



LOUISIANA**WORKS**

Louisiana Rehabilitation Services

Program Year 2025

(July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)

2nd Quarter Report

Vocational Rehabilitation

Budget and National Performance

Expenditures for Vocational Rehabilitation participant purchased services for Program Year (PY) 2025 through mid-year totaled \$16.7M. This is an increase (21.7%) as compared to PY 2024 mid-year where total expenditures were \$13.7 million. PY 2024 was the highest year-end participant expenditure (\$30 million) total since PY 2007, which incurred \$33.7 million in expenditures. We project this expenditure trend to continue in PY 2025, and we anticipate that it will be one of the highest years on record. The highest percentage of payments this year were for training services. Pre-Employment Transition Services expenditures totaled \$1.6 million through the mid-year (15% decline compared to the mid-year of PY 2024). The total amount of Social Security collections LRS has received so far for PY 2025 is \$740,000.

LRS received the first portion of the 2026 Vocational Rehabilitation award in the amount of \$24,595,707. According to Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), the total funds available for Louisiana in FY 2026 will be approximately \$73.5 million. The FY 2026 awards for Supported Employment were also received with an estimated total amount of \$300,000.

RSA published the Comparative Performance for Program Year 2024. Louisiana performed well in comparison to other state VR agencies as “Medium Earnings 2nd quarter after exit” ranked 13th in the nation and with the 1st quartile of all VR programs. Louisiana Rehabilitation Services’ “Measurable Skills Gains”, “Employment rate after the 2nd quartile”, and “Employment rate after the 4th quarter after exit” all ranked in the 2nd quartile of all state VR agencies with the lowest ranking being 23rd for any of these measures.

LRS has resolved the Rehabilitation Services Administration’s (RSA) Corrective Action Plan for timeliness of eligibility determination and plan development. LRS is not currently on any Federal Corrective Action Plan.

Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRP)

LRS Regional Office Staff, along with the CRP Program Coordinators, conducted annual vendor meetings with CRPs from all 8 Regions. The last meeting was conducted in Baton Rouge on December 5, 2025, at the LRS State Office. These meetings provided an opportunity for LRS Staff and CRPs to discuss LRS procedures for employment services and to communicate problems and concerns. The training focused on the full menu of employment services, invoicing, and procedures for reporting and invoicing.



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Sara

The procurement process has been completed for the purchase of Sara, and LRS is now entering into the implementation phase. Sara will perform automated communications with LRS customers keeping them engaged throughout their case and streamline case management processes. This will allow staff to be alleviated of administrative duties, allowing them more time to provide quality guidance and counseling and serve more customers.

WIOA State Plan Update for 2026

LRS has provided the Administration of Louisiana Works with a draft of the Vocational Rehabilitation sections of the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) State Plan update for 2026. Once the entire State Plan Update draft has been completed, Louisiana Works will make it publicly available and receive public comments for 30 days prior to being federally submitted.

Louisiana Rehabilitation Council (LRC)

The LRC is scheduled to conduct their next quarterly business meetings on January 22, 2026, in the Rapides Room at the Claiborne Building located at 1201 N. 3rd Street, in Baton Rouge, LA. Information regarding LRC business meetings, and about the Council, can be found on the Boards & Commissions and Louisiana Works websites.

Pre-Employment Transition Services

LRS has provided services to over 5,200 students statewide so far this PY 2025. LRS currently has 16 active Third Party Cooperative Arrangements (TPCA) with local education providers to provide Pre-ETS and is continuing to pursue additional TPCA's.

LRS has contracted with Easter Seals and Families Helping Families of Greater New Orleans in the Shreveport and New Orleans regions to serve as Pre-ETS Counselors for LRS. Easter Seals has hired 3 full-time individuals that have been assisting with Pre-ETS. Families Helping Families of Greater New Orleans is in the process of hiring 3 full-time individuals as well. These contracts began on October 1, 2025, and are expected to last through September 30, 2028. Contracted services include attending IEP meetings to provide general information concerning LRS and Job/College/Transition fairs, receiving and processing applications, and ensuring students have access to Pre-ETS service providers.



Randolph-Sheppard

The Randolph-Sheppard program staff have undertaken efforts to improve accountability for blind vendors running vending locations throughout the program. These efforts include use of a new and more detailed monthly inspection form, as well as the development of a customer satisfaction survey to be accessed via QR code. These QR codes will be printed on documents and/or cards which also contain contact information for the blind vendor running the location. For ease of customer access, these documents and/or cards will be affixed to each vending machine and/or placed in prominent locations inside each vending facility that is managed by a blind vendor. Survey results will be sent directly to the Randolph-Sheppard Program Manager.

Our final remaining newly licensed Randolph-Sheppard vendor obtained his first Randolph-Sheppard facility on October 17, 2025, and is now a proud tax-paying citizen. There are currently two customers preparing to enter the training program to become Randolph-Sheppard vendors. These individuals are currently completing other preliminary training that is required for them to enter the Randolph-Sheppard training program, and both are scheduled to be ready to proceed by March 1, 2026.

