

**LSUHNO Human Development Center  
Activities Report, 4th Quarter for October - December 2025**

The Human Development Center (HDC) is part of a nationwide network of 68 University Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs) and serves as a resource for Louisiana in the areas of education, research, and service relative to the needs of people with developmental disabilities. HDC is organized in the following initiative areas: Early Childhood; Education Transition, & Community; and Long-Term Training. See the organization chart on the HDC website [www.hdc.lsuhsu.edu](http://www.hdc.lsuhsu.edu). Each of HDC's initiative areas is described below including the highlights of their activities that took place during last quarter (October - December 2025).

**Early Childhood Initiatives**

Early Childhood Initiatives target children between the ages of 1 and 5 years and include the Early Head Start Childcare Partnership (EHS-CCP) and the LSU Health Sciences Early Learning Center. These programs provide training, technical assistance, and resources to increase access and equity to quality inclusive early learning environments.

- Provided 6 hours of professional development for 62 teachers and 12 administrators. Topics included Boosting Brains and Building Bonds with young children, Meaningful Assessment, Teacher Wellness: YEAH Yoga
- Providing comprehensive child services for 200 infants and toddlers, 44 who have disabilities, and 18 who are experiencing homelessness
- Completed EarlySteps referrals for an additional 11 children
- Provided over 300 hours of coaching in early childhood classrooms
- Secured holiday gift donations for 24 families

**Education, Transition, & Community Initiatives**

HDC's Education, Transition, and Community Initiatives provides continuing education and technical assistance to families, educators, administrators, and policymakers regarding best practices for evidence-based and inclusive education. Additionally, this initiative area supports agencies, programs, service providers, and job seekers with disabilities in their efforts to obtain and maintain community employment outcomes that are competitive and integrated. This initiative area builds knowledge and capacity of secondary and post-secondary educators, community providers, employers, and self-advocates/advocates. These programs include **Louisiana Autism Spectrum and Related Disabilities project (LASARD)**, **Louisiana Deafblind Project for Children and Youth (LADBP)**, **West South-Central Work Incentives Planning Assistance (WSC-WIPA)**, **Employment First Core Training**, and **Postsecondary Apprenticeship for Youth (PAYCheck)**.

- **LASARD**
  - Coached ~155 educators (teachers, paras, and related service providers)
  - Provided IEP Best Practice CoP to 90 participants

- Delivered 20 Professional Learning Sessions to ~500 attendees
- New partnership with LDOE to provide statewide training and coaching regarding the transition of students from LEAP Connect to general education
- Partnered with 35 school districts/charter networks
  
- **LADBP**
  - Presented at the Louisiana Counseling Association conference
  - Participated in White Cane Day at LSU in Baton Rouge
  - Continued DeafBlind education community of practice
  - Published chapter on Working with Clients who are Deaf and DeafBlind in [this recently published book](#)
  
- **PAYCheck**
  - Collaborating with St. Bernard Parish Public Schools and Nunez Community College in supporting 19 transition students with Pre-ETS Classroom Training, Job Shadowing, and Employer Site Visits
  - Continuing to support and job coach six transition students in Work-Based Learning Experiences (WBLEs) in local businesses such as The Broad Theatre, Royal Sonesta NOLA, Louisiana Children’s Museum and St. Bernard Government Offices
  
- **WSC WIPA**
  - During this period worked with 86 active caseloads of Social Security beneficiaries, including:
    - Eligible for WIPA services – 39
    - Pending Verification - 12
    - Engaged in Individualized WIPA services - 14
    - Provided intensive benefits planning services - 15
  
- **Employment First**
  - Conducted virtual Employment First 40-Hour Core Training for 25 Employment Support Professionals throughout the state
  - Worked with New Orleans Mayoral Advisory Council for Citizens with Disabilities in approving bylaws and submitting 2025 yearly report to the mayor’s office

### **Long-Term Training Initiatives**

HDC’s Long-Term Training Initiatives provides training opportunities to graduate students, professionals, families, and self-advocates. HDC’s Interdisciplinary Training program is **Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities (Louisiana LEND)**, which is funded by US Department of Health and Human Services- Maternal Child Health Bureau. The HDC LA LEND program is designed to prepare students for future roles as leaders in supporting families and individuals with developmental delays/disabilities and special health care needs. It promotes principles of family and person-centered care as well as interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary collaboration.

LA LEND provides over 300 hours of training as well as clinical and field experiences to graduate students and professionals working in a variety of disciplines, as well as self-advocates and family members. HDC's Interdisciplinary Training Initiatives also includes the **Autism Spectrum Disorder Interdisciplinary Diagnostic Clinic (ASDID)** which provides opportunities for interdisciplinary experiential learning and a new emphasis on **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)**.

- The **LEND** 2025-2026 cohort of 14 scholars from various disciplines including Education, Speech Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Counseling, Dentistry, and scholars with lived experience are at the halfway point in the program. The scholars have been attending biweekly seminars, participating in field and clinical experiences, and working on their various projects, such as the Policy & Advocacy Fact Sheets and Research Capstones.
- Louisiana's **FASD United** chapter continues to meet monthly, via Zoom. In these meetings, members work together to plan awareness activities, community trainings, professional development, and to provide peer support to families and caregivers. FASD 101 training was provided virtually for Families Helping Families with participants from around the state.