

La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2024 Action Plan

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- 'On Target: Initiative' indicates progress has been made as expected.
- 'On Target: Expenditures' indicates invoiced amounts are as expected.

Activity	Progress
	As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (April 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024).
<p>Goal 1 Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families will have access to information and supports to become effective leaders of their communities and advocate for systems changes on behalf of themselves and other individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.</p>	
<p>Obj. 1.1 Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities of all ages will have access to opportunities to increase their awareness and knowledge of rights as a contributing member to society; including subject matters on (but not limited to) advocacy, voting, exploitation prevention, financial stability and responsibilities, and decision making.</p>	
<p>1.1.1 Provide financial support and technical assistance for Partners in Policymaking and its alumni network. Approx. FFY 2024 Cost: \$90,000</p>	<p>Of the 20 participants who started the program in January 17 graduated from the program in June.</p> <p>Three sessions of the 2024 Partners in Policymaking class took place this quarter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fourth session took place in April 2024. The speakers were Deborah Whitfield, Julie Foster Hagan (OCDD), Ashley McReynolds (The ARC), and Sue Killiam (LSU HDC). • The fifth session took place in May 2024. The speakers were Al Condeluci, Tory Rocca (DRLA), and Courtney Ryland (LRS). • The sixth session of the 2024 class took place in June and ended with the class graduation. The graduation speakers were Rebecca Fruge (PIP Coordinator), Ebony Haven (LaDDC), four (4) class graduates and Liz Gary (Former PIP Coordinator). <p>Previous Quarter(s): There were 35 eligible applicants comprised of 4 self-advocates and 31 parents. 25 applicants and 5 alternates were selected. Of the selected, 24 applicants accepted and were scheduled to begin January 4th, 2024.</p> <p>Of the 24 applicants who were accepted into the 2024 PiP class, 20 began the program in January. Due to unforeseen circumstances, 2 participants had to drop out of the program during the March session. January, February and March sessions took place.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>

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<p>1.1.2 Provide financial support and information, training, technical assistance, and leadership to a grassroots network of individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities and family members of individuals with developmental disabilities to effectively educate policy makers on the development/improvement of programs and services for people with intellectual developmental disabilities. Approx. FFY 2024 Cost: \$240,000</p>	<p>As of June 2024, LaCAN has nearly 7,000 individuals registered for the Council and LaCAN’s list serve to receive information and action alerts related to home and community-based services (HCBS), employment, education and early intervention.</p> <p><u>Advocacy Activities</u> Since October 1, 2023, there have been a total of nineteen (19) LaCAN action alerts and eight (8) yellow shirt days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 Action Alerts – 1,667 actions taken • 8 Yellow Shirt Days – 150 attended; 12 testimonies provided <p>To date, LaCAN Leaders have supported members in 49 formal legislative visits of which 30 were with key committee members to discuss this year’s advocacy agenda.</p> <p>LaCAN continues to host two LaCAN Leader conference calls per month, which includes updates on current concerns/issues and development of strategies to better educate, maintain, support, and lead LaCAN members.</p> <p><u>Update on Leader Positions</u> All LaCAN leader positions are currently filled.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>1.1.3 Facilitate and support diverse advocacy events, including but not limited to Legislative Roundtables, toward training, services and policies that will benefit individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Approx. FFY 2024 Cost: \$30,000</p>	<p>Since October 1, 2023, 229 LaCAN members participated in 23 virtual/ in-person regional LaCAN member meetings to discuss various topics including the agenda and outcomes of the 2024 Legislative Session, the legislative process, how to become an active member, ways of taking action (action alerts, yellow shirt days, testimony), how to connect with legislators.</p> <p>LaCAN Leaders are participated in a debriefing session on 06/27/2024 to review the regular legislative session outcomes and discuss ideas and strategies for improving advocacy activities next year.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): LaCAN Leaders planned nine regional Legislative Roundtables in collaboration with their Families Helping Families Centers.</p>

