	13
Total:			57

Rehabilitation Employment Development Specialist (REDS): January 1, 2023 – February 28, 2023

Region	Number of Referrals	Number of Community Activities or Employer Contacts	Employment Placements	Successful Closures
Region 1	6	53	10	3
Region 2	12	50	16	8
Region 4*	10	65		
Region 5	4	45	3	2
Region 6	2	86	2	2
Region 7	9	39	4	0
Region 8	4	49	11	3
Totals	47	387	46	18
*A new REDS for Region 4 started November 2022.			Region 3 does not currently have a REDS.	

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Louisiana Rehabilitation Council (LRC):

The LRC's next quarterly meeting scheduled for April 27, 2023, has been postponed. Once new arrangements have been finalized, the meeting information will be posted to the Boards and Commissions' website. The LRC is currently seeking to fill five (5) vacancies for the following positions:

1. A representative of Business, Industry, and Labor;
2. Director of a Federal Section 121 Project;
3. An advocate for individuals with disabilities;
4. Individual with physical, cognitive, sensory, or mental disabilities; and,
5. Current or former applicant for, or recipient of vocational rehabilitation services.

Benefits Planning:

Twenty-eight (28) LRS consumers have been directly assisted with their SSI and SSDI benefits planning since January 1, 2023, from the LRS in-house Community Partner Work Incentives Counselor. Lighthouse for the Blind and LSU Human Development Center also continue to provide Work Incentives Planning and Assistance.

DIF (Disability Innovation Fund) Project:

Dr. Madan Kundu, with Southern University, will retire following the Spring 2023 semester. Dr. Sandra Brown, Dean of the College of Nursing and Allied Health at Southern University of Baton Rouge, has committed to honoring the subcontract agreement and all deliverables upon Dr. Kundu's retirement. Both the Michigan and Louisiana DIF teams are working together to move forward with providing Social Cognitive Career Theory (SCCT) intervention to job seekers. A virtual training platform through YesLMS will be used. Discussions have centered around what audiences would be able to access the platform and how the training modules would be accessed by each state's participants. There will be training modules for the STEMM-Up participants, Vocational Rehabilitation staff, employers, and Employment Service providers. SU-BR has hired and is training the Career Pathway Coordinators.