Independent Living

Independent Living

LRS contracts to provide Independent Living (IL) Part B Services as outlined in the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). Louisiana's three IL Centers—New Horizons Independent Living Center, Southwest Louisiana Independence Center, and Resources for Independent Living—receive Federal funding from the Administration for Community Living (or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services). LRS received the first round of the Grant Award Notice (GAN) for FFY 2026, which covers approximately October through December 2025. The amount of \$116,020.00 received allows each of the IL Centers to request reimbursement of up to \$38,774.00. LRS expects the IL Centers to fully expend the current available GAN amount by their January 2026 billing.

Independent Living – Older Blind

LRS contracts to provide Independent Living Older Blind (ILOB) services. Louisiana's four (4) contractors - Affiliated Blind of Louisiana, Lighthouse Louisiana, Louisiana Association for the Blind, and Louisiana Center for the Blind - coordinate statewide services. All four ILOB contracts were approved for renewal through September 2028 ensuring services continue to be provided to qualifying aging residents. LRS received the first round of the Grant Award Notification (GAN) for the ILOB program for FFY 2026. The \$134,186.00 amount received is approximately 1/3 of the total funding for the entire year, which is \$405,597.00. It is estimated that this, along with a small amount of carryover funds from the previous year, should comfortably fund services through February 2026.



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Vocational Rehabilitation Statistics

All Order of Selection Groups have been open since August 15, 2022.

To date for Program Year 2025 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026):

- There have been no individuals placed in delayed status for any of our 3 Order of Selection Groups.
- LRS has served 16,273 individuals with disabilities.

Vocational Rehabilitation Customer Statistics	
	Year-to-Date Total
Number of Applications	2,564
Number of Eligibility/Delayed	2,458
Number of New IPEs	1,682
Number of Closed Rehab (Successful Closures)	554
Total Open VR cases as of December 31, 2025	9,117
Total Open Pre-ETS cases as of December 31, 2025	4,693

Statewide 60 and 90 day Performance Measure*	
% of Eligibilities determined within 60 days	94.4%
% of New IPE's approved within 90 days	95.9%
<i>*Data is from the 1st Quarter (July through September of 2025) RSA Data Dashboard</i>	



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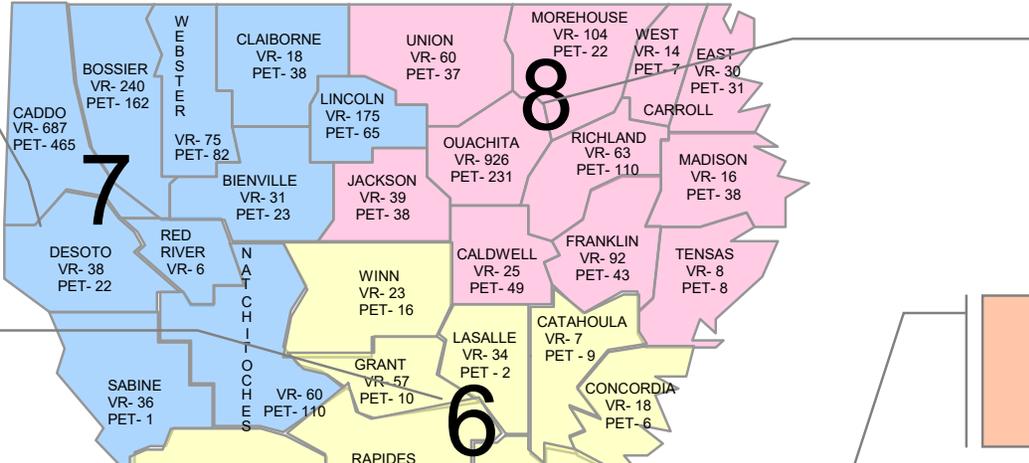
Open VR Cases by Disability Type*	
Disability Type	Primary
Blindness	253
Other Visual Impairments	198
Deafness, Primary Communication Visual	57
Deafness, Primary Communication Auditory	110
Hearing Loss, Primary Communication Visual	16
Hearing Loss, Primary Communication Auditory	534
Other Hearing Impairments	19
Deaf-Blindness	14
Communicative Impairments (expressive/receptive)	57
Mobility Orthopedic/Neurological Impairments	322
Manipulation/Dexterity Orthopedic/Neurological Impairments	121
Both Mobility and Manipulation/Dexterity Orthopedic/Neurological Impairments	222
Other Orthopedic Impairments	98
Respiratory Impairments	37
General Physical Debilitation	174
Other Physical Impairments (not listed above)	526
Cognitive Impairments	1,692
Psychosocial Impairments	2,176
Other Mental Impairments	198

** Data is from the 1st Quarter (July through September of 2025) RSA Data Dashboard*

LOUISIANA REHABILITATION SERVICES

Clients Served from July 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

REGION 7
Shreveport
VR- 1,366
PET- 968
Total Served- 2,334



REGION 8
Monroe
VR- 1,377
PET- 614
Total Served- 1,991

REGION 6
Alexandria
VR- 778
PET- 141
Total Served- 919

REGION 2
Baton Rouge
VR- 2,642
PET- 1,954
Total Served- 4,596

REGION 5
Lake Charles
VR- 662
PET- 266
Total Served- 928

REGION 4
Lafayette
VR- 1,326
PET- 401
Total Served- 1,727

REGION 3
Houma
VR- 506
PET- 294
Total Served- 800

REGION 1
New Orleans
VR- 2,232
PET- 740
Total Served- 2,972

COMBINED TOTAL SERVED IN LOUISIANA
VR - 10,889
PET - 5,378
Total - 16,267