

LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

FY 2027 ACTION PLAN

Easy Read Proposal Review Packet



July 29–30, 2026

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HOW TO USE THIS PACKET

This packet contains Easy Read summaries of proposals submitted for the FY 2027 Action Plan. These summaries are intended to support Council review and discussion and do not replace the original proposals.

Each proposal contains:

- Proposal Snapshot
- About the Organization
- Why This Project Matters
- What They Will Do
- Who Will Benefit
- Timeline
- Budget at a Glance
- Key Facts
- Questions to Consider
- Council Member Notes

Proposal Review Process

1. The Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council issued a Request for Proposals (RFP).
2. Eligible organizations submitted proposals.
3. The Executive Committee reviewed and scored each proposal using the approved evaluation rubric.
4. Proposal summaries were prepared for Council review.
5. During the July Council meeting, members will consider the Executive Committee's recommendations before making funding decisions.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Activity	Applicant	Project Focus	Population Served	Requested Funding
2.1.2	MilestoneMate, LLC	Early identification information for families	Families of young children	\$9,000
2.2.3	Disability Access Solutions	Emergency preparedness training	People with disabilities, families, providers	\$50,000
3.1.3	Bayou Land Families Helping Families	Transition planning and family support	Youth and families	\$34,959
3.1.3	Disability Rights Louisiana	Transition Assistance Project (TAP)	Youth with disabilities	\$59,000
3.1.3	Southwest Louisiana Independence Center	Strategic Transition Education & Guidance	Transition-age youth	\$36,361

Proposal Highlights

MilestoneMate, LLC

Develop an easy-to-use digital resource that helps families identify developmental milestones and connect with early intervention services.

Disability Access Solutions

Improve emergency preparedness for people with disabilities through training, planning resources, and community partnerships.

Bayou Land Families Helping Families

Provide transition planning resources and family support to help youth with disabilities prepare for adulthood.

Disability Rights Louisiana

Expand the Transition Assistance Project by providing education, advocacy, and individualized transition support.

Southwest Louisiana Independence Center

Provide education and guidance that helps transition-age youth build independence and prepare for employment and community living.

Review Considerations

As you review each proposal, consider the following questions:

- Does the proposal address the goals of the Action Plan activity?
- Will the project improve outcomes for people with developmental disabilities?
- Does the organization have the experience to complete the work?
- Is the proposed budget reasonable?
- Will the project have a lasting impact beyond the grant period?

Meeting Process

The Executive Committee has reviewed the proposals using an established scoring rubric. Before and during the Council meeting, members will:

1. Review the Easy Read summaries.
2. Discuss each proposal.
3. Ask questions of staff, if needed.
4. Consider the Executive Committee's recommendations.
5. Vote on funding recommendations.

Activity 2.1.2

Early Identification Information for Families

Applicant: MilestoneMate, LLC

Proposal Snapshot

Item	Information
Organization	MilestoneMate, LLC
Activity	2.1.2
Project Title	Early Identification Information for Families
Requested Funding	\$9,000
Population Served	Children (birth–5), families, pediatric providers, early intervention professionals, teachers, child care providers, and home visitors
Project Period	October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027
Primary Goal	Develop plain-language resources that help families recognize developmental concerns early and connect to services.
Primary Deliverables	Family Guides, Professional Guides, Louisiana Resource Directory, English & Spanish materials, print-ready and digital files

About the Organization

MilestoneMate is a Louisiana-based technology platform that helps families monitor their child's development, complete developmental screenings, and connect with services through care coordination tools. For this project, MilestoneMate will expand its work by creating standalone educational materials that can be used by families and professionals throughout Louisiana—not just users of the MilestoneMate platform.

Why This Project Matters

Many families are unsure whether their child is developing as expected or what to do if they have concerns. Delays in identifying developmental disabilities can delay access to early intervention services.

This project will provide easy-to-understand information that helps families:

- Recognize early signs of developmental disabilities,
- Know when to seek an evaluation,

- Understand available services, and
- Access Louisiana-specific resources as early as possible.

Early identification can improve learning, communication, school readiness, and long-term outcomes for children.

✓ What Will They Do?

