

## *HOT TOPICS*

### **Initiative to Increase Awareness for Dually Eligible Individuals with I/DD**

- OCDD recently wrapped up participation in the I/DD Duals Innovation Cohort, a yearlong technical assistance initiative led by the [National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services](#) (NASDDDS). Louisiana was one of four states selected to participate, alongside Delaware, Missouri, and Washington. Louisiana's team consisted of team members from OCDD, the Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS), Medicaid, and Policy and Legal.
- This project aimed to improve how states support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. In Louisiana, many I/DD community members are unaware of dual eligibility benefits and how to connect with them.

### **Louisiana Legislative Updates**

- **House bill (HB) 1/Act 1** —
  - Requires OCDD to add a nursing consultation waiver service. Providers will be able to bill when nursing consultations are provided up to \$750 per person per plan year. This requires a waiver amendment, so implementation is contingent upon CMS approval. Funding for this activity is through the Disability Services Fund.
  - OCDD and OAAS will implement a one-time payment to support coordination agencies when a waiver participant is initially certified into the waiver.
- **House resolution (HR) 218** — Requests LDH to coordinate with stakeholders including The Arc to explore the creation of an ISNP (Institutional Special Needs Plan). LDH will convene meetings with internal and external partners and present findings before the 2026 legislative session.
- **HB 595/Act 294** — Adds a pathway to meet nursing facility level of care for the TEFRA program if a child presented to the emergency room more frequently than once per month and the hospital is medically necessary to stabilize the sickle cell anemia. The child will still have to meet MEDT to qualify.
- **HB 559/Act 381** — Requires additional metrics, activities and reporting from the board of the LGE to LDH and legislative committees.
- **HB 624** — Moves SNAP and disability determinations from DCFS to LDH effective 10/1/2025.

### **ARPA Updates**

OCDD continues to work on CMS-approved activities associated with Section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). ARPA funding for various initiatives is set to expire in December, but OCDD has requested an extension to September 2026. Updates on various initiatives include:

- The results from the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) rate study are expected to be complete in August.
- National Core Indicators (NCI) has granted an extension to complete the State of the Workforce Survey to July 31, 2025. HCBS providers<sup>1</sup> who complete the survey will receive a value-based payment as outlined in this chart:

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<sup>1</sup> \*Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) providers may also participate in the survey, but they are not eligible for incentive payments, which are limited to HCBS waiver funds.

# of Individuals Served by HCBS Provider	VBP
0 – 100 individuals	\$1,000 after survey completion
101 – 200 individuals	\$2,500 after survey completion
201 or more individuals	\$5,000 after survey completion

## Employment Toolkit

- OCDD developed a **Supported Employment Toolkit** for providers that is now available on the [LDH website](#). LGEs, providers, and support coordinators will continue to provide trainings and guidance around the individual employment service array in the NOW, ROW and Supports Waiver.

## HCBS Settings Rule

- On May 29, 2025, OCDD received the final letter of closure that CMS determined Louisiana completed all required milestones outlined in the HCBS Settings CAP. CMS will continue to provide technical assistance regarding the required federal waiver assurances as needed.

## EarlySteps Updates

- EarlySteps received 2025 annual determination letter from the U.S. Department of Education. Under Sections 616 and 642 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the U.S. Department of Education has determined that Louisiana meets the requirements and purposes of Part C of the IDEA. The FFY 2023-2024 State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report is available at <https://ldh.la.gov/page/early-steps>.
- IDEA Part C funding for Federal fiscal year 2025-2026 was awarded to LDH as the Lead agency for Louisiana Early Intervention Program, EarlySteps.

## *OCDD Quarterly Activities*

### MyPlace/Money follows the Person

- 32 individuals** have transitioned into the community so far in 2025 through the **NOW, ROW, and Children's Choice (CC)** waiver programs.
- Over **\$600,000 in Value-Based Payments** has been issued to Support Coordination agencies participating in the MFP Capacity Building Grant initiative regarding person-centered planning.
- We will be launching a **quarterly statewide My Place Louisiana training and webinar series**. For more information, please contact: [OCDD.MFP@la.gov](mailto:OCDD.MFP@la.gov).
- CMS has extended funding for MFP through 2027**. Despite recent federal legislative developments, **there have been no changes to MFP operations**. The program continues to operate fully and remains committed to supporting successful community living for all eligible participants.

