



LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT

Planning Committee Status Report of FFY2025 Action Plan (Including Staff Recommendations for FFY2026)

Activity	Progress
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.	
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.	
1.1.1 Provide financial support and technical assistance for Partners in Policymaking and its alumni network. Approx. FFY 2025 Cost: \$145,000	Partners in Policymaking (PiP) is a national leadership training program for people with developmental disabilities and parents of young children with developmental disabilities. It provides the most current knowledge about disability issues and develops the competencies necessary for effective advocacy to influence public policy at all levels of government. The 2025 PiP class will complete the January – June sessions in person. PiP will continue to complete sessions in person for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) and accept at least twenty (20) parents and/or self-advocates in the class. Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends continuing this activity and decreasing funding to \$115,000 for Fiscal Year 2026. The additional \$30,000 was for an alumni event, which will be every 5 years.
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	All LaCAN leader positions have been filled. Leaders continue to educate, maintain, support, and lead LaCAN members by building relationships with legislators through various LaCAN activities including LaCAN member meetings, Legislative Roundtables, Legislative Visits, Yellow Shirt Days and Public Testimony Days. Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends continuing this activity in Fiscal Year 2025 at its current budget. This budget was increased from \$215,000 to its current funding in FFY24.

services for people with intellectual developmental disabilities. Approx. FFY 2025 Cost: \$240,000	
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 2025 Cost: \$40,000	LaCAN Leaders, in collaboration with their Families Helping Families Centers, completed regional legislative roundtables in February and March. Roundtables were held virtually and in person in each region before the start of the legislative session, on April 14, 2025. LaCAN members meetings and trainings are also covered in this activity which are typically held in person. Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends continuing this activity in Fiscal Year 2025 at its current budget.
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.	Families Helping Families (FHF) Centers continue to provide information and referrals, education and training, peer-to-peer support, and other support to individuals with disabilities and their families. They are also conducting outreach activities to hospitals, pediatricians, school districts, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) clinics, and physical therapy clinics. Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends continuing this activity in Fiscal Year 2026. The FHF Centers currently utilize all of the Council's State General Funds.
1.1.5 Provide financial support to produce and provide information including videos and other visuals, a website overhaul, plain language materials and rebranding of materials important to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families through a variety of electronic and social media (Council website, Facebook, and LaDDC News). Approx. FFY 2025 Cost: \$55,000	The Council continues to provide information through a variety of electronic and social media. The number of subscribers, followers, and likes grows daily. Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends rewriting the activity to say “Produce and provide information important to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families through a variety of electronic and social media (Council website, Facebook, and LaDDC News).” There no longer is a need for a funding amount, due to the work being completed.
1.1.6 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.	The Council continues to search and advertise opportunities for meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations including vacancies on other Boards and Advisory Councils.

	Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends continuing this activity for Fiscal Year 2026.
1.1.7 Provide financial support and technical assistance for the Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum. Approx. FFY 2025 Cost: \$45,000	Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum (LAYLF) is an innovative, overnight training program for high school-aged individuals with developmental and other disabilities. It includes career awareness and leadership development information to assist young people with disabilities in reaching their full potential. LAYLF is also receiving \$15,000 from Louisiana Department of Education and may receive funding from the Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) depending on the delegates selected to participate in the LAYLF (that amount, if any, will be shared after the selection of the delegates). LAYLF is in the second year of a five year re-occurring grant from Enbridge for transportation and meals. LAYLF also received an additional grant for housing and meals through the Brown Foundation. LAYLF will take place June 20-23 at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends continuing this activity at its current budget for Fiscal Year 2025. The budget was increased from \$30,000 to its current level in FFY2024. In FFY 2023 LAYLF accepted 13 delegates and lasted 3 days. For FFY2024 LAYLF is accepting 14 delegates, including 1 high support camper, and will take place over 3.5 days.
1.1.8 Provide financial support, technical assistance and collaborate with the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities to educate and train individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities on abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Approx. FFY 2025 Cost: \$50,000	The Council is partnering with Team Dynamics to support an important project focused on ensuring individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) have the support and resources needed to identify and prevent abuse. There will be nine (9) statewide workshops designed to equip individuals with IDD, caregivers, families, and community partners with the knowledge and skills to recognize, prevent, and respond to abuse and neglect. Sessions will cover the Definitions and signs of abuse, Importance of self-advocacy, and Practical steps for reporting abuse/neglect and intervention. Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends rewriting this activity to say, “Provide financial support, technical assistance to educate and train individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities on abuse, neglect, and exploitation.” Contractor would like to continue working and include some short videos of folks sharing their thoughts about how to recognize abuse/neglect and what to do about it when it happens. The

	videos would be used on social media outlets for marketing the training and for educational purposes. Staff Recommends increasing the budget to \$78,000.00.
1.1.9 Advocate for systems change based on emergent advocacy issues including subject matters on (but not limited to) advocacy, voting, exploitation prevention, financial stability and responsibilities, and decision making.	Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends continuing this activity for Fiscal Year 2026.
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.	
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. Approx. FFY 2025 Cost: \$25,000	The Council continues to provide technical assistance and training opportunities to strengthen the self-advocacy network. Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends continuing this activity for Fiscal Year 2026, but lowering their budget to \$20,000. For the past 3 years, they have left over \$6,000.
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.	The Council continues to provide information and support participation in cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions and advisory bodies. Council members currently serve on The ABLE Account Advisory Council, the Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline, the Voting Rights Task Force and the Post-Secondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council. Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends continuing this activity for Fiscal Year 2026.
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.	Council members' participation in training and educational opportunities will continue to be supported. Staff will ensure Council members are made aware of opportunities to participate when available. Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends continuing this activity for Fiscal Year 2026.
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.	

