

**Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS)
LRS Director's Quarterly Report
July 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 **3,885** students statewide.

LRS currently has 15 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	1,145
Number of Eligibility/Delayed	1,116
Number of New IPEs	756
Number of Closed Rehab (Successful Closures)	447
Total Open VR cases as of June 30, 2023	8,572
Total Open Pre-ETS cases as of June 30, 2023	2,943

DD Open VR Cases: As of June 30, 2023

Disability Cause	New Orleans	Baton Rouge	Houma	Lafayette	Lake Charles	Alexandria	Shreveport	Monroe	Total
Autism	254	157	39	90	24	51	54	37	706
Cerebral Palsy	24	46	11	14	8	11	20	2	136
Intellectual Disabilities	142	75	22	38	39	54	54	71	495
Specific Learning Disabilities	258	256	83	29	11	128	47	226	1038
Total	678	534	155	171	82	244	175	336	2375

DD Closed Rehabilitated Cases: April 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023

Case Status	Case Type	Disability Cause	Total
Closed-Rehab	VR	Autism	17
		Cerebral Palsy	8
		Intellectual Disabilities	24
		Specific Learning Disabilities	48
Total:			97

Rehabilitation Employment Development Specialist (REDS): March 1, 2023 – May 31, 2023

Region	Number of Referrals	Number of Community Activities or Employer Contacts	Employment Placements	Successful Closures
Region 1	3	86	6	5
Region 2	11	80	5	6
Region 4	9	67	7	0
Region 5	2	94	4	2
Region 6	6	184	7	4
Region 7	12	141	4	0
Region 8	13	67	7	4
Totals	56	719	40	21
Region 3 does not currently have a REDS.				

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Louisiana Rehabilitation Council (LRC):

During a special meeting conducted in June, the LRC elected new officers to serve starting July 1, 2023. The next LRC quarterly meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2023, and will be conducted at Hampton Inn & Suites (11271 Reiger Rd., Baton Rouge, LA). Information for this meeting has been posted to the Boards and Commissions' website. Due to several recent appointments to the LRC, the only current membership vacancy is for Director of a Federal Section 121 Project.

Benefits Planning:

Fifty-five (55) LRS consumers have been directly assisted with their SSI and SSDI benefits planning since January 1, 2023, from 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.

Statewide disABILITY Inclusion Job Fair:

In conjunction with National Disability Employment Awareness Month, the 2nd Annual Statewide Virtual Job Fair is being planned for October 11, 2023. LRS is once again collaborating with Healthy Blue to host this event. LRS staff is coordinating both employer and applicant recruitment.

DIF (Disability Innovation Fund) Project:

Dr. Madan Kundu has retired from Southern University (SU) with Dr. Derek Ruiz replacing him as the Principal Investigator for Project STEMM-Up. The Career Pathway Coordinators have been providing assessments to the initial referrals to determine the Social Cognitive Career Theory training modules that will best benefit the jobseekers. Meanwhile, the Louisiana STEMM-Up team is focused on increasing the number of referrals to the project. Meetings are being coordinated with the participating regional offices to ensure Rehabilitation Counselors are clear on the goals of the project and how their consumers can benefit. The Community and Business Advisory Board met on June 27, 2023, to assign subcommittees and begin the development of a Community Engagement Guide.