



LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES COUNCIL
QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT

Quarter 2: January 1, 2026 – March 31, 2026

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>22 applicants accepted into the 2025 PiP class, 18 completed the first session in January. 6 of which are self-advocates.</p> <p>Three sessions took place this quarter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January - Speaker Guy Caruso teaching the History of Disability. • February - Speakers were Mary Breaud (LaPIE), Toree Fontenot (LATAN), Courtney Ryland (LRS) and Stacy Hoaglund (Inclusive Education). • March - Speakers were Ebony Haven (History of Act 378), Brenton Andrus (Council’s Advocacy Agenda), Angel Magee and Christina Martin (LaCAN) and Liz Gary (the Legislative Process) <p>Previous Quarter(s): There were 22 applicants and 6 alternates chosen. Of the selected and alternates, 20 applicants - 14 parents and 6 self-advocates - accepted and will begin the program in January 2026. The first PiP session is scheduled for January 22- 24, 2026.</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>As of March 2026, LaCAN has 6,912 individuals registered for the Council and LaCAN list serve to receive information and action alerts.</p> <p>Since October 1, 2025, there have been six (6) LaCAN action alerts with two (2) yellow shirt days.</p> <p><u>Advocacy Activities</u> 6 Action Alerts – 692 actions taken 2 Yellow Shirt Days – 62 attendees and 7 testimonies</p> <p><u>Trainings/ Meetings</u> LaCAN continues to host two LaCAN Leader conference calls per month (as needed) to discuss current concerns/issues, develop advocacy strategies and support leader development.</p> <p><u>Legislative Visits</u> LaCAN Leaders continue to meet with legislators and key committee members to discuss this year’s advocacy agenda. These visits will continue throughout the legislative session.</p> <p>The Leaders have completed 49 visits with 31 of those visits being with Key Members</p> <p><u>LaCAN Leader Positions</u> Erika Joseph was hired to be the Region 4 LaCAN Leader.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): LaCAN leaders began the 1st quarter with 1 action alert with 138 actions being taken. LaCAN Leaders began scheduling formal legislative visits with key committee members to discuss this year’s advocacy agenda.</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>9 Legislative Roundtables (virtual and/or hybrid) held across the state by LaCAN Leaders in collaboration with Families Helping Families Centers.</p> <p>364 in attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48 Self-Advocates • 144 Family Members • 135 Professionals

