

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

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 **4,525** students statewide.

LRS currently has 16 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	1,405
Number of Eligibility/Delayed	1,020
Number of New IPEs	617
Number of Closed Rehab (Successful Closures)	376
Total Open VR cases as of June 30, 2024	9,745
Total Open Pre-ETS cases as of June 30, 2024	3,555

DD Open VR Cases: As of June 30, 2024

Disability Cause	New Orleans	Baton Rouge	Houma	Lafayette	Lake Charles	Alexandria	Shreveport	Monroe	Total
Autism	300	219	43	102	29	56	80	45	874
Cerebral Palsy	34	51	5	12	9	11	25	5	152
Intellectual Disabilities	190	127	17	46	61	73	95	77	686
Specific Learning Disabilities	364	309	75	42	12	121	71	213	1,207
Total	888	706	140	202	111	261	271	340	2,919

DD Closed Rehabilitated Cases: April 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024

Case Status	Case Type	Disability Cause	Total
Closed-Rehab	VR	Autism	15
		Cerebral Palsy	5
		Intellectual Disabilities	18
		Specific Learning Disabilities	43
Total:			81

**Rehabilitation Employment Development Specialist (REDS):
March 1, 2024 – May 31, 2024**

Region	Number of Referrals	Number of Community Activities or Employer Contacts	Employment Placements	Successful Closures
Region 1	7	73	6	2
Region 4	13	84	4	7
Region 5	5	89	1	0
Region 6	11	196	5	1
Region 8	9	71	5	5
Totals	45	513	21	15
Regions 2, 3, and 7 do not have a REDS.				

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Louisiana Rehabilitation Council (LRC):

The next LRC quarterly meeting is scheduled for July 25, 2024, and will be conducted in Alexandria, LA. Information for this meeting is posted on the websites of Boards and Commissions and LWC.

Benefits Planning:

Twenty nine (29) LRS participants have been directly assisted with their SSI and SSDI benefits planning since April 1, 2024, 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) Projects:

Project STEMM-Up has ended effective May 31, 2024. Individuals who were participating in this project will continue to receive services through VR.

In coordination with the DIF grant awarded to the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE), a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with LDOE, Louisiana Workforce Commission/LRS, Louisiana Delta Community College, and New Horizons Center for Independent Living to establish the Louisiana Center for Effective Transitions (LCET). Through this DIF initiative, the LCET is intended to transform the current system of transition support offered to students with disabilities into a cohesive experience that improves success in post-secondary opportunities.

Statewide Trainings:

In late July, the Pre-ETS unit will conduct a statewide Pre-ETS vendor refresher course prior to the start of the 2024 - 2025 academic year that Rehabilitation Counselor Associates will also attend.

The Training unit will conduct a week-long training event in multiple regions throughout the State called "The VR Journey" which will discuss the vocational rehabilitation process from referral to closure along with the different vocational rehabilitation services that are available to eligible participants. Dates are currently being scheduled from October through December 2024 in order for all LRS Counselors, District Supervisors, Regional Managers, and State Office staff to attend.