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	<p>There were 389 participants in attendance, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33 Self-Advocates • 142 Family Members • 179 Professionals • 26 Other/Unknown • 9 Policy Makers (i.e. legislators, legislative aides, and/or BESE members) <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>1.1.4 Provide financial support (from the entirety of state general funds) and technical assistance to nine Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers across the state.</p>	<p>Since October 1, 2023, the Centers have assisted 21,898 individuals with disabilities and families with information, referral, peer to peer and other supports. There has been over 48,000 units of information and referral completed with 242 trainings conducted. 5,687 individuals attended the trainings. Centers have conducted a total of 331 outreach activities to hospitals, pediatricians, school districts, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) clinics and physical therapy clinics.</p> <p>The additional \$500,000 in state general fund advocated for by the Council and LaCAN was included in amendments to the state’s supplemental budget (Act 776 / HB782).</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): Council added to its 2024 Legislative Advocacy Agenda funding for the Families Helping Families Centers currently contracting with the Council since \$500,000 in state general fund was excluded from the Council’s budget request. Fact sheet was created and shared at various advocacy events and legislative visits.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>1.1.5 Share videos and other visual materials featuring information important to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.</p>	<p>All videos and visual materials created by 23East (formerly O’neill Communications) in FY23 have been shared multiple times on social media. We will continue to regularly share information important to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.</p> <p>The videos are also on the Council's website and YouTube page for the public to utilize.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): In quarter 1, all 6 videos made in FY23 for the Fully Included HOW TO series were shared on social media.</p>

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	<p>In quarter 2, all 4 videos made in FY23 for the <i>Your Next Best Hire!</i> webinar series were shared on social media.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>1.1.6 Produce and provide information important to individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities and their families through a variety of electronic and social media (Council website, Facebook, and LaDDC News).</p>	<p>The Council's social media presence on Facebook and Twitter continues to grow each quarter. Data as of July 2, 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Council's listserv has 6,857 active subscribers.• The Council's Facebook has 6,323 page followers.• The Council's Twitter has 537 followers. <p>We are currently preparing for our July Disability Pride "Share Your Story" social media campaign. We will have more updates on the campaign next quarter.</p> <p>The following 18 LaDDC Newsletters were released via listserv and advertised on the Council's Facebook and Twitter:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Post-secondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council Public Meeting Notice, April 2, 20242. Public Notice of LaDDC April 2024 Council Meeting, April 9, 20243. Louisiana Rehabilitation Council Public Meeting Notice, April 22, 20244. Public Comment Sought on Council's FFY2025 Action Plan, April 24, 20245. Council Releases 2023 Annual Report on Impactful Initiatives, April 29, 20246. 2024 Special Education Parent Involvement Survey, May 6, 20247. Council Seeking Applicants for Deputy Director, May 14, 20248. LDOE Risk-Based Monitoring Performance Audit, May 22, 20249. People First of Louisiana 2024 Annual Conference, May 24, 202410. Region 2 Education and Employment Advocacy Training Opportunity, May 29, 202411. Public Notice of Bylaws Committee Meeting, May 31, 202412. Lafayette and Shreveport Emergency Preparedness and Disability Awareness Trainings, June 11, 202413. Council Issues Multiple Solicitations of Proposals, June 12, 202414. 25th Anniversary of the Olmstead Decision, June 14, 202415. 2024 Legislative Session Impacts, June 17, 202416. Public Notice of LaDDC July 2024 Council Meeting, June 20, 202417. Public Notice of July Bylaws Committee Meeting, June 25, 2024

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18. [Recruiting Strong Advocates for Council Membership](#), June 27, 2024

Previous Quarter(s):

	Listserv Active Subscribers	Facebook		Twitter Followers	LaDDC News Shared to Listserv
	Followers	Page likes			
Quarter 1	6,755	6,205	5,756	533	7
Quarter 2	6,771	6,250		533	18

On target: Initiative

1.1.7 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.

The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) hosted Self-Advocacy committee meetings on May 23rd and June 20th. The DD Council shared information via email and DD Council members were encouraged to attend.

The DD Council adopted its Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025 Action Plan during their April quarterly meeting, which included new initiatives. The Council sought public comment on their FFY25 Action Plan and shared a [LaDDC Newsletter](#) on April 24th encouraging stakeholders to provide feedback by June 10th.

The DD Council will be participating in Disability Pride Month in July, and asked stakeholders to share their stories throughout the month of July. The DD Council shared information on how to participate in the Disability Pride campaign including creating and sharing a short video throughout the month of June on the Council’s social media platforms and sent to Council members on June 24th. If interested, please share your story [here](#).

Shared a [LaDDC News](#) on June 14, 2024 announcing an observance of the 25th anniversary of the Olmstead decision hosted by White House administration and the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities.