### Pinecrest Supports and Services Center

Current Census	2025 Calendar Year Admissions	2025 Calendar Year Discharges
432	24	10

### Central Louisiana Supports and Services Center

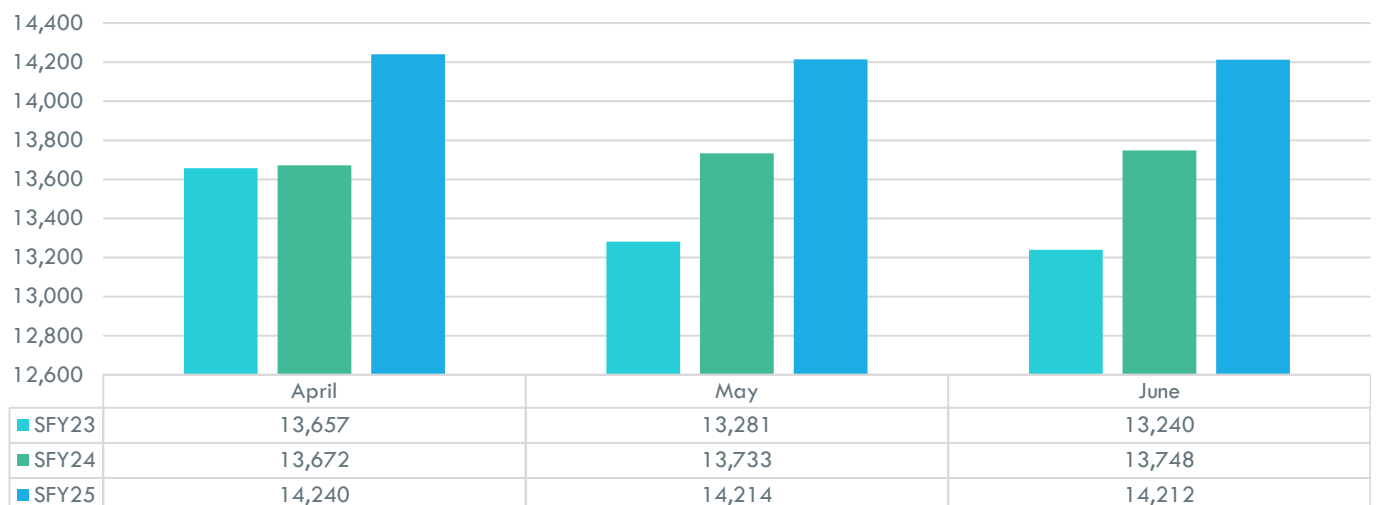
Current Census	2025 Calendar Year Admissions	2025 Calendar Year Discharges
90	4	2

### Access to Behavioral and Medical Intervention in the Community (OCDD Resource Center)

- **952** individuals with I/DD received consultation or direct services from the Resource Center
  - **95%** individuals were able to remain living, working in the community
  - **98%** individuals were satisfied with services
- **1,631** nurse outreach and education activities
- **194** training events with clinicians and providers
- **4** Louisiana universities participating in training for undergraduate and graduate level students
- **48** urgent cases resolved
  - **25** of urgent cases received consultation from the Resource Center
  - **98%** of the cases that the Resource Center consulted on were able to be maintained in the community without need for long term institutionalization

### *Home- and Community-Based Waiver Information (As of 6/30/2025)*

**Unduplicated Paid Recipients (monthly total of people who received a paid waiver service)**



**Total Waiver Population** (as of 6/30/25)

New Opportunities Waiver (NOW): **6,960**

Residential Options Waiver (ROW): **2,167**

Children's Choice: **3,140**

Supports Waiver: **2,620**

**Annual Average Cost of Waiver per Recipient**

SFY23 - **\$49,395**

SFY24 - **\$48,718**

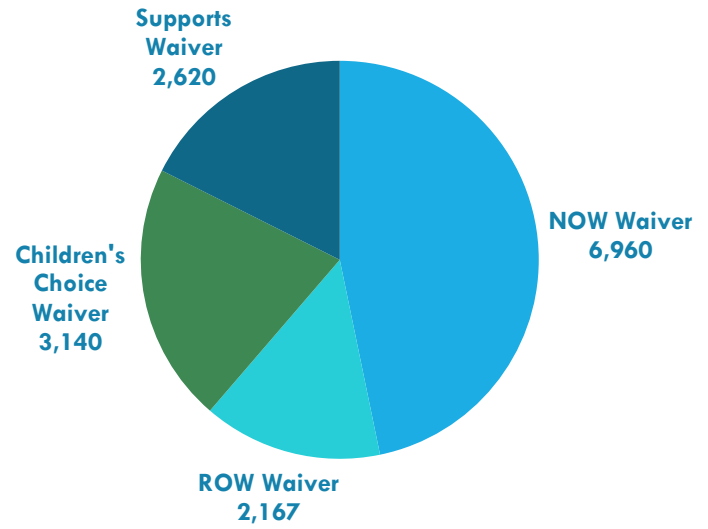
SFY25 - **\$49,327** (as of 7/2/25)

