

# Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council Quarterly Report

Bureau of Health Services Financing (Medicaid)  
Louisiana Department of Health

January 2026

## News, Updates & Highlights

### Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC)

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) recently established a Beneficiary Advisory Committee (BAC) that will serve as a subcommittee of the larger Medicaid Advisory Committee. BAC members will advise LDH on a range of topics, including but not limited to changes to covered services, coordination of care, quality of services, and the eligibility application and renewal processes.

The BAC held its last quarterly meeting on October 14, 2025 and its next meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2026. If you would like additional information on the BAC or to view meeting materials and minutes, you may visit <https://ldh.la.gov/medicaid/beneficiary-advisory-council>.

### Help with Premium Payments for Medicaid Family Members

The Louisiana Health Insurance Premium Payment Program (LaHIPP) can help pay for individual or employer-sponsored health insurance premiums if someone in the family has Medicaid.

There is no cost to LaHIPP and it does not affect Medicaid eligibility. It may help families by:

- Reimbursing the premium paid by the policyholder.
- Paying insurance coverage for dependents who are not eligible for Medicaid.
- Allowing individuals to keep their private insurance and all of its benefits.
- Granting access to a larger network of providers.

For questions about LaHIPP, visit [www.ldh.la.gov/lahipp](http://www.ldh.la.gov/lahipp) or call 1-877-697-6703 or email [La.Hipp@la.gov](mailto:La.Hipp@la.gov).

## Louisiana Medicaid Open Enrollment Changes

Louisiana Medicaid is updating the way members choose and change their health and dental plans, giving participants more flexibility and easier access to information. Beginning March 1, 2026, Medicaid members will be able to switch health or dental plans at any time for any reason. Members can make up to **two plan changes within a 12-month period**; after that, they must remain in their plan until the next annual period begins. The first fixed annual period will run from March 1 to December 31, 2026. Starting in 2027, the annual period will follow the calendar year (January 1–December 31).

Medicaid is also changing how it shares enrollment information. Instead of automatically mailing printed materials, information about new enrollment periods will be posted on [www.myplan.healthy.la.gov](http://www.myplan.healthy.la.gov) and [www.ldh.la.gov](http://www.ldh.la.gov). Members who prefer a physical copy can request one by calling **1-855-229-6848**. Additional resources, including plan comparison charts, are available online or through the same phone number.

## Digital Medicaid and Health Plan ID Cards Available in LA Wallet

Louisiana residents can now access their Medicaid ID and health plan ID cards directly through the LA Wallet app, available in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. Members must provide a valid driver's license, date of birth, and social security number to look up their information and access their ID card. In addition to their own health plan card, heads of household can also access the digital health cards of all household members. The digital cards are updated daily to reflect the most current coverage and eligibility, providing members with quick and reliable proof of coverage directly from their smartphones.

## Keep Your Information Updated

It is important to keep your contact information up to date. Letters are sent to Medicaid members when it's time to renew or when Medicaid needs more information. If your contact information is not accurate, you could miss important letters about your health insurance coverage and risk losing your health coverage even if you are eligible. There are several ways you can update your information. Visit [www.ldh.la.gov/page/update-my-information](http://www.ldh.la.gov/page/update-my-information) for more information.

