

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council Quarterly Report

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

April 2026

News, Updates & Highlights

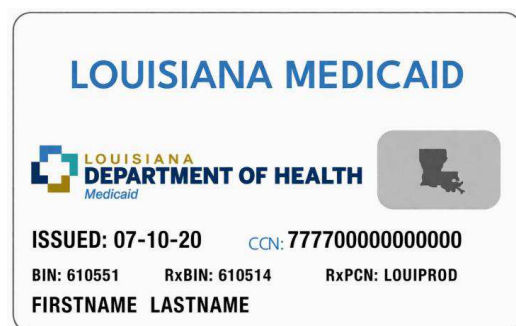
Medicare Savings Program Video

In response to requests from community partners who help individuals find and apply for benefits, Medicaid has released a Medicare Savings Program video that explains the benefits, eligibility requirements, and application process. The video is available on the LDH public website at this link: <https://youtu.be/5ZnLEPJ24p8>. It is suitable to share with individuals and community partners.

Medicaid ID Card Redesign

The "Medicaid ID" card has been revised to replace "Healthy Louisiana" with "Louisiana Medicaid" to distinguish references to the Medicaid card and a Healthy Louisiana health plan ID card.

The accompanying [brochure](#) (sent to members with their Medicaid ID card) was also revised to reflect this change and notify members of the availability of the Medicaid ID card and health plan ID cards through LA Wallet.



Medicaid Managed Care Annual Enrollment Period begins March 1st

Louisiana Medicaid is changing the way members choose their health and dental plans. Effective March 1, 2026, Medicaid members may switch their health or dental plans at any time

during the year without a reason. Members may make up to two plan changes during a calendar year. After two plan changes have been made, members must remain in their selected plan until the start of the next calendar year.

For 2026 only, the annual enrollment period will run from March 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. Beginning in 2027 and every year after, the annual enrollment period will be January 1 through December 31.

Additional information about available health and dental plan options, including plan comparison charts, is available online at www.myplan.healthy.la.gov or by phone at 1-855-229-6848. Members are encouraged to review plan options carefully to select the plan that best meets their needs.

State Plan Amendments (SPAs)

Children and Adult Mental Health Services (under review) - The purpose of the SPA is to amend the provisions governing children and adult mental health services to expand the provider types authorized to deliver therapeutic services and to remove the face-to-face requirement for Peer Support Services (PSS). These proposed changes will increase access to therapeutic services.

ThriveKids Health Services Initiative (under review) - The purpose of this SPA is to utilize the health services initiative option as defined at 42 CFR 457.10, to support the health of economically disadvantaged children while keeping them in school by providing care coordination, mental and behavioral health services, chronic condition management, school nurse services, health care screenings and education, as well as other health care needs at school and in the community.

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.

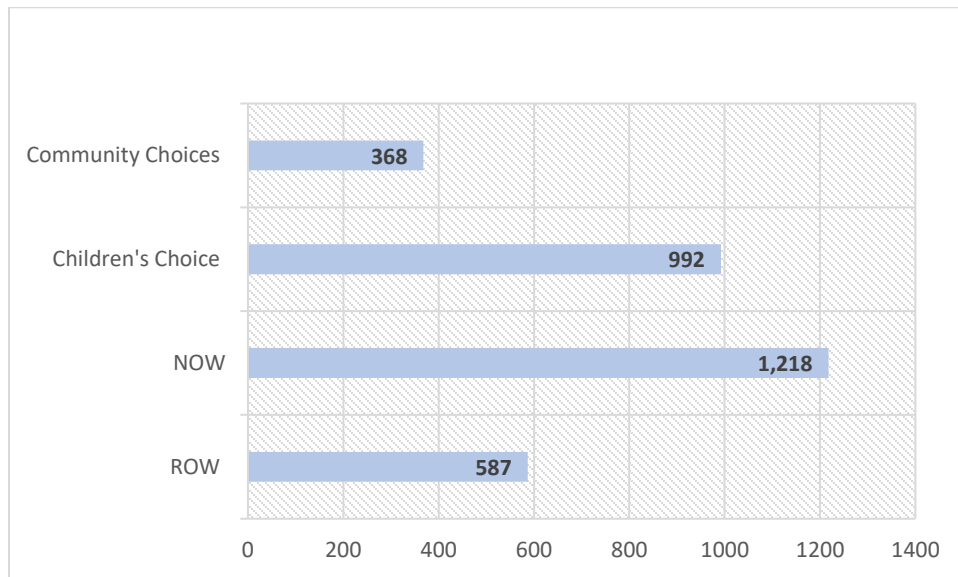
The BAC held its last quarterly meeting on April 14, 2026 and the next meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2026. If you would like additional information on the BAC or to view meeting materials and minutes, you may visit <https://ldh.la.gov/medicaid/beneficiary-advisory-council>.

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 March 31, 2026, there were 3,165 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 March 2026



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 68% of those self-directing their services, and Morning Sun provides FEA services to 33%. 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 4,100 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 March 30, 2026

Applications Received	
Total Applications Received	8,405
Applications Received in 2025	1,767
Applications Approved	
Total Number Approved	4,157
Number Approved in 2025	1,028
Currently Enrolled	2,813

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 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 4,740 individuals have transitioned from qualified institutions (hospitals, nursing facilities, and supports and services centers) through the MFP program in Louisiana. In calendar year 2025, 303 participants transitioned from institutional settings under the MFP program and so far, 37 participants have transitioned in CY 2026.

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 February 2026

	Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)						
	ACLA	AETNA	Healthy Blue	Humana	LHCC	UHC	TOTALS
Number of CCMs with ASD	1,204	386	913	31	890	72	3,496
Number of PAs Requested for CCMs with ASD	27	18	76	36	59	1	217
Number of PAs approved for CCMs with ASD	27	18	76	36	59	1	217
Number of PAs denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Claims Paid for CCMs with ASD	\$336,346	\$276,458	\$728,705	\$96147	\$818475	\$13602	\$2,269734

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 March 2026.