Previous Quarter(s):

Shared LaDDC News on [October 17th](#) and [October 25th](#) to announce OCDD’s roadshows to discuss their statewide initiative and advertise virtual sessions for foster parents interested in fostering children with I/DD. Shared an [LaDDC News](#) on January 25, 2024 announcing the upcoming LaCAN legislative roundtables where the Council’s 2024 Legislative Advocacy agenda was presented along with advocacy tips and tools.

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	<p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>1.1.8 Provide financial support and technical assistance for the Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum. Approx. FFY 2024 Cost: \$45,000</p>	<p>The Youth Leadership Forum had their 2024 camp session June 20-23 at the University of Louisiana Lafayette. There were 10 delegates in attendance. Many speakers and panelists, including Lillian Dejean, Rashad Bristo and Myron Wright had the privilege of imparting their personal experience and wisdom to the teenage delegates. Additionally there were delegates from last year who came back to assist as staff this year. More information about YLF will be available on the fourth quarter report.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): The LAYLF Team finalized the dates and location for the 2024 class (June 20th – 24th) at the University of Lafayette. Staff and delegate recruitment completed as well as planning for the event. 19 people applied to be staff and 16 delegate applications received. LAYLF now has four total funding sources: the LaDDC, the Department of Education, Enbridge (5-year grant) and the Brown Foundation (1-year grant). First alumni event held on January 27th with 4 delegates and 9 staff in attendance.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>1.1.9 Provide financial support, technical assistance to educate and train individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities on voting awareness, rights and accessibility. Approx. FFY 2024 Cost: \$30,000</p>	<p>The Council has collaborated with People First of Louisiana to offer ten (10) statewide training opportunities (1 web-based and 9 in-person) to empower and educate individuals on voting rights for people with disabilities. Attendees will gain valuable information about: Why you should vote; The process of voting; Assistance and accommodations with voting; Rights and Responsibilities; and The meaning of Constitutional Amendments.</p> <p>As of October 2023, one (1) web-based training occurred with four (4) participants in attendance and five (5) in-person trainings with sixty (60) participants in attendance. The in-person training session included representatives from the Secretary of State’s office to provide hands-on experience with voting machines used for both early voting and election day voting.</p> <p>The training schedule will continued to be shared with all stakeholders. Adults with disabilities, their families and other interested organizations and stakeholders are encouraged to attend.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): Quarter 1, one (1) web-based training occurred with four (4) participants in attendance and one (1) in-person training with eleven (11) participants in attendance.</p>

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	<p>Quarter 2, one (1) web-based training occurred with four (4) participants in attendance and three (3) in-person training with twenty-four (24) participants in attendance.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>Obj. 1.2 Louisiana’s self-advocacy network, partner groups, and citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities will be supported in self-advocacy training, systems change advocacy, and through participation on a variety of boards and commissions.</p>	
<p>1.2.1 Provide technical assistance and training opportunities designed to strengthen the self-advocacy network and the effectiveness of its systems change activities and promote self-advocacy participation in training of other self-advocates in leadership positions.</p> <p>Approx. FFY 2024 Cost: \$25,000</p>	<p>People First sent a self-advocate to Washington D.C. for the Disability Policy Seminar, where he attended the conference and met several Louisiana delegations on Capitol Hill. He had a great experience and said that the legislators he met were very interested in hearing about how things were going in Louisiana and were very supportive of HCBS.</p> <p>People First Annual Meeting and Training, took place in Baton Rouge on June 13th. This all-day event was a great opportunity to delve into the topics of self-determination and self-advocacy, with two expert presenters leading the discussions, Mark Hublar and Katherine Klinitas. More information about the conference and participation will be available on the fourth quarter report.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): The Arc’s National Convention was held in New Orleans in November, thirteen (13) interested members of People First and three (3) Direct Support Workers (DSWs) registered and attended.</p> <p>People First had 10 participants attend the Together in Harmony and Hope conference focused on Traumatic Brain Injuries, on March 22nd and 23rd.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>1.2.2 Provide information and support for participation of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions and advisory bodies.</p>	<p>The Post-secondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council met April 8th to discuss the creation and expansion of post-secondary and inclusive education programs across Louisiana. The DD Council encouraged stakeholders to participate and shared a LaDDC Newsletter on April 2nd.</p> <p>The Louisiana Rehabilitation Council (LRC), which consults with and advises Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) on the performance of its responsibilities under Title I of the Rehabilitation Act held their quarterly meeting April 25th. The DD Council encouraged stakeholders to participate and shared a LaDDC Newsletter on April 22nd.</p>

