



**Planning Committee Status Report of FFY2026 Action Plan
(Including Staff Recommendations for FFY2027)**

Activity	Progress
<p>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.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>1.1.1 Provide financial support and technical assistance for Partners in Policymaking and its alumni network. Approx. FFY 2026 Cost: \$115,000</p>	<p>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 2026 PiP class will complete the January – June sessions in person. PiP will continue to complete sessions in person for Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) and accept at least twenty (20) parents and/or self-advocates in the class.</p> <p>Staff Recommendation(s): Recommends continuing this activity at its current funding. Funding was at \$90,000 from 2022- 2024. It was increased in 2025 to \$115,000 with an additional \$30,000 for the alumni event (every 5 years). And stayed at \$115,000 for 2026.</p> <p>Recommends moving it to Activity 1.2.1 and changing wording to “Provide funding, support, and technical assistance to support Partners in Policymaking® and its alumni network.”</p>

<p>1.1.2 Provide financial support and information, training, technical assistance, and leadership to a grassroots network of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and family members of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to effectively educate policy makers on the development/improvement of programs and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Approx. FFY 2026 Cost: \$240,000</p>	<p>There is one LaCAN leader position currently open. 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.</p> <p>Staff Recommendation(s): Recommends continuing this activity at its current funding. This budget was increased from \$215,000 to its current funding in FFY24.</p> <p>Recommends moving it to Activity 1.1.1 and changing wording to “Provide funding, support, and technical assistance to the Council’s grassroots network so people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families receive information, training, and support to advocate for systems change.”</p>
<p>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 2026 Cost: \$40,000</p>	<p>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 March 9, 2026. LaCAN members meetings and trainings are also covered in this activity which are typically held in person.</p> <p>Staff Recommendation(s): Recommends continuing this activity at its current funding.</p> <p>Recommends moving to Activity 1.1.2 and changing wording to “Provide funding, support, and technical assistance for a variety of advocacy events to advance training, services, and policies that benefit individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.”</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Staff Recommendation(s): Recommends continuing this activity at its current funding. The FHF Centers currently utilize all of the Council's State General Funds.</p>

	<p>Recommends moving it to Activity 1.2.2 and changing wording to “ Provide funding, support, and technical assistance from state general funds to the Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers that contract with the council.”</p>
<p>1.1.5 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).</p>	<p>The Council continues to provide information through a variety of electronic and social media. The number of subscribers, followers, and likes grows daily.</p> <p>Staff Recommendation(s): Recommends continuing this activity.</p> <p>Recommends moving it to Activity 1.3.1 and changing wording to “Provide clear and important information for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to help them stay informed and connected.”</p>
<p>1.1.6 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Staff Recommendation(s): Recommends continuing this activity.</p> <p>Recommends moving it to Activity 1.3.2 and changing wording to “Advocate for more meaningful opportunities for stakeholders to share their input.”</p>
<p>1.1.7 Provide financial support and technical assistance for the Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum. Approx. FFY 2026 Cost: \$45,000</p>	<p>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 will take place July 9 – 12, 2026 at LSU-Eunice.</p> <p>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 third year of a five year re-occurring grant from Enbridge (\$5,000) for transportation and meals. LAYLF also received an additional grant through the Louisiana Children's Trust Fund (\$9,975).</p> <p>Staff Recommendation(s): Recommends continuing this activity at its current funding. In FFY 2023 LAYLF accepted 13 delegates and lasted 3 days.</p>

	<p>In FFY2024 the budget was increased from \$30,000 to its current level (\$45,000). For FFY2024 LAYLF accepted 14 delegates (11 completed) and took place over 3.5 days. In FFY2025 LAYLF accepted 12 delegates (10 completed) and lasted 3.5 days. In FFY2026 LAYLF will be 4 days.</p> <p>Recommends moving it to Activity 1.2.3.</p>
<p>1.1.8 Provide financial support and technical assistance to educate and train individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, caregivers, and families on abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Approx. FFY 2026 Cost: \$78,000</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends discontinuing. This activity has been happening for 2 years, with a similar activity earlier in the plan. In FFY2025 they trained 140 people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 self-advocates • 24 family members • 96 professionals
<p>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.</p>	<p>Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends discontinuing. This activity is no longer needed because it was written as objective 2.3, as per ITACC’s guidance.</p>
<p>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.</p>	
<p>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 2026 Cost: \$23,000</p>	<p>The Council continues to provide technical assistance and training opportunities to strengthen the self-advocacy network.</p> <p>Staff Recommendation(s): Recommends continuing this activity at its current funding.</p> <p>Recommends moving it to Activity 1.1.3 and changing wording to “Provide funding, support, and technical assistance to strengthen the self-advocacy network.”</p>