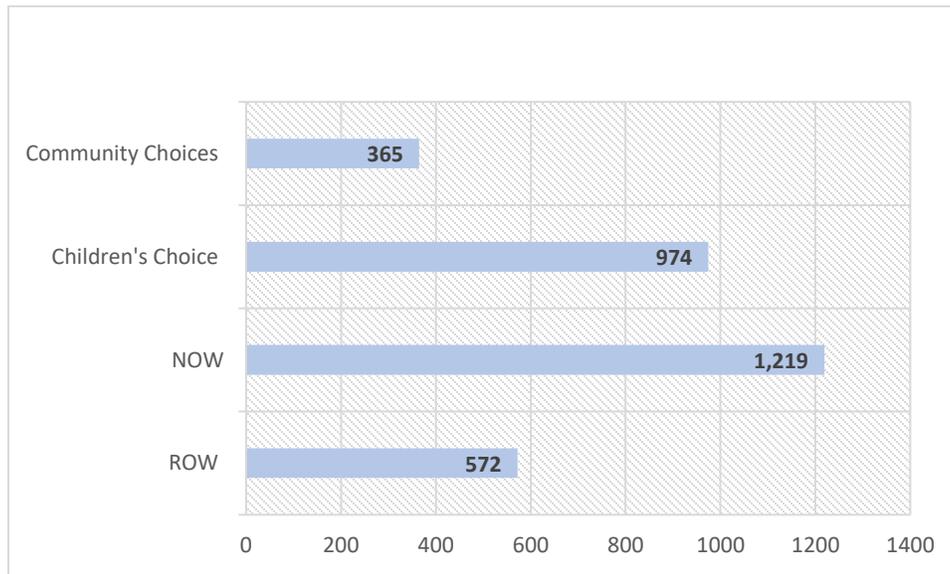


## Programs and Services

### Self-Direction

Self-Direction is a service delivery option for eligible waiver participants that allows them, or an authorized representative, to become the employer of the people they choose to hire to provide in-home supports. As the employer, participants or their authorized representatives are responsible for recruiting, training, supervising, and managing the people they hire. This option gives participants the most control over their supports but also requires the most responsibility. Self-Direction is based on the principles of self-determination, which means you have the ability or right to make your own decisions. As of December 31, 2025, there were 3,130 individuals enrolled in the Self-Direction waiver service option. Figure 1 (below) provides a breakdown of participants enrolled in the Self-Direction option by waiver.

Figure 1. Self-Direction Enrollment by Waiver as of December 2025



Participants in the Residential Options Waiver (ROW), New Opportunities Waiver (NOW), Children's Choice Waiver, and Community Choices Waiver who are interested in Self-Direction may choose a fiscal employer agent (FEA) - Acumen or Morning Sun. Currently, Acumen provides FEA services to 69% of those self-directing their services, and Morning Sun provides FEA services to 31%. For more information on the Self-Direction program, please visit <https://ldh.la.gov/medicaid/self-direction>.

### Act 421 Children's Medicaid Option/TEFRA

The Act 421 Children's Medicaid Option (Act 421-CMO) or the TEFRA program provides Medicaid eligibility to children under age 19 who have disabilities and meet institutional level-

of-care requirements, regardless of parental income and resources. To qualify, children must have a disability recognized under the definition used in the Social Security Administration’s Supplemental Security Income program and meet basic Medicaid and institutional level-of-care requirements. Additionally, home care must cost less than care provided in an institution. Since its implementation in 2022, more than 3,900 children have been approved for Medicaid coverage through this program who would not otherwise be eligible.

Table 1. Act 421-CMO/TEFRA Application and Enrollment Data as of December 18, 2025

<b>Applications Received</b>	
Total Applications Received	7,888
Applications Received in 2025	1,678
<b>Applications Approved</b>	
Total Number Approved	3,958
Number Approved in 2025	1,025
<b>Currently Enrolled</b>	2,748

You may visit <https://ldh.la.gov/act-421> for additional information on the Act 421/TEFRA program. You may also email us at [421-CMO@LA.GOV](mailto:421-CMO@LA.GOV) or call at 1-800-230-0690.

### Money Follows the Person

The Money Follows the Person (MFP) program is a federal grant administered by OAAS, OCDD, and Medicaid to help eligible individuals transition from institutional settings to receive home- and community-based services in their homes. To date, more than 4,699 individuals have transitioned from qualified institutions (hospitals, nursing facilities, and supports and services centers) through the MFP program in Louisiana. In calendar year 2025, 299 participants transitioned from institutional settings under the MFP program (as of June 2025).

You may visit [My Place Louisiana](#) for additional information on the MFP/My Place program.

### Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapy Services

Behavior analysis is based on a scientific study of how people learn. Through research, techniques have been developed to increase useful behavior (including communication) and reduce harmful behavior. Applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy uses these techniques. ABA is helpful in treating autism spectrum disorders.

Table 2. ABA Service Utilization for October 2025

	Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)						TOTALS
	ACLA	AETNA	Healthy Blue	Humana	LHCC	UHC	
Number of CCMs with ASD	1,188	360	845	27	859	76	<b>3,355</b>
Number of PAs Requested for CCMs with ASD	29	15	52	29	46	0	<b>171</b>
Number of PAs approved for CCMs with ASD	29	15	52	29	46	0	<b>171</b>
Number of PAs denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Claims Paid for CCMs with ASD	\$341,490	\$320,453	\$616,924	\$171,580	\$822,038	\$17,784	<b>\$2,290,269</b>

PA = Prior Authorization

CCMs = Chisholm Class Members

ASD = Autism Spectrum Disorder

You may visit <https://ldh.la.gov/medicaid/medicaid-services> (click on the “Applied Behavior Analysis ABA” section) for additional information on ABA services.

### Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) Support Coordination

Medicaid-eligible children and youth under age 21 on the Developmental Disabilities Request for Services Registry, or those meeting criteria for children with special needs, are eligible to receive EPSDT Support Coordination services. This service helps beneficiaries access the full range of needed services, including medical, social, educational, and other services. This includes all services beneficiaries under age 21 may be entitled to receive through the EPSDT benefit. The support coordinator reviews available services and helps make referrals for services they may be eligible to receive. These may include medical equipment, occupational, physical, or speech therapy, personal care services, home health, and EPSDT screening. Support coordinators conduct monthly follow-up visits or phone calls to ensure beneficiaries are receiving all authorized services.

More than 1,000 children/youth received EPSDT Support Coordination services in December 2025.