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	<p>People First of Louisiana held their annual training June 13th, which featured two self-advocate motivational keynote speakers. The DD Council encourage all self-advocates to attend and shared a LaDDC Newsletter on May 23rd.</p> <p>The DD Council is recruiting strong advocates for Council member across the state who are interested in improving the system of supports for people with developmental disabilities and their families. A LaDDC News was shared June 27th with the vacancies available. If you are interested in applying for membership to the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council, please apply here.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): Shared an LaDDC News on January 29th and March 7th announcing membership opportunities for the Louisiana Rehabilitation Council and the Special Education Advisory Council.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>1.2.3 Support Council members' participation in training and educational opportunities and Council leadership's participation in national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities.</p> <p>Approx. FFY 2024 Cost: \$15,000</p>	<p>The Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (OIDD) held it's 2024 Training and Technical Assistance Institute in partnership with the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and Administration on Disabilities (AoD). The training institute was held via Zoom May 7th, 9th, 14th and 16th, and Council staff attended. Sessions included: Leading for Engagement: Culturally Competent Practices to Engage People from Diverse Communities and Backgrounds, Leadership Development: Investing and Enhancing Council Member Leadership Skills and Leading through Key Leadership Transitions: Before, During, and After.</p> <p>The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) encouraged all stakeholders to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Olmstead Decision on June 18th. The DD Council shared a LaDDC Newsletter on June 14th encouraging the entire disability community to watch as the White House and DD Councils across the country reflected on the progress made and the work still ahead for individuals with developmental disabilities.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): The Interim Executive Director conducted two orientation sessions for new self-advocate Council members. These members also participated in parliamentary procedure training with other new members. ED attended a training for New Executive Directors hosted by NACDD. ED also held a New Officer Training with the Executive Committee and Parliamentarian. New member orientation also for members appointed in October 2023.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>

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<p>Goal 2 To be fully participating members of the community, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including those with the most challenging needs, and their families will have access to quality supports and services inclusive of affordable healthcare, resources across various service delivery systems, and shall be treated equally by all members of the community.</p>	
<p>Obj. 2.1 Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities will have increased access to appropriate and affordable healthcare, including primary and specialist providers, preventive health services and prevention of chronic diseases, dental care, sexual/reproductive health services and behavioral health services.</p>	
<p>2.1.1 Oversee implementation of the Community and Family Support System Plan and advocate for adequate funding, the expansion of home and community based services, for waivers to provide access to services listed in the Freedom of Choice Provider Listing and consistent implementation of policy across regions, including, if necessary, changes in law and/or contracts with local governing entities (LGEs).</p>	<p>Act 4 / HB1 is the state's Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) budget bill that will take effect on July 1st. As it relates to the disability community, this budget, for the most part, is a standstill budget. No significant cuts or reductions were made to current disability services and programs. The \$10.1 million to increase the night rate in I/DD waivers was included in the final budget passed. With this funding, the night rate will now match the day rate. Unfortunately, the Council and LaCAN's request for \$9.4 million to eliminate the Flexible Family Fund waitlist was not included. This program consistently has a waiting list of over 2,000 children. At the time this status update was completed, the budget was awaiting governor's approval.</p> <p>In April, the Council was made aware that the department's request to use American Rescue Plan Act funds on a rate methodology study was approved.</p> <p>Multiple pieces of legislation were filed throughout the 2024 Regular Session that impact home and community-based services and an individual's ability to exercise self-determination and community inclusion. More information about these issues can be found in the LaDDC News shared on June 17, 2024 and by reviewing the Council's bill tracking document here.</p> <p>The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the final Ensuring Access to Medicaid Service Rule (Access Rule) on April 22nd. The Administration for Community Living (ACL) worked along with CMS in developing this rule to ensure that the experiences and priorities of people receiving Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) and their families, along with ACL's disability and aging networks, were considered. The Access Rule will strengthen the HCBS that make community living possible for millions of people. It includes important new requirements related to the direct care workforce, health and safety protections, access to HCBS, quality measures, and state accountability and transparency. The Council will receive quarterly updates about the Access Rule at the Self-Determination/Community Inclusion committee from the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD).</p> <p>The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) is actively seeking contractors to develop a rate methodology for the HCBS waivers for the Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS) and the Office for Citizens with</p>