<p>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.</p>	<p>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, Special Education Advisory Panel, and the Post-Secondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council.</p> <p>Staff Recommendation(s): Recommends continuing this activity. Recommends moving it to Activity 1.3.3.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Staff Recommendation(s): Recommends continuing this activity.</p> <p>Recommends moving it to Activity 1.3.4 and changing wording to "Support Council members and leadership in attending training, networking, and educational opportunities."</p>
<p>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.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>2.1.1 Oversee implementation of the Community and Family Support System Plan and advocate to ensure the plan meets the needs for all Louisianans with intellectual and developmental disabilities.</p>	<p>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 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 OCDD.</p> <p>Staff Recommendation(s): Recommends continuing this activity.</p> <p>Recommends changing wording to "Monitor Louisiana's Community and Family Support System Plan and advocate to make sure the plan meets the needs of all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities."</p>

<p>2.1.2 Provide financial support to provide appropriate, accessible sexual education to middle and high school aged people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Approx. FFY 2026 Cost: \$53,000</p>	<p>The Council has partnered with LSU to create a curriculum and host trainings for appropriate, accessible sexual education for high school aged students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.</p> <p>Contract was approved in October. LSU’s grant specialist emailed us asking for updates to be made, which we had to contact LDH legal. A final contract was sent to LSU. As of March 3, we have not received finalized documents from LSU or a revised timeline of activities.</p> <p>Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends discontinuing. If the council wishes to continue this activity, staff recommends working with an outside organization to complete this.</p>
<p>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 2026 Cost: \$30,000</p>	<p>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. In FY26, a wellness component was added with more of an emphasis on training self-advocate participants.</p> <p>Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends discontinuing.</p> <p>This initiative has been ongoing for the last three annual plans (FY24 – FY26). As of January 2026, 266 individuals have been trained.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 Self-Advocates • 63 Family Members • 189 Professionals <p>Since the Arc of Louisiana took over the project in FY25, we’ve seen an increase in family member and self-advocate participation. Participation was very low in each region. 2 meetings had to be rescheduled due to low registration and no one showing up as scheduled. \$1,383.25 balance remained at the end of the FY25 contract.</p>
<p>2.1.4 Advocate for systems change based on emergent community living and supports issues.</p>	<p>Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends discontinuing. This activity is no longer needed because it was written as objective 2.3.</p>
<p>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.</p>	

<p>2.2.1 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.</p>	<p>The Council continues to search and advertise opportunities for meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.</p> <p>Staff Recommendation(s): Recommends continuing this activity.</p> <p>Recommends moving it to Activity 2.2.1 and changing wording to “Advocate for more meaningful opportunities for stakeholders to share their input.”</p>
<p>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)</p>	
<p>2.3.1 Provide financial support to create and promote accessible, educational materials on women’s preventative health topics. Approx. FFY 2026 Cost: \$40,000</p>	<p>The Council contracted with LSU to create and promote accessible educational materials on women’s health topics.</p> <p>Contract was approved in October. LSU’s grant specialist emailed us asking for updates to be made, which we had to contact LDH legal. I final contract was sent to LSU. As of March 3, we have not received finalized documents from LSU or a revised timeline of activities.</p> <p>Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends discontinuing. If the council wishes to continue this activity, staff recommends working with an outside organization to complete this.</p>
<p>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.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>3.1.1 Advocate for the Louisiana Department of Education to perform ongoing monitoring and increased focus of local school district to ensure compliance of all special education laws and policies that align with the Council’s mission.</p>	<p>Council staff continue to attend the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) meetings, the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAP) meetings, and other education boards, councils and task forces that make decisions and recommendations impacting students with disabilities. The Council receives quarterly updates on education issues from LDOE.</p> <p>Staff Recommendation(s):</p>

	<p>Recommends changing wording to “Advocate for the Louisiana Department of Education to provide stronger monitoring and oversight of local school districts to ensure all special education laws and policies are followed.”</p>
<p>3.1.2 Advocate for educational systems change based on emergent education issues.</p>	<p>Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends discontinuing. This activity is no longer needed because it was written as objective 2.3, as per ITACC’s guidance.</p>
<p>3.1.3 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.</p>	<p>The Council continues to search and advertise opportunities for meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.</p> <p>Staff Recommendation(s): Recommends continuing this activity.</p> <p>Recommends moving it to Activity 3.1.2 and changing wording to “Advocate for more meaningful opportunities for stakeholders to share their input.”</p>
<p>3.1.4 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 2026 Cost: \$58,000</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends discontinuing.</p> <p>Attendance had been low, Team Dynamics included time and dates in their survey to try to accommodate people and increase attendance. In FFY2025 they completed 6 trainings had a total of 56 participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 self-advocates • 26 family members • 28 professionals
<p>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.</p>	
<p>3.2.1 Advocate for systems change based on emergent employment issues.</p>	<p>Staff Recommendation(s): Staff recommends discontinuing. This activity is no longer needed because it was written as objective 2.3, as per ITACC’s guidance.</p>