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 Other/Unknown • 11 Policy Makers (i.e. legislators, legislative aides, and/or BESE members) <p>Previous Quarter(s): LaCAN Leaders planned for regional legislative roundtables. 26 community input meetings were held by LaCAN leaders / FHF Centers to get input for the Council’s 2026 Legislative Advocacy Agenda. There were 325 participants.</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>Since October 1, 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17,032 individuals with disabilities and families supported. • Over 31,864 units of information and referral completed. • 297 trainings conducted with 4,884 attendees. • 386 outreaches conducted at hospitals, pediatricians, school districts, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) clinics and physical therapy clinics. <p>The need to restore \$250,000 in the Council’s FY27 budget to ensure no cuts to FHF Centers next year was presented at 9 legislative roundtables across the state as well as legislative visits. Fact sheet created.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): Last quarter, all 9 Centers participated in an audit to review their contractual activity for the FY25. All Centers showed positive financial standing and stable day to day operations.</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’s social media presence on Facebook continues to grow each quarter.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="743 995 1997 1170"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Listserv Subscribers</th> <th>Facebook Followers</th> <th>LaDDC News sent</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Quarter 1</td> <td>5,823</td> <td>6,800</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Quarter 2</td> <td>5,898</td> <td>6,900</td> <td>27</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Listserv Subscribers	Facebook Followers	LaDDC News sent	Quarter 1	5,823	6,800	15	Quarter 2	5,898	6,900	27
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<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>14 LaDDC News articles and alerts were shared this quarter sharing information about upcoming meetings, leadership opportunities, trainings and opportunities to share stakeholder input.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): There were 13 LaDDC News articles shared this quarter giving stakeholders information about upcoming meetings and other opportunities to provide input and recommendations on matters impacting the disability community.</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>As of March 9, 2026, LAYLF received 37 applications: 22 staff and 15 delegates.</p> <p>Two RNs and one paramedic will be on the medical team. Former staff and delegates will visit LSUE’s campus to create a welcome video to share with delegate families before camp.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): The LAYLF 2026 camp will be held July 9–12 at Louisiana State University at Eunice.</p> <p>LAYLF is developing a pilot internship program and partnering with LSU Human Development Center to plan an education-focused alumni event and support the Speak Up, Stand Up summit.</p>
<p>1.1.8 Provide financial support, technical assistance and collaborate with the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities to educate and train individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities on abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Approx. FFY 2026 Cost: \$78,000</p>	<p>Team Dynamics received 68 responses to their survey. The results were used to schedule sessions across the state at the best times for participants.</p> <p>A LaDDC News was sent March 12th including registration for all nine workshops. The first workshop was in Baton Rouge on March 27. Attendance information was not available at the time this report was created.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): Team Dynamics created an anonymous survey for individuals with I/DD, families, and caregivers to guide abuse and neglect training topics and scheduling. Four workshops were completed in the 1st quarter. Nine trainings will be held statewide.</p>
<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>No emergent advocacy issues this quarter.</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</p>	<p>People First will host its annual conference on July 18th at the Home Wood Suites in Lafayette (201 Kaliste Saloom Rd.). Marketing materials are being developed and will be shared in April. Registration will open at that time. The presenter has been selected: Unstoppable Tracy (https://unstoppabletracy.com).</p>

<p>participation in training of other self-advocates in leadership positions. Approx. FFY 2026 Cost: \$23,000</p>	<p>Previous Quarter(s): The People First of Louisiana board met on December 15 to discuss the annual training and other opportunities. Three presenters are under consideration, with a final selection planned for January.</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>9 LaDDC News articles and alerts were shared this quarter sharing information about upcoming meetings and leadership opportunities.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): Six LaDDC News articles were shared this quarter with opportunities to participate in and provide feedback to various disability advisory bodies in Louisiana.</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>State DD Council Executive Directors attended an Executive Director meeting in February to meet and network with the Administration on Disabilities' (AoD) new Commissioner, Dr. Rebecca Hines. Dr. Hines shared her personal experiences in the disability community and her plans and vision on how to move AoD forward with a focus on disability research and evidence-based practices and research-to-practice translation to bridge the gap between policy and real life.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): Executive Director attended the Executive Director Leadership Summit in October. ED's shared strategies for operating under level funding and rising costs. Presentations on leadership and guidance on State Plan best practices and compliance were also shared.</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's advocacy agenda was presented at 9 legislative roundtables across the state as well as at legislative visits. Focus was put on the need to ensure a specific emergency alert was created for people with I/DD who go missing and increased funding to expand home and community-based (HCBS) rates and direct support worker pay. Fact sheets were developed, posted online, and used in outreach and legislative visits.</p> <p>The HCBS rate study was released by LDH in February. Click here to view the study and fact sheets created by LDH. \$53.6 million is needed to implement recommendations in the study including increasing the DSW wage floor from \$9 - \$11.48 and the rate for</p>