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	<p>Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) waiver programs. The Council will continue to receive quarterly updates from Medicaid on the progress of the rate methodology.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): In November, the Executive Committee removed an agenda item to advocate for increased rates and direct support worker pay until after the rate methodology was completed. This methodology will help guide advocacy efforts with regard to this ask. Council added to its 2024 Advocacy Agenda eliminating the Flexible Family Fund Waitlist (~\$9.4 million in state general fund) and increasing night rates in waivers for individuals with I/DD (\$10.1 million in state general fund). Fact sheets for each issue were created and shared at advocacy events.</p> <p>In January, LDH agreed to our request and has submitted a request to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to use those funds to complete the rate methodology. In February Caroline Meehan, the Executive Director of the Community Providers Association of Louisiana, also put together an information sheet providing detailed information about the rate methodology which can be found here.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>2.1.2 Conduct research on best practices to provide appropriate, accessible sexual education to middle and high school aged people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.</p>	<p>Council Staff received information from ACL and conducted research on project SHINE (Sexual Health Innovation Network for Equitable Education) and Yoursexualhealthtoolkit.org a resource for youth with ID/DD. The Council decided not to include funding for this activity for FY25 due to the sensitive nature of the topic and the age of middle and high school aged individuals. It should also be noted that Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) has a topic included in their schedule that discusses healthy relationships with those participants.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): Staff emailed Maine DD Council and California DD Council to get information on similar activity. Staff also emailed the curriculum developers that the council used to get more information on trainings. Staff also researched other states and their activities that are similar to this activity.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>2.1.3 Provide financial support for training to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities on how to</p>	<p>There were two training sessions on “De-Escalation in Times of Behavioral Health Crisis” held in April. The first was April 4th in Alexandria and the second was April 9th in Mandeville. The first training session on “Person Centered and Trauma-Informed Care” was held June 14th in Mandeville. The last two training sessions are being scheduled in Alexandria and a city in the Central Louisiana area. Lastly, the “How to Pick a Provider” virtual training is being scheduled. The date is forthcoming.</p>

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<p>navigate the Developmental Disability, Behavioral Health and Medicaid/Managed Care Organization Systems. Approx. FFY 2024 Cost: \$30,000</p>	<p>Previous Quarter(s): Hustle & Grow provided 3 training opportunities to improve overall awareness and early recognition of co-occurring intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and mental health diagnoses for persons with disabilities and their families. The first installment of the trainings is focused on how to identify co-occurring I/DD and mental health disorders. The first session was held November 14th in Pineville, the second session was held on December 15th in Monroe and the third session was held on December 16th in Baton Rouge.</p> <p>Hustle & Grow collaborated with Pleasant Counseling & Consulting, Freedom Behavioral Health, and Finding Solace Counseling to develop topics and information for the second installment of the trainings focused on de-escalation tactics in times of behavioral health crisis. The first session of this installment was held February 27th in Monroe.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>Obj. 2.2 Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families will have access to and be served by qualified trained professionals, including Direct Support Professionals, First Responders, and other professionals, who will value and promote inclusive community living.</p>	
<p>2.2.1 Provide financial support to conduct training sessions on first-responder tactics, approaches and resources in fostering relationships with and dealing with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and training for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities on how to interact with first responders. Approx. FFY 2024 Cost: \$80,000</p>	<p>Council contracted for a fourth and final year with Interaction Advisory Group (IAG) to conduct training sessions for first responders. Trainings were originally scheduled to be held in-person, but virtual trainings are being offered to combat difficulties the contractor is facing scheduling trainings. These virtual trainings will also be offered to individuals with disabilities and their families. A virtual training event was held April 30th with 4 first responders in attendance: Plaquemine’s Parish Sheriff, Terrebonne Parish Sheriff and District Attorney’s (DA) Office. An agency wide training event for the Plaquemine’s Parish Fire Department was scheduled to take place in June, but the agency requested to reschedule the event. Another training event in June is scheduled in conjunction with the Autism Society of Acadiana’s conference. Contractor hopes to see increased participation and interest in the training by school resource officers now that school is out for the summer. An investigator with the Terrebonne Parish DA’s office shared:</p> <p>“Thank you for hosting this awareness class. It was very enlightening! You piqued my interest because there have been a few scenarios where an Autistic individual died or seriously injured from LEOs mishandling the situation. There have been no classes I have seen like yours that give awareness and some training on handling those specific situations.”</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s):</p>

