

Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS)
LRS Director's Quarterly Report
January 2023

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 **3,450** students statewide.

LRS currently has 14 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	1,046
Number of Eligibility/Delayed	1,032
Number of New IPEs	672
Number of Closed Rehab (Successful Closures)	214
Total Open VR cases as of December 31, 2022	8,832
Total Open Pre-ETS cases as of December 31, 2022	2,861

DD Open VR Cases: As of December 31, 2022

Disability Cause	New Orleans	Baton Rouge	Houma	Lafayette	Lake Charles	Alexandria	Shreveport	Monroe	Total
Autism	241	155	40	86	24	50	49	46	691
Cerebral Palsy	26	44	9	14	8	15	25	5	146
Intellectual Disabilities	150	78	21	48	36	63	54	76	526
Specific Learning Disabilities	250	280	79	29	15	136	46	253	1,088
Total	667	557	149	177	83	264	174	380	2,451

DD Closed Rehabilitated Cases: October 1, 2022 thru December 31, 2022

Case Status	Case Type	Disability Cause	Total
Closed-Rehab	VR	Autism	16
		Cerebral Palsy	0
		Intellectual Disabilities	10
		Specific Learning Disabilities	23
Total:			49

Rehabilitation Employment Development Specialist (REDS): October 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022

Region	Number of Referrals	Number of Community Activities or Employer Contacts	Number of On-the-Job Training Contracts	Employment Placements	Successful Closures
Region 1	6	146	0	10	3
Region 2	15	168	1	16	8
Region 5	4	95	1	3	2
Region 6	7	177	0	2	2
Region 7	9	20	0	4	0
Region 8	17	82	2	11	3
Totals	58	688	4	46	18
A new REDS for Region 4 started late November 2022.			Region 3 does not currently have a REDS.		

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Louisiana Rehabilitation Council (LRC):

The LRC continues to have quarterly meetings with the next one scheduled for Thursday, January 26, 2023 (A new location is being determined due to recent damage sustained and temporary closure of the previously arranged location). Meeting information will be posted to the Boards and Commissions' website. The LRC is currently seeking to fill six (6) vacancies for the following positions:

1. A representative of individuals with disabilities who have difficulty representing themselves;
2. A representative of Business, Industry, and Labor;
3. Director of a Federal Section 121 Project;
4. An advocate for individuals with disabilities;
5. Individual with physical, cognitive, sensory, or mental disabilities; and
6. Current or former applicant for, or recipient of vocational rehabilitation services.

Benefits Planning:

Due to having an in-house Community Partner Work Incentives Counselor, 59 LRS consumers have been directly assisted with their SSI and SSDI benefits planning since February 2022. Lighthouse for the Blind and LSU Human Development Center also continue to provide Work Incentives Planning and Assistance.

DIF (Disability Innovation Fund) Project:

Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) is part of a consortium consisting of Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Michigan State University, and Southern University-Baton Rouge being funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Rehabilitation Services Administration Disability Innovation Fund (DIF) to implement an innovative demonstration project called "Project STEMM-Up". The grant is funding activities over a five-year period (10/01/2021 - 09/30/2026) to develop and validate Social Cognitive Career Theory interventions for vocational rehabilitation consumers using career pathways that will assist individuals with disabilities from racial/ethnic minority and other marginalized groups (IWD-REM) in competitive integrated employment in demand jobs in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine (STEMM) fields. LRS is partnering with Southern University's Department of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies to accomplish the project goals in Louisiana which will be achieved in two phases. The project is now in its second year and is transitioning into Phase 2 which consists of the development of the intervention, implementation, and evaluation. The first year of the project included a Comprehensive Needs Assessment. Between Michigan and Louisiana, 850 consumers are anticipated to be served by this project.