

**Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS)
LRS Director's Quarterly Report
October 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 **3,400** students statewide.

LRS currently has 15 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	1,287
Number of Eligibility/Delayed	968
Number of New IPEs	808
Number of Closed Rehab (Successful Closures)	229
Total Open VR cases as of September 30, 2023	8,983
Total Open Pre-ETS cases as of September 30, 2023	3,093

DD Open VR Cases: As of September 30, 2023

Disability Cause	New Orleans	Baton Rouge	Houma	Lafayette	Lake Charles	Alexandria	Shreveport	Monroe	Total
Autism	267	180	42	99	30	55	63	43	779
Cerebral Palsy	27	53	9	15	11	15	24	5	159
Intellectual Disabilities	159	105	26	47	50	63	71	75	596
Specific Learning Disabilities	317	313	79	45	17	135	65	232	1203
Total	770	651	156	206	108	268	223	355	2737

DD Closed Rehabilitated Cases: July 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023

Case Status	Case Type	Disability Cause	Total
Closed-Rehab	VR	Autism	9
		Cerebral Palsy	2
		Intellectual Disabilities	10
		Specific Learning Disabilities	19
Total:			40

Rehabilitation Employment Development Specialist (REDS): July 1 – September 30, 2023

Region	Number of Referrals	Number of Community Activities or Employer Contacts	Employment Placements	Successful Closures
Region 1	4	55	3	4
Region 2	5	59	4	0
Region 4	3	17	1	1
Region 5	1	58	5	3
Region 6	3	94	1	5
Region 7	4	90	6	4
Region 8	9	55	8	0
Totals	29	428	28	17
Region 3 does not currently have a REDS.				

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Louisiana Rehabilitation Council (LRC):

The next LRC quarterly meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2023, and will be conducted at Hampton Inn & Suites (11271 Reiger Rd., Baton Rouge, LA). Information for this meeting will be posted to the Boards and Commissions' website. Members of the LRC will also participate in an Orientation event on October 25, 2023. The current membership vacancies are for the following seats:

- (2) Current or former applicant for, or recipient of vocational rehabilitation services;
- Director of a Federal Section 121 Project.

Benefits Planning:

Thirty-four (34) LRS consumers have been directly assisted with their SSI and SSDI benefits planning since July 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.

Statewide disABILITY Inclusion Job Fair:

In conjunction with National Disability Employment Awareness Month, the 2nd Annual Statewide Virtual Job Fair will be conducted on October 11, 2023. LRS is once again collaborating with Healthy Blue to host this event. LRS staff is coordinating both employer and applicant recruitment. Over 70 employers have registered to participate. LWC social media posts have been released to help ensure job seekers who have disabilities are aware of this event.

DIF (Disability Innovation Fund) Project:

Dr. Noel Ysasi is a new Southern University (SU) faculty member and has been added to the STEMM-Up team as a Co-Investigator, filling the role that was left by Dr. Derek Ruiz when he became the Principal Investigator. As the second year of the grant comes to a close, there has been an increase in the number of referrals. As a measure to increase public awareness, both SU and LRS have intensified outreach efforts. Most recently, the Career Pathway Coordinators have been conducting outreach to high schools and colleges with a focus on STEMM programs and campus offices of disability services; while LRS began social media blasts regarding STEMM-Up on all LWC social media pages and websites. Project STEMM-Up encompasses the development of a Community Engagement Guide. Initially, SU began working with the Community Based Advisory Board to develop; however, it was decided that SU and Michigan State University (MSU) would work together to complete one Community Engagement Guide that could be used for both Michigan and Louisiana with information specified for each state as necessary. As part of the project activities, SU conducted the second of two planned trainings on Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion for LRS staff on Wednesday, 9/27/2023.