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	<p>No trainings held in previous quarters due to little turnout over the holiday timeframe and mandated first responder training/certifications by their departments during the new year. Difficulty scheduling trainings continued throughout the first three quarters, which may be attributed to ongoing litigation in Jefferson Parish.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>2.2.2 Provide financial support to establish a training program on emergency preparedness and response relative to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities Approx. FFY 2024 Cost: \$50,000</p>	<p>Council contracted for a fourth and final year with Niagara University to bring its emergency preparedness and disability awareness training to Louisiana. Two trainings were held this quarter: Alexandria (April 29 – 30) and Baton Rouge (May 1 -2). At the time this update was prepared, attendance numbers were not available. Shared a LaDDC News on June 11, 2024 announcing the final two trainings of this initiative in Lafayette (September 9 – 10) and Shreveport (September 11 – 12). Those interested in attending one or both trainings can click the link for registration information. This quarter, the contractor continued to make connections and complete outreach with emergency management associations across the state. He participated in an outreach opportunity with the LA Emergency Preparedness Association, which has a core membership of parish emergency personnel. Work with Volunteers of America was also completed and resulted in an in-kind contribution of lunch for attendees at both Alexandria and Baton Rouge trainings.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s) No trainings were held in the first quarter. The contractor hosted a refresher virtual training on January 11th for participants from all five states currently contracting for this initiative. There were 74 registered participants with 28 from Louisiana (the largest attendance of any state). Shared an LaDDC News on March 6th to announce upcoming trainings in Alexandria (April 29 – 30) and Baton Rouge (May 1 – 2).</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>2.2.3 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.</p>	<p>The DD Council adopted its Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025 Action Plan during their April quarterly meeting, which included new and continuing initiatives. The Council sought public comment on their FFY25 Action Plan and shared a LaDDC Newsletter on April 24th encouraging stakeholders to provide feedback by June 10th.</p> <p>Shared a LaDDC News on June 14, 2024 announcing an observance of the 25th anniversary of the Olmstead decision hosted by White House administration and the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): Opportunities for stakeholder input shared include:</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus group to obtain feedback on the Patient Liability (PLI) notice in order to improve the PLI Notice readability. • LaDDC Newsletter for OCDD Roadshows to discuss the department’s upcoming initiatives • LaDDC Newsletter for OCDD and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) informational sessions on fostering children and teens with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. • LaDDC News on March 27th encouraging self-advocates to participate in an advisory group with OCDD and the University of New Hampshire Institute on Disability discussing mental health crisis services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Louisiana. <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>Obj. 2.3. Females with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families will have increased access to health services and health education. (Targeted Disparity – Disadvantaged population)</p>	
<p>2.3.1 Collaborate with the Louisiana Department of Health to address accessible, educational materials on Women’s health topics.</p>	<p>Council Staff met with the Office of Women’s Health and Community Health (OWHCH) April 23rd to discuss the potential to collaborate on accessible, educational materials on Women’s health topics. OWHCH informed Council staff they are going to conduct a perinatal mental health campaign in June, and would collaborate to ensure the flyers and other materials for the campaign are accessible to all women. Council staff also discussed the bills being heard in the 2024 legislative session, and OWHCH agreed that if the bills passed, they would be also interested in collaborating to ensure the materials that would be created for SB55 (Act 122) and SB325 (Act 332) would be accessible to all women.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): The new Administration under Governor Landry made some changes in leadership under the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) including the Office of Women’s Health and Community Health. The Council has identified potential topics to address accessible educational materials on Women’s health topics being considered during the 2024 legislative session including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SB55 which requires hospitals and birthing centers to provide information regarding post-birth warning signs to new mothers and their families upon discharge and LDH to make the information available to hospitals and birthing centers and to include the information on the department’s website. • SB325 provides that, no more than 48-eight hours after a pregnant woman is informed that her unborn child has a fetal genetic abnormality diagnosis, the physician or health facility that gave the diagnosis shall provide to the woman an informational document including resources, programs, and services for pregnant women and for infants and children born with disabilities. It also requires LDH to develop and make available the informational document.

