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Louisiana Rehabilitation Services

Program Year 2025

(July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)

3rd Quarter Report

Vocational Rehabilitation

Human Resources Update

On March 4, 2026, the State Civil Service Commission approved a Special Entrance Rate (SER) policy for all Rehabilitation positions within Louisiana Rehabilitation Services. This approval will now allow selected candidates for Rehabilitation Counselor-Entry level positions with LRS to be offered a starting salary of \$21.04 an hour (increased from \$17.52). This increase to the rate of pay is intended to assist with addressing recruitment, retention, and market competition challenges experienced by LRS.

Budget

Expenditures for Vocational Rehabilitation participant purchased services for Program Year (PY) 2025 through March totaled \$27.4M. This is an increase (21.5%) as compared to PY 2024 through March where total expenditures were \$22.6 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 are for training services. Pre-Employment Transition Services expenditures totaled \$3.2 million through March (2% decline compared to through March of PY 2024). The total amount of Social Security collections LRS has received through March for PY 2025 is \$1.4 million.

Community Rehabilitation Programs

Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP) Program Coordinators continued routine monitoring of Employment Services CRPs and quality assurance activities this quarter. The most common issue involves staff qualifications.

For new vendor applicants, some CRPs submitted staff who met educational requirements but lacked experience working with individuals with disabilities or in job placement. Other applications lacked proper background checks. When these issues were identified, applicants were notified of LRS vendorship requirements and asked to resubmit their applications once those issues were addressed. The CRPs either hired qualified staff or removed unqualified staff from their applications.

Monitoring of current LRS vendors also identified instances where CRPs hired new staff without notifying LRS. While some new hires met requirements, others did not. In those cases, CRPs were placed on corrective action plans and are being closely monitored by regional office staff to ensure only qualified individuals serve LRS customers.



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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 provide Pre-Employment Transition Services, as well as to assist with the coordination of these services with school districts.

Sara

Prior to the implementation phase, coordination efforts are occurring to ensure that LRS will be able to fully access features of this automated communication platform in conjunction with the LRS AWARE case management system. The Office of Technology (OTS) is also conducting tests for compatibility. Once systems integration is assured, in-depth training on how to use this platform will be conducted.

WIOA State Plan Update for 2026

The public comment period for the Combined WIOA State Plan modification will begin on April 10, 2026.

Louisiana Rehabilitation Council

The Louisiana Rehabilitation Council (LRC) is scheduled to conduct their next quarterly business meetings on April 23, 2026, in the Iowa 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.

Randolph-Sheppard

The Randolph-Sheppard program staff have undertaken efforts to improve accountability for blind vendors running Randolph-Sheppard vending locations. These efforts include both the use of a new and more detailed monthly inspection form, along with the use of a customer satisfaction survey to be accessed via QR code.

A card containing the licensed blind vendor contact information and a QR code linking to a satisfaction survey has been developed and will be affixed to vending machines and placed at snack bars and cafeterias being run by licensed blind vendors across the state. All QR code cards are required to be displayed by March 31, 2026. Survey results are being sent directly to the Randolph-Sheppard Program Manager, who shares them with the licensed blind vendor responsible for the vending location or machine being surveyed.



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Independent Living

LRS contracts with the three Louisiana Centers for Independent Living (CILs) to provide Independent Living (IL) Part B Services, as outlined in the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). These CILs—New Horizons Independent Living Center, Southwest Louisiana Independence Center, and Resources for Independent Living—have expended most of the first round (\$116,332.00) of the Notice of Award (NOA) received from the Administration for Community Living (or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) for FFY 2026. Additional IL Part B invoices will be processed once the next NOA is received. The CILs continue to provide excellent IL Part B Services.

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 contracts were approved for renewal through September 2028 ensuring services continue to be provided to qualifying aging residents. According to our Grant Award Notification (GAN), LRS is set to receive a total of \$401,385.00 in funding to provide services to individuals who are Older Blind in FFY 2026. This is a reduction of \$4,212 from FFY2025.



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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 (since July 1, 2025):

- There have been no individuals placed in delayed status for any of our 3 Order of Selection Groups.
- LRS has served 17,810 individuals with disabilities.

Vocational Rehabilitation Customer Statistics	
	YTD Total for PY 2025
Number of Applications	3,840
Number of Eligibility/Delayed	3,528
Number of New IPEs	2,377
Number of Closed Rehab (Successful Closures)	815
Total Open VR cases as of March 31, 2026	9,413
Total Open Pre-ETS cases as of March 31, 2026	4,834

Statewide 60 and 90-day Performance Measure*	
% of Eligibilities determined within 60 days	96.7%
% of New IPE's approved within 90 days	96.7%
<i>* Data is from the 2nd Quarter (October through December of 2025) RSA Data Dashboard</i>	