**Total Annual Waiver Services Payments**

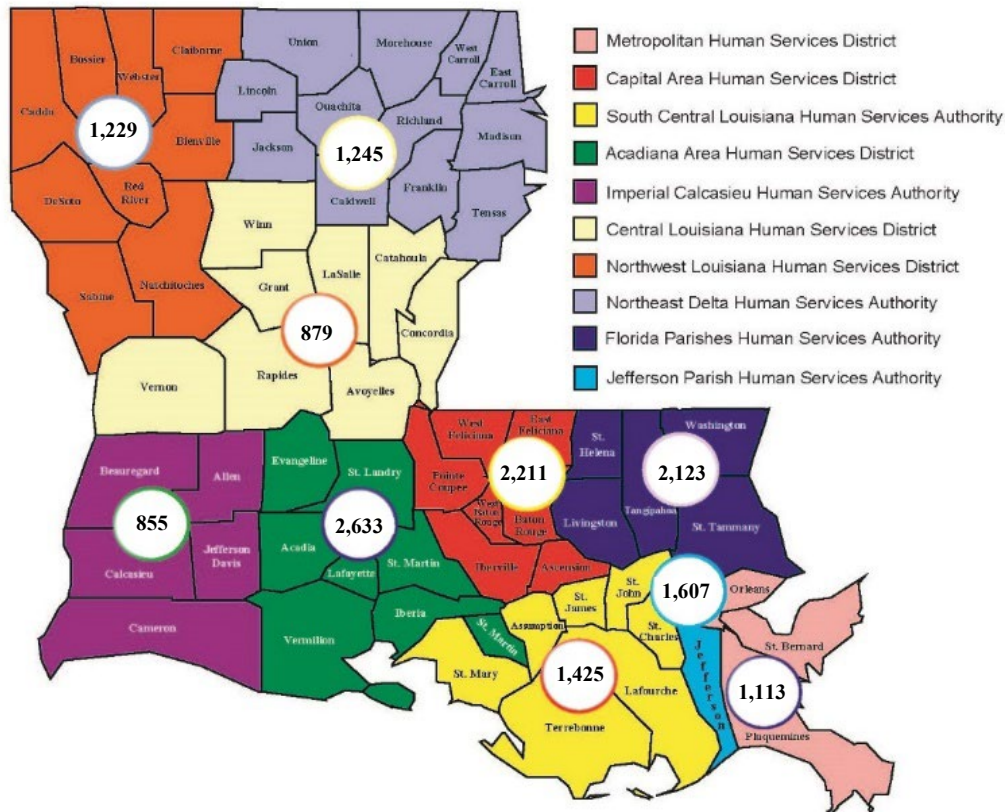
SFY23 - **\$653.6 Million**

SFY24 - **\$660.1 Million**

SFY25 - **\$691.7 Million** (as of 7/2/25)