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	On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative
Goal 3 Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities will have access to quality education in inclusive and safe environments throughout all stages of life and access to self-determined, individualized, equal and gainful employment opportunities that provide competitive wages and integrated work environments.	
Obj. 3.1 Parents of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities will have increased access to early diagnosis, identification of needs, early intervention services, childcare and information and opportunities to collaborate with educators regarding individualized educational planning or programming to meet the needs of their students.	
3.1.1 Advocate for increased focus and capacity within Louisiana Department of Education to address Special Education, including specific areas/issues (i.e., disability/topical/etc.)	<p>On May 6, 2024, a LaDDC News was sent about 2024 Special Education Parent Involvement Survey. The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) surveys parents of children with disabilities who receive special education services to gather information about how well schools involve parents in the education of their children. The LDOE uses this information to guide their efforts to improve services and results for children with disabilities and enhance family involvement.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): An Action Alert was sent about the Louisiana Department of Education’s support of waiving Bulletin 1530 which would allow a chronological age span of more than three years within a special education class.</p> <p>At the December BESE meeting, Louisiana State Superintendent, Dr. Cade Brumley, stated that he has included a request in the Executive budget for six additional positions that will be specifically for special education monitoring.</p> <p>An Action Alert was sent on January 10th informing advocates that Governor Landry, by Executive Order, vetoed the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education’s (BESE) new policy establishing an appeals process for qualifying high school seniors who do not meet the state’s LEAP test scoring requirement for graduation.</p> <p>An Action Alert was sent on January 22nd about the Special Education Advisory panel (SEAP) considering several important topics that would affect focus and capacity within the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) to address Special Education.</p> <p>Council Staff attended Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) on January 24 and participated as a proxy in the SEAP meeting March 20.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>

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<p>3.1.2 Advocate for the Louisiana Department of Education to perform ongoing monitoring of local school districts to ensure compliance of all Special Education laws and policies.</p>	<p>On May 20, 2024, the Legislative Auditor released the second audit in a series of reports evaluating the Louisiana Department of Education’s (LDOE) oversight of students with disabilities who receive special education services in Louisiana. On May 22, 2024, a LaDDC News was sent about LDOE Risk-Based Monitoring Performance Audit. This audit focuses on Special Education Monitoring. Overall, the audit found that LDOE needs to improve its monitoring process to ensure all students with disabilities receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE) and all school systems follow the requirements of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and state law.</p> <p>On June 3, 2024, LaDDC sent an action alert (AA19: BESE to Discuss Special Education Monitoring Audit). A Yellow Shirt Day (YSD) was scheduled for June 11 at The Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education’s (BESE) Academic Goals and Instructional Improvement Committee where to meet and discuss the legislative audit focused on special education monitoring. Advocates were encouraged to reach out to BESE before their meeting June 11th.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): The Legislative Auditor released the first of a series of reports in September 2023 related to the evaluation of the Louisiana Department of Education’s (LDOE) oversight of students with disabilities in Louisiana. An Action Alert was sent which highlighted several areas of concern. An Action Alert and YSD for SEAP was also held.</p> <p>At the October 2023 BESE meeting, the Board directed the LDOE to bring an updated report to the December 2023 Academic Goals and Instructional Improvement Committee. The implementation plan and policy were discussed and endorsed by the SEAP at their November meeting. You can view the plan and draft policy shared at the SEAP meeting. An Action Alert was sent and a yellow shirt day scheduled for BESE.</p> <p>Council Staff also attended the BESE meeting on December 12, 2023. See the response plan and timeline from LDOE. Lastly, LDOE presented the updated complaint management procedures.</p> <p>An Action Alert was sent on January 22nd about the Special Education Advisory panel (SEAP) considering several important topics that would affect monitoring of local school districts.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>3.1.3 Advocate for educational systems change</p>	<p>An updated Action Alert was sent on April 5th on multiple bills creating Education Savings Accounts/Scholarships (ESAs) and their impact on students with disabilities. These bills include House</p>

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based on emergent education issues.

[Bill \(HB\) 191](#) by Rep. Freiberg, [HB745](#) by Rep. Emerson, [SB313](#) by Sen. Edmonds and [HB66](#) by Rep. Butler. Advocates were encouraged to reach out their State Representatives and/or Senators about the potential impact on students with disabilities. Another updated [Action Alert](#) was sent on May 23rd on [SB313's](#) final hearing on the House Floor. SB313 was signed by the governor and created the Louisiana Giving All True Opportunity to Rise (LAGATOR) program.

Previous Quarter(s):

In September, the Louisiana Legislative Auditor released a performance audit of the Louisiana Department of Education's (LDOE) process to address complaints related to students with disabilities.

During the October 2023 Council meeting, the Education and Employment committee expressed concerns for the new State Ombudsman the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) plans to hire.

The Council requested a [letter](#) be sent to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) before their January 2024 meeting about [Act 392 of the 2023 Legislative Session](#) expressing concerns about allowing convicted felons in the classrooms with students, especially students with disabilities. In February, Council Chair, Christi Gonzales, and Council Staff attended a Zoom meeting with LDOE to discuss the concerns over Act 392 in response to [the letter](#) the council sent to BESE.