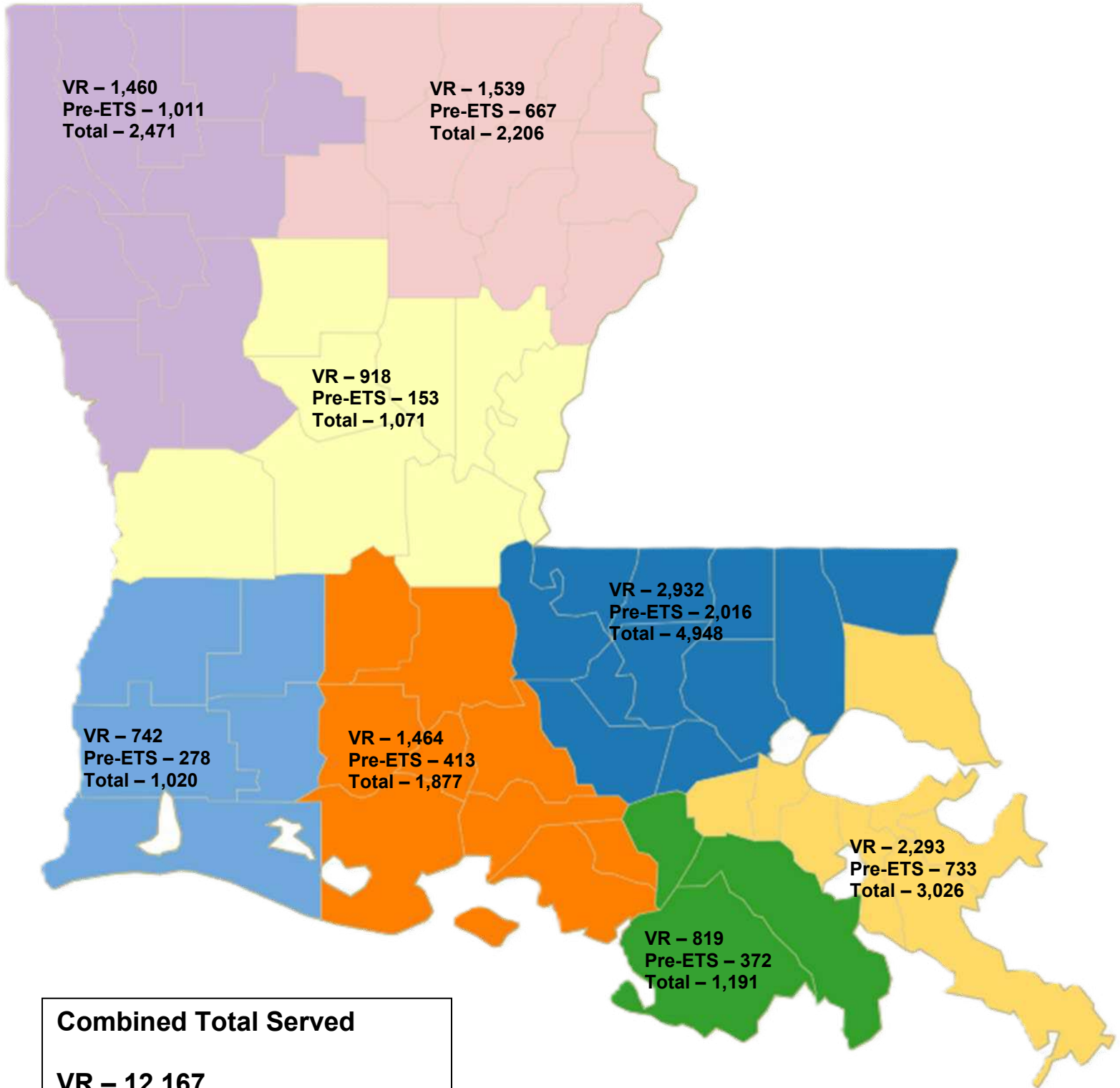


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Open VR Cases by Disability Type*	
Disability Type	Primary
Blindness	264
Other Visual Impairments	229
Deafness, Primary Communication Visual	56
Deafness, Primary Communication Auditory	105
Hearing Loss, Primary Communication Visual	17
Hearing Loss, Primary Communication Auditory	534
Other Hearing Impairments	27
Deaf-Blindness	17
Communicative Impairments (expressive/receptive)	65
Mobility Orthopedic/Neurological Impairments	320
Manipulation/Dexterity Orthopedic/Neurological Impairments	128
Both Mobility and Manipulation/Dexterity Orthopedic/Neurological Impairments	246
Other Orthopedic Impairments	108
Respiratory Impairments	46
General Physical Debilitation	190
Other Physical Impairments (not listed above)	568
Cognitive Impairments	1,796
Psychosocial Impairments	2,452
Other Mental Impairments	179
* Data is from the 2 nd Quarter (October through December of 2025) RSA Data Dashboard	

Louisiana Rehabilitation Services

Customers Served from July 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026



Combined Total Served

VR – 12,167
Pre-ETS – 5,643

Total – 17,810