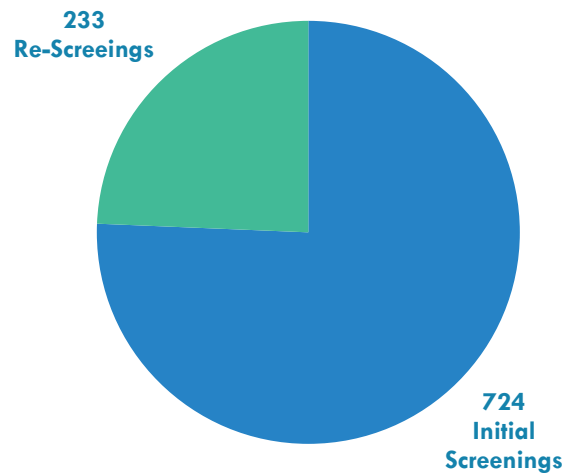
**Waiver Participants by Region**



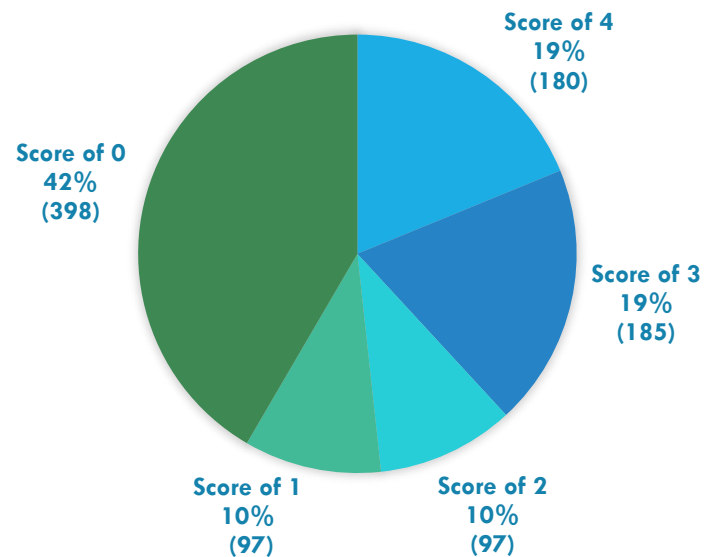
## Screening for Urgency of Need (SUN) Quarterly Data

- OCDD uses the SUN to determine if HCBS or other services can meet an individual's support needs. SUN looks at services and supports that are already in place, Medicaid eligibility, severity or complexity of the person's disabilities, additional supports individuals need, and any changes in an individual's living situation.
- SUN scores range from 0-4, with 4 representing unmet needs at the emergent level, 3 represents unmet needs at the urgent level, 2 means unmet needs at the critical level, 1 shows unmet needs at the planning level, and 0 is for no identified unmet needs.
- Waiver offers are made to all individuals with a SUN score of 3 or 4, so no individual with current unmet needs is on the DD Request for Services Registry. As of **June 30, 2025**, there are **13,841<sup>2</sup>** on the registry.
- From April – June of 2025, OCDD conducted **957** screenings.

**REASON FOR SUN SCREENING**



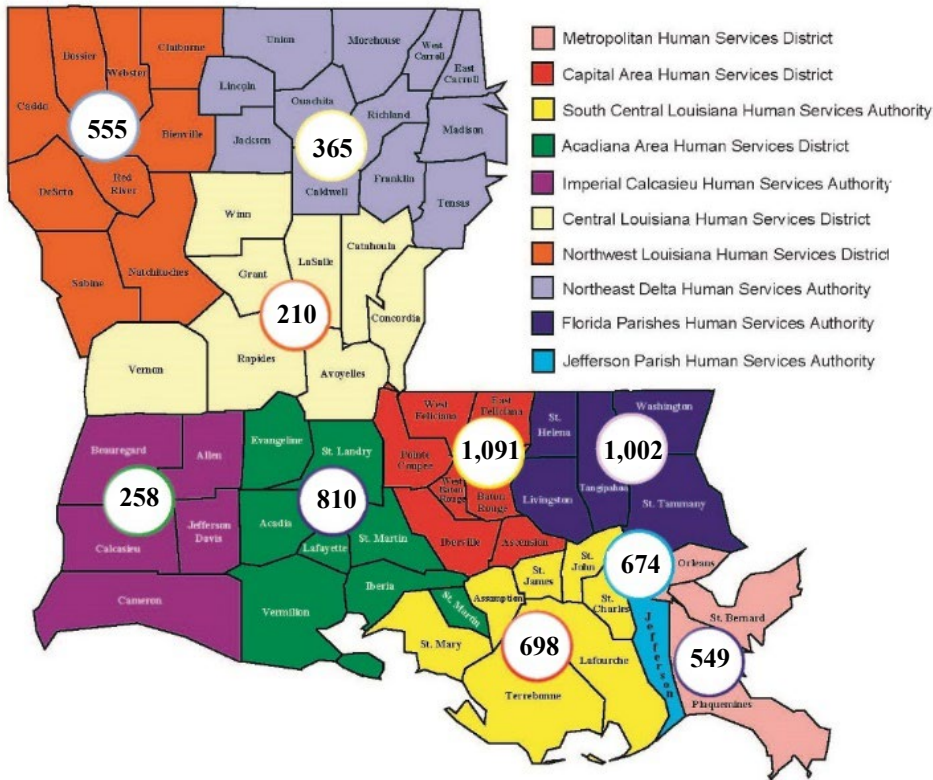
**SUN SCORES**



<sup>2</sup> The total number of individuals listed in the Registry will fluctuate due to new additions, closures, and post-closure re-opens.

## EarlySteps

### Children with active Individual and Family Support Plans (IFSP) by Region (as of 6/1/25)



### EarlySteps Child Count/Referrals

- Child count (as of 6/1/25): **6,212**
- Referrals April 2025: **1,104**
- Referrals May 2025: **1,152**
- Referrals June 2025: **1,073**