An [Action Alert](#) was sent on January 10th informing advocates that Governor Landry, by [Executive Order](#), vetoed the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education's (BESE) new policy establishing an appeals process for qualifying high school seniors who do not meet the state's LEAP test scoring requirement for graduation.

An [Action Alert](#) was sent on March 18th about the legislature making Governor Landry's veto of BESE's new policy establishing an appeals process for qualifying high school seniors who do not meet the state's EOC/LEAP test scoring requirement for graduation a permanent decision with House Bill 8 ([HB8](#)).

An [Action Alert](#) was sent on February 26th due to the unexpected dismissal of the entire membership of the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP). BESE voted to allow for SEAP to meet for the March quarterly meeting with the current members, and current members were encouraged to reapply for SEAP.

An [Action Alert](#) was sent on March 21st on multiple bills creating Education Savings Accounts/Scholarships and their impact on students with disabilities. These bills include [House Bill \(HB\) 191](#), [HB745](#), [SB313](#) and [HB66](#).

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	<p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>3.1.4 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.</p>	<p>During the third quarter, one LaDDC News was sent for stakeholder input:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2024 Special Education Parent Involvement Survey, May 6, 2024 <p>Previous Quarter(s):</p> <p>During the first quarter, three Action Alerts were sent for stakeholder input including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BESE Committee to Discuss Two Important Issues, October 6, 2023 2. SEAP to Discuss LDOE Complaint Process Audit, November 21, 2023 3. BESE to Discuss LDOE Dispute Resolution Process, December 5, 2023 <p>During the second quarter, four LaDDC News and Three Action Alerts were sent for stakeholder input including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Louisiana Rehabilitation Council Recruiting Members, January 29, 2024 2. LDOE Seeks Input on 2024-25 IDEA Application, February 21, 2024 3. Special Education Advisory Panel Members Dismissed, February 26, 2024 4. Special Education Advisory Panel Applications Open, March 7, 2024 5. LEAP Appeals Up for Debate in House Education, March 18, 2024 6. FFY24 LDOE IDEA Grant Application out for Public Comment, March 21, 2024 7. Education Savings/Scholarships Accounts and the Impacts on Students with Disabilities, March 21, 2024 <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>3.1.5 Provide financial support to build capacity for advocacy regarding education and employment. Approx. FFY 2024 Cost: \$87,000</p>	<p>The Council contracted with The Arc to complete this activity. After their first web based training on March 28, The Arc made some changes to their training based on feedback. On June 6, 2024, The Arc hosted their Region 2 training, with updates based on feedback. Louisiana Lighthouse was a guest speaker and gave information on Work Incentives, Planning and Assistance program (WIPA). Participant information will be shared on the next status report.</p> <p>They attended Senate Education and shared comments on HB708, LRC meeting in Lafayette, and testified in the House Health and Welfare Committee for the Medicaid Buy-In.</p> <p>They also sent language for LaCAN alerts/LADDC News.</p> <p>The training schedule will continue to be shared with all FHF Centers, The Arc of Louisiana, and Disability Rights LA. People First of LA and the DD Council (through websites and social media) are</p>

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	<p>providing promotion of the scheduled events. Training schedule will also be listed there. Adults with disabilities, their families and other interested organizations and stakeholders are encouraged to attend.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): Since October, The Arc has begun developing education and employment training materials. They have also attended meetings including the Special Education Advisory Panel in November and the Louisiana Rehabilitation Council (LRC) in October. The Arc also made recommendations to LDOE based on testimony from parents, and sent language to DDC staff to share in LaCAN alerts for two BESE meetings on October 6 and December 5 and a SEAP meeting on November 21.</p> <p>The Arc watched the MFP Taskforce meeting, and BESE retreat. Additionally, they sent an email to all BESE members regarding the dismissal of SEAP members. They also met with several legislators and helped develop a concurrent resolution to urge the Louisiana Department of Health to update its policies in the Medicaid Buy-In program to increase the amount of income individuals can earn when working. The Arc sent language to staff to share in LaCAN Action Alerts on January 10, January 22, February 26, and March 18.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>Obj. 3.2 Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities will have increased employment outcomes upon transitioning from secondary educational settings, access to employment opportunities inclusive of services from highly qualified employment support providers, and increased competitive and integrated opportunities from employers who are educated on how to support people with developmental disabilities.</p>	
<p>3.2.1 Advocate for systems change based on emergent employment issues.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>