



LSUHNO Human Development Center Quarterly Report 2026 Activities Report, 2nd Quarter for April - June 2026

What Is HDC?

The Human Development Center (HDC), located in LSU Health Sciences Center, helps people with developmental disabilities all across Louisiana. HDC is part of a national group of centers at universities.

HDC (www.hdc.lsuhscc.edu) works in three main areas:

Early Childhood - These programs help young children ages 1–5 years old and the adults who care for them. The goal is to make sure all children can learn and grow in safe, welcoming places. The main programs are [Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership \(EHS-CCP\)](#) and the LSU HDC [Early Learning Center \(ELC\)](#).

Education, Transition, and Community - These programs support students and adults with disabilities (and their families, teachers, and support professionals) so they can succeed in school, work, and life. These programs include [LASARD \(K-12 School Support\)](#), [LADBP \(Deafblind Project\)](#), [PAYCheck \(Pre-employment Training for Students\)](#), [WIPA \(Benefits Planning\)](#), [Employment First Training](#).

Long-Term Training - These programs train future leaders, professionals, families, and self-advocates. The main program is the Louisiana LEND Program which trains people to support children and adults with disabilities. It focuses on teamwork, leadership, and family-centered care and provides over 300 hours of training each year. This also includes the [Neurodevelopmental Evaluation, Screening, Training & Teaming \(NESTT\)](#) clinic, previously known as the Autism Diagnostic Clinic (ASDID), and which evaluates young children for autism. This also provides training on [Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders \(FASD\)](#).

Quarter Updates on HDC Core Functions

Direct Services – Working directly with children, families, or individuals (e.g., EHS Screenings, EHS Family Support Services, ELC, NESTT, PAYCheck, WIPA, LEND Clinical Services)

- **PAYCheck** launched Staying Connected: Building Social Relationships After High School group meetings every Friday through June-July. Each weekly meeting focused on a social topic for communication, friendships and self-advocacy.
- This year's **PAYCheck** program completed with 100% of the 13 **PAYCheck** students having participated in 1 or more paid Pre-ETS Work Based Learning Experiences and 46% (6/13) participated in 2nd paid Work Based Learning Experiences.
- 100% (9/9) **PAYCheck** graduates participated in job search assistance.
- **WSC WIPA** worked with 20 referred persons who receive Social Security Benefits and gave detailed benefits planning to 15 persons.

Community and Interdisciplinary Pre-service Training

Training for individuals, families, and community groups and training to future professionals & leaders (e.g., graduate students) (e.g., EHS Family Training, LADBP Community Training, LASARD Community Training, LEND trainee training)

- **LADBP** finished the Usher Career Mentoring Program for 12 Louisiana youth with Usher syndrome which included an in-person transition weekend.
- **LADBP** and **WSC WIPA** did two virtual webinars for the Helen Keller National Center on Understanding Employment Benefits for a mixed audience of adults with disabilities and professionals/paraprofessionals.
- **LASARD** presented a talk to about 50 participants for Whole Health Louisiana (an initiative from Louisiana Department of Health through the Blanco Center at University of Louisiana Lafayette) entitled Trauma-Informed Care for Individuals with Disabilities: Understanding Experiences and Improving Best Practices.
- **LA LEND** held interviews to select next year's 14 trainees from various disciplines including Audiology, Speech Language Pathology, Psychology, Counseling, Dentistry, Physician's Assistant, and individuals with lived experience.
- **LA LEND** orientation for these 14 trainees will be held on July 17, 2026 at the Human Development Center. Foundations Week is the first week in August when they will spend approximately 40 hours learning about social determinants of health, policy, person and family-centered care, and community access.
- **Louisiana's FASD** United chapter continues to meet monthly, via Zoom. In these meetings, members work together to plan awareness activities, community trainings, professional development, and to provide peer support to families and caregivers. FASD

101 trainings are continuing to be offered for families, professionals, and communities around the state.

Continuing Education and Professional Development

Training for Professionals (e.g, EHS-CCP Teacher Professional Development (PD), LASARD educator PD, FASD PD, PAYCheck Transition PD for educators, Employment First)

- **EHS-CCP** trained 70 teachers and school leaders during a full day of learning in April. Topics included Behavior in Context: Helping Children Manage Their Emotions, Teacher Recharge, and Mindful Mindset. They are preparing for another two full days in July.
- **LASARD** provided professional development to educators in 35 state school districts.
- For **Employment First**, 5 Employment Support Professionals completed 40-hour Core Employment First Training and 2 completed 20 hours of Continuing Education.

Technical Assistance and Coaching – Help for providers and community groups

- **EHS-CCP** Gave over 300 hours of coaching in early childhood classrooms.
- **LASARD** provided around 200 hours of direct coaching to 207 educators across 35 state school districts.
- **LADBP** started mentoring a DeafBlind intervener.
- **LADBP** held approximately 20 family and school consultation sessions for supporting school children who are DeafBlind.

Dissemination – Sharing information

- **LASARD** presented at LA Dept of Education Teacher Leader Conference and the 2026 Evidence for Success Disability Conference in Chandler, Arizona.
- **LADBP** released a series of videos for DeafBlind Awareness Week, June 25 – July 1, 2026, including [one video about chatting with people who are DeafBlind with Narjis](#) that received over **1.1 million views!**
- **HDC's** April Newsletter can be found here <https://preview.mailerlite.com/o2n8l6r2g8> and June/July Newsletter here: <https://preview.mailerlite.com/m0c5g3p5q1>

Upcoming Events

Empowerment Through Employment Conference

Free Virtual Conference on Zoom on July 28, 2026 from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

This conference is open to all including educators, employment support professionals, service providers, family members, self-advocates, and employers. Conference attendees will explore innovative strategies, hear from experts and self-advocates, and connect with professionals committed to expanding competitive, integrated employment opportunities for people with disabilities. A recording will be made available.

Register today: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7Nub12ahEyTHyasoGC3VuG8A...>

Learn more: https://www.hdc.lsuhsd.edu/j/2026-06-22_empowerment...

The Empowerment Through Employment Virtual Conference is presented through a collaboration of [Bayou Land Families Helping Families](#), [Disability Rights Louisiana](#), [LSU Human Development Center](#), [Statewide Independent Living Council of Louisiana](#), and the [Louisiana Department of Health Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities](#).