

**Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS)
LRS Director’s Quarterly Report
April 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 **4,382** 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	1,110
Number of Eligibility/Delayed	1,003
Number of New IPEs	737
Number of Closed Rehab (Successful Closures)	253
Total Open VR cases as of March 31, 2024	9,439
Total Open Pre-ETS cases as of March 31, 2024	3,684

DD Open VR Cases: As of March 31, 2024

Disability Cause	New Orleans	Baton Rouge	Houma	Lafayette	Lake Charles	Alexandria	Shreveport	Monroe	Total
Autism	275	192	45	99	30	54	72	43	810
Cerebral Palsy	34	53	6	13	10	13	23	7	159
Intellectual Disabilities	178	118	22	41	57	78	86	78	658
Specific Learning Disabilities	379	291	78	41	15	120	66	219	1209
Total	866	654	151	194	112	265	247	347	2836

DD Closed Rehabilitated Cases: January 1, 2024 through March 31, 2024

Case Status	Case Type	Disability Cause	Total
Closed-Rehab	VR	Autism	12
		Cerebral Palsy	4
		Intellectual Disabilities	11
		Specific Learning Disabilities	18
Total:			45

**Rehabilitation Employment Development Specialist (REDS):
December 1, 2023 – February 29, 2024**

Region	Number of Referrals	Number of Community Activities or Employer Contacts	Employment Placements	Successful Closures
Region 1	13	79	4	3
Region 2 *	3	35	3	4
Region 4	5	28	1	0
Region 5	3	85	1	1
Region 6	10	89	2	7
Region 8	8	68	26	15
Totals	27	317	28	13

Regions 3 and 7 do not have a REDS.

* Region 2 has also not had a REDS since February 2024.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Louisiana Rehabilitation Council (LRC):

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

Benefits Planning:

Forty (40) 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) Projects:

LRS is continuing to ask for participants for Project STEMM-Up in the New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Lafayette Regions. Project STEMM-Up activities are funded through a contract with Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS). MRS conducted an on-site audit of LRS and Southern University of Baton Rouge (SUBR) on January 23 - 24, 2024, and recently issued a draft report. Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) is scheduled to provide on-site technical assistance April 18 - 19, 2024.

LRS staff has met with the Louisiana Department of Education (DOE) to discuss collaboration efforts on the recently awarded DIF grant to target transition resources and referrals in North LA. Also in an effort to increase collaboration efforts, LRS and DOE staff are planning to attend a National Technical Assistance Center on Transition Capacity Building Institute in May, which is intended to lead to a strategic plan for both entities moving forward.

Statewide Trainings:

LRS conducted a statewide vendor training via Zoom on Thursday, March 21, 2024, to update Employment Services vendors on recent changes to the Technical Assistance and Guidance Manual and Fee Schedule. This training focused on the new services, changes to existing services, required forms, and rates.

Throughout the month of March, all Rehabilitation Counselor Associates statewide participated in training conducted by LRS State Office on how to appropriately manage Pre-Employment Transition Services caseloads in an effort to alleviate Counselor responsibilities and conduct more outreach for potentially eligible students.

2024 WIOA State Plan:

The LWC website hosts a page dedicated to the 2024 - 2027 WIOA Combined State Plan, which includes the Vocational Rehabilitation Program. Public comment on this document will be accepted through the LWC website until 11:59 PM on April 26, 2024.