

**Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS)  
LRS Director’s Quarterly Report  
January 2024**

**PROGRAM SERVICES**

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**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 **4,020** 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**

<b>Vocational Rehabilitation Consumer Statistics (for current quarter):</b>	
<b>Number of Applications</b>	1,046
<b>Number of Eligibility/Delayed</b>	1,011
<b>Number of New IPEs</b>	646
<b>Number of Closed Rehab (Successful Closures)</b>	222
<b>Total Open VR cases as of December 31, 2023</b>	9,163
<b>Total Open Pre-ETS cases as of December 31, 2023</b>	3,580

**DD Open VR Cases: As of December 31, 2023**

Disability Cause	New Orleans	Baton Rouge	Houma	Lafayette	Lake Charles	Alexandria	Shreveport	Monroe	Total
Autism	268	182	46	98	31	51	73	47	796
Cerebral Palsy	29	54	8	16	10	14	24	5	160
Intellectual Disabilities	173	111	22	44	50	67	85	71	623
Specific Learning Disabilities	359	295	82	42	17	127	61	232	1,215
<b>Total</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>2,794</b>

**DD Closed Rehabilitated Cases: October 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023**

Case Status	Case Type	Disability Cause	Total
Closed-Rehab	VR	Autism	7
		Cerebral Palsy	2
		Intellectual Disabilities	9
		Specific Learning Disabilities	24
<b>Total:</b>			<b>42</b>

**Rehabilitation Employment Development Specialist (REDS): October 1 – November 30, 2023**

Region	Number of Referrals	Number of Community Activities or Employer Contacts	Employment Placements	Successful Closures
Region 1	4	38	2	2
Region 2	3	42	4	4
Region 4	5	28	1	0
Region 5	5	50	4	1
Region 6	3	110	5	0
Region 8	7	49	12	6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Regions 3 and 7 do not currently have a REDS.</b>				

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

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### **Louisiana Rehabilitation Council (LRC):**

The next LRC quarterly meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2024, and will be conducted at the LWC Headquarters in Baton Rouge. 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 January 16, 2024. The current membership vacancies are for the following seats:

- (2) Current or former applicant for, or recipient of vocational rehabilitation services;
- Representative of the State Workforce Investment Board
- Representative of the area of Rehabilitation Technologies
- Director of a Federal Section 121 Project.

### **Statewide disABILITY Inclusion Job Fair:**

In conjunction with National Disability Employment Awareness Month, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Statewide Virtual Job Fair was conducted on October 11, 2023. LRS collaborated with Healthy Blue of LA to host this event. LRS staff coordinated both employer and job seeker recruitment.

#### 2023 Virtual Job Fair Stats

- 68% (92 total) of registered job seekers attended the event
- There were 103 recruiters/employers registered to participate in the event, and 85% of them attended (88 total)
- There were a total of 188 chats conducted
- Employers rated 59 job seekers to "Pipeline (consider for future)"
- Employers rated 39 job seekers to "Screen further"
- Employers conducted 6 interviews

### **Benefits Planning:**

Twenty-eight (28) LRS consumers have been directly assisted with their SSI and SSDI benefits planning since October 1, 2023, by 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:**

Project STEM-UP is now in its third year. Twenty-One (21) LRS consumers have been referred to Southern University of Baton Rouge (SUBR) to begin the Social Cognitive Career Theory Assessment and Training. There are currently two full-time CPCs in Baton Rouge and Monroe, who have split the referrals and are covering all four of the participating regions.