

Concept Papers

Topic	Overview	Cost Estimate	Possible Objective	Notes
Expanding Paraprofessional Education	This plan will train school staff called paraprofessionals so they can better help students with disabilities learn and feel included at school. It will give them lessons, practice in the classroom, and help from experienced coaches.	Unknown, but must cover salaries for training staff, travel, and materials needed to deliver the program.	3.1	Out of the scope of the Council
Transition Planning	This project will help teachers, students with developmental disabilities, and their families learn about programs like waivers, benefits counseling, and job support services so students can move smoothly from high school into adult life. It will offer training, easy-to-read checklists, and videos, and will connect schools with local agencies. Two schools (one city and one rural) will try it first, and the materials will be shared statewide through a website.	Unknown, but must cover part of the salaries plus travel, materials, design, and making videos	1.2	Being done by FHF, Team Dynamics, and other organizations.
Addressing Suspension and Expulsion in Early Childhood	This project will help daycare and early learning centers know what to do when a young child might have a disability or needs extra help. It will train people who support these centers, make an online resource, and share information with families about their rights. This will help stop kids from being suspended or expelled too soon.	Unknown	3.1	Could be included with the daycare training.

Dual Diagnosis Treatment Team (DDTT)	<p>This project will help people who have both mental health challenges and intellectual or developmental disabilities (or autism) get the right help in their own communities instead of going back and forth to hospitals or losing their homes. A special team of experts will work closely with the person, their family, doctors, and other helpers to manage medicines, handle crises, and build daily life skills. This support is available every day, even nights and weekends, with 24/7 crisis help. The goal is to keep people stable, out of the hospital, and living in safe housing. The program has shown big savings in other states, cutting hospital costs by over 80%.</p>	<p>~\$1,352,000 per 20 people/annually. Depends on staff pay and vary by location</p>	<p>2.1</p>	<p>Cannot afford. The council worked on Dual Diagnosis for three years. See Activity 2.3.1 on status report.</p>
Neurodiversity: Differently Abled	<p>This project will teach people across the state about neurodiversity (meaning that everyone’s brain works differently) and how to help people with different abilities at home, in school, and at work. It will share ways to spot needs early, support students’ learning plans, and help people get jobs with the right supports.</p>	<p>Unknown</p>	<p>2.1</p>	<p>Being done by other organizations.</p>
Ticket to Work Education and Workplace Inclusion	<p>This project will teach people with disabilities and their families how to use the Social Security Ticket to Work program so they can work and earn money without being afraid of losing their SSDI or SSI benefits. It will explain the rules, how to make a work plan, and the steps for keeping benefits while working. Trainings will be held across the state and online to help people understand their choices, know their rights, and find the right service providers.</p>	<p>Unknown</p>	<p>3.2</p>	<p>Other organizations, such as the Social Security Administration and Lighthouse Louisiana, do a training on Ticket to Work.</p>
Louisiana’s Disability History and Legacy Makers Archive	<p>This project will create an online collection that shares the stories of people, laws, and events that have shaped Louisiana’s disability community. It will include photos, videos, and other records so everyone can learn about this history and become better advocates for change. People with disabilities will help create and share these stories, and the public will be invited to submit information to make sure many voices are included. The website will follow accessibility rules so it’s easy for everyone to use.</p>	<p>~\$40,000 per year, for 20 profiles over 3 years</p>	<p>1.1</p>	<p>Can be done. The council has not done an activity like this before.</p>

DBT Living Model for Complex Needs	<p>This project will help people with complex challenges, like Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, trauma, or mental health conditions, live better lives in their communities by teaching new coping skills and helping support teams work together well. Using proven therapy methods, the program trains families, friends, and staff to create a safe, structured daily routine that builds independence and self-advocacy. This approach has already reduced emergency room visits and restraint use in other states.</p>	<p>~\$1,250,259.10 per year</p>	<p>2.2</p>	<p>The Council cannot afford.</p>
Integrated Behavioral Health Parity	<p>This project explains how laws called parity laws help people get equal insurance coverage for mental health care and regular medical care. Even though these laws aim to make sure people can afford counseling, mental health treatment, and other needed services, insurance companies sometimes limit how much they will pay, which hurts people who need care. Many politicians and advocates want stronger parity laws so people with mental health conditions can get fair, affordable care without losing coverage.</p>	<p>Unknown</p>	<p>2.2</p>	<p>Advocacy</p>