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.	
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).	The Council continues to oversee the implementation of the Community and Family Support System plan through its Act 378 Subcommittee, Self-Determination and Community Inclusion Committee and various meetings with the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD). Council staff continue to attend and participate in stakeholder groups and task force meetings, including the Governor’s Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (GACDA) to stay informed about changes to the Community and Family Support System Plan. The Executive Director also holds monthly calls with the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD). Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends continuing this activity for Fiscal Year 2025, but changing the wording to read, “Oversee implementation of the Community and Family Support System Plan and advocate to ensure the plan meets the needs for all Louisianans”.
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.	Staff sent an interest survey through LaDDC News. Results attached. Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends discontinuing this activity at this capacity. If the Council is interested in continuing this initiative, it is recommended a contract be entered with an outside entity that can develop an educational program specific to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities and offer these trainings statewide on a voluntary basis and outside of school setting. Funding will need to be allocated for this initiative.
2.1.3 Provide financial support for training to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities on how to navigate the Developmental Disability, Behavioral Health and Medicaid/Managed Care Organization Systems. Approx. FFY 2025 Cost: \$30,000	The Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council has partnered with The Arc of Louisiana to host a series of training opportunities to learn about navigating Louisiana’s complex service delivery system. Attendees will learn about: Addressing existing barriers, Identifying service gaps, and Identifying inadequacies in both the I/DD and Behavioral Health service systems. Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends continuing this activity for Fiscal Year 2026.

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.	
2.2.1 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.	The Council continues to search and advertise opportunities for meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations. Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends continuing this activity for Fiscal Year 2026.
2.2.2 Collaborate with the LSU Human Development Center to bring more awareness to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Approx. FFY 2025 Cost: \$10,000	The Council has partnered with LSU Human Development Center (HDC) to bring more awareness to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. HDC researched other states FASD public awareness campaigns and materials. They also collaborated with Healthy Child Manitoba to discuss replication of their FASD Awareness research study in Louisiana and sharing of resources for communities. Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends discontinuing this activity for Fiscal Year 2026. This was an awareness campaign and no longer needs funding.
2.2.3 Collaborate with LSU Human Development Center and provide financial and technical assistance to establish, plan and implement training for professionals and families of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities on treatment of youth with FASD. Approx. FFY 2025 Cost: \$40,000	The Council has partnered with LSU Human Development Center to conduct Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) trainings Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) for social workers foster/ adoptive parents. Attendees will: Understand the brain differences in FASD, Explore practices in the field to support prevention, policy, awareness, and family support for FASD, and Understand best practices and supports for the home, school, and community environment for those affected by FASD. Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends discontinuing this activity for Fiscal Year 2026. This was a pilot program and needed startup funding.
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)	
2.3.1 Collaborate with the Louisiana Department of Health to address accessible, educational materials on Women’s health topics.	Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends rewriting this activity to say, “Provide funding to address accessible, educational materials on women’s health topic. Must assign funding if it is changed.

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.)	Council staff continue to attend the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) meetings, the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAP) meetings, the Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline (ACSBD) meetings and other education boards, councils and task forces that make decisions and recommendations impacting students with disabilities. The Executive Director hosts monthly calls with the Executive Director of Diverse Learners. The Council receives quarterly updates on education issues from LDOE. Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends combining this activity with 3.1.2 to say “Advocate for the Louisiana Department of Education to perform ongoing monitoring and increased focus of local school districts to ensure compliance of all Special Education laws and policies.”
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.	Staff Recommendation(s): See activity 3.1.1
3.1.3 Advocate for educational systems change based on emergent education issues.	Council staff continue to attend BESE, SEAP and ACSBD meetings. The Council receives quarterly updates on education issues from LDOE. Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends continuing this activity for Fiscal Year 2026.
3.1.4 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.	The Council continues to search and advertise opportunities for meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations including vacancies on other Boards and Advisory Councils. Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends continuing this activity for Fiscal Year 2026.

3.1.5 Provide financial support and technical assistance for training of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities on transitioning to adulthood to include but not limited to financial literacy, health, waivers, employment and voting. Approx. FFY 2025 Cost: \$42,000	The Council partnered with Team Dynamics to support an important project focused on ensuring individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) have the support and resources needed to transition to adulthood. Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends continuing this activity for Fiscal Year 2026. Contractor asked for \$58,000.00 to expand the program to include: Building Independent Living Skills: Daily Life and Household Management, Developing Healthy and Safe Social Skills, Exploring Higher Education and Vocational Training Opportunities, Understanding Self-Advocacy and Legal Rights, and Planning for the Future: Housing and Long-Term Supports.
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.	
3.2.1 Advocate for systems change based on emergent employment issues.	Council staff attend the Louisiana Rehabilitation Counsel (LRC) meetings and receive quarterly updates on employment from LRS. Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends continuing this activity for Fiscal Year 2026.

Additional Staff Recommendation(s):

- Contract to create flyers in plain language for preventative screenings for women.
- Create virtual guide for education, including general who to contact for what.
- Training for the special education complaint process- how to create a complaint, the process after sending in a complaint.
- Awareness video/ short commercial on the benefits of becoming a special educator.
- Awareness video/ short commercial on the benefits of becoming a Vocational Rehab Counselor.
- Create virtual guide for employment, including general LRS information.