	<p>personal care services from \$18.50 - \$21.20. Unfortunately, LDH has made it clear to the legislature they would like additional information before implementing recommendations from the study which has made advocacy for funding difficult.</p> <p>10 LaDDC News articles and action alerts were sent to advertise trainings to help individuals better understand the state's system of supports, advocacy opportunities to improve those systems of supports and information about stakeholder input on self-direction and the rate study.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): In October, the Council adopted advocacy priorities to create a disability-focused emergency alert system and to secure funding to increase waiver rates and Direct Support Worker pay.</p> <p>LaDDC News promoted stakeholder participation in the January OCDD Summit and Medicaid and Beneficiary Advisory Group meetings.</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>Since October 1st, DDC staff and LSU have been working through contract negotiations. On March 25th, LSU signed the contract and provided a revised proposal to ensure the work could be completed after such a long delay. LSU will create the curriculum materials, host three co-design workshops with 15 to 20 adults with I/DD, caregivers, and experts, and pilot lessons in at least three Louisiana school districts.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): The Council and LSU worked on finalizing contract details.</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>1 statewide virtual training and 3 in-person trainings (Northeast LA, Baton Rouge area and Lake Charles) were held. 86 individuals attended (55 self-advocates, 12 family members and 19 professionals). Feedback for these trainings have been positive with multiple participants sharing they feel better educated about their own disability and wellness. An LaDDC News was shared advertising the upcoming training on April 22nd in Jefferson Parish.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): This initiative will continue in FY26 with The Arc of Louisiana, adding a focus on wellness and outcomes for people with dual diagnoses. Participants will create personal wellness guides. The first virtual training was set for January 6, with more sessions to be announced through Council channels.</p>

<p>2.1.4 Advocate for systems change based on emergent community living and supports issues.</p>	<p>No emergent community living and supports issues this quarter.</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>6 LaDDC News articles were shared this quarter with opportunities to participate in and provide feedback.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): Seven LaDDC News articles were shared this quarter with opportunities to participate in and provide feedback to various disability advisory bodies in Louisiana.</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>Since October 1st, DDC staff and LSU have been working through contract negotiations. On March 26th, LSU signed the contract and provided a revised proposal to ensure the work could be completed after such a long delay.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): Contracted with LSU to develop plain language, visually supported women’s health resources to address gaps identified by the CDC and NIH. LSU will create 10 health toolkits—three fully validated for online and clinic use, and seven for future piloting. The project aims to reach over 200 Louisiana women with I/DD, with goals of 100+ downloads and 30+ QR code scans.</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</p>	<p>There was no action taken on this activity during the 2nd quarter.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): In October, the Council added Functional Behavior Assessments to its 2026 Legislative Advocacy Agenda to promote earlier completion before repeated school removals. Staff</p>

<p>all special education laws and policies that align with the Council’s mission.</p>	<p>met with LDOE on November 10 to share concerns, and LDOE agreed to provide additional guidance. With no policymaker to advance legislation, the issue was removed from the agenda, but the Education and Employment Committee will continue addressing FBA processes and timelines.</p>
<p>3.1.2 Advocate for educational systems change based on emergent education issues.</p>	<p>An Action Alert was shared encouraging advocates to contact Attorney General Liz Murrill regarding the Section 504 Lawsuit. Louisiana and 8 other states are challenging federal rules in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act that clarifies governments and organizations receiving federal health funds must serve people with disabilities in integrated setting and avoid actions that create a serious risk of institutionalization.</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>One LaDDC News issue was sent this quarter highlighting opportunities for stakeholder input, the LDOE IDEA stakeholder input survey shared on March 26.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): There were 2 LaDDC News articles that were sent this quarter sharing opportunities for stakeholder input. The news articles can be found on the Council’s website.</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>Team Dynamics received 46 responses to their survey. The results were used to schedule sessions across the state at the best times for participants.</p> <p>A LaDDC News was sent on March 13th advertising all trainings and registration information.</p> <p>The first workshop was in Ponchatoula on March 25 and included the topics of Employment, Health and Wellbeing. Eight people registered and two people attended.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): Team Dynamics created an anonymous survey for individuals with I/DD and their caregivers to identify the skills, information, and resources most needed for a successful transition to adulthood. Shared the survey on November 17. One workshop held in October with additional trainings to be scheduled.</p>
<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>A fact sheet was created to educate legislators and the public on the need for increased funding for LRS. This issue was also shared at 9 legislative roundtables across the state.</p>

Three action alerts were shared providing advocates information about this need along with ways they could take action.

Previous Quarter(s):

In October, the Council voted to support increased funding for Louisiana Rehabilitation Services in the 2026 Legislative Session. About \$6.8M in state funds is needed to access all available federal dollars.