Step 1 – Gather Community Input

Conduct family focus groups and gather feedback from pediatric providers and early intervention professionals to identify information families need most.

Step 2 – Develop Educational Materials

Create plain-language family guides and professional reference guides covering developmental milestones, warning signs, referral pathways, and Louisiana resources.

Step 3 – Review and Test Materials

Complete a third-party plain-language review, pilot test the materials with families and providers, and revise them based on feedback.

Step 4 – Finalize Accessible Products

Produce English and Spanish versions in accessible digital and print-ready formats that meet WCAG 2.1 Level AA accessibility standards.

Step 5 – Deliver Final Products

Submit all completed materials, reports, and project deliverables to the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council.

Who Will Benefit?

This project is designed to benefit:

- Young children (birth through age 5)
- Families and caregivers
- Pediatricians
- Early intervention professionals

- Child care providers
- Teachers
- Home visitors
- Community organizations supporting young children

Partnerships

MilestoneMate will collaborate with:

- Families and caregivers
- Pediatric providers
- Early intervention professionals
- Plain-language reviewers
- Community bilingual reviewers

Family participation is built into multiple phases of the project through focus groups, pilot testing, and review of draft materials.

Timeline – When will this happen?

Timeframe	Major Activities
October–December 2026	Project kickoff, focus groups, stakeholder engagement, draft materials
January–March 2027	Plain-language review, accessibility review, Spanish translation, pilot testing
April–September 2027	Final revisions, production, submission of materials and reports

\$ Budget at a Glance

Requested Funding: \$9,000

Budget Category	Grant Funds
Personnel / Contractor	\$5,500

Budget Category	Grant Funds
Community Engagement	\$1,200
Plain Language Review	\$700
Design & Production	\$900
Translation & Accessibility	\$400
Indirect Costs	\$300
Total Request	\$9,000

Additional Support: MilestoneMate will contribute **\$1,250 in in-kind support**, bringing the total project value to **\$10,250**.

★ Key Facts

- Materials will be written in plain language (approximately a 6th-grade reading level).
 - Family materials will be available in both English and Spanish.
 - Families will help develop and test the materials before they are finalized.
 - Digital resources will meet WCAG 2.1 Level AA accessibility standards.
 - Final products will be available in both print-ready and digital formats.
-

💬 Questions to Consider

- Will these materials help families identify developmental concerns sooner?
 - Does the project provide practical information families can use?
 - Is the budget reasonable for the proposed deliverables?
 - Will the materials remain useful after the project ends?
 - Does this proposal support the goals of Activity 2.1.2?
-

I understand this proposal.

☐ Yes ☐ Mostly ☐ Not Yet

I believe this project will improve early identification for children with developmental disabilities.

☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

I believe MilestoneMate has the experience to complete this project.

☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

I recommend this proposal for funding.

☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

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Activity 2.2.3

Emergency Preparedness and Resiliency Training

Applicant: Disability Access Solutions (DAS)

Proposal Snapshot

Item	Information
Organization	Disability Access Solutions (DAS)
Activity	2.2.3
Project Title	Emergency Preparedness and Resiliency Training
Requested Funding	\$66,666.67
Population Served	People with intellectual and developmental disabilities, families, disability organizations, emergency management personnel, and community partners
Project Period	October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027 (<i>Year 1 of a proposed three-year regional model</i>)
Primary Goal	Build disability-led emergency preparedness networks while training people with disabilities to become Disaster Resiliency Specialists.
Primary Deliverables	Accessible training curriculum, Disaster Resiliency Specialists, regional partnerships, community trainings, progress reports, and final report.

About the Organization

Disability Access Solutions (DAS) is a Louisiana organization specializing in emergency preparedness and disaster response for people with disabilities. The organization grew out of the Emergency Management Disability and Aging Coalition (EMDAC) and works to ensure that people with disabilities are active leaders in emergency planning and response.

DAS currently manages emergency preparedness projects with organizations including the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), Louisiana State University (LSU), the Louisiana Association for the Deaf (LAD), and the Texas Statewide Independent Living Council (TX SILC). The proposal emphasizes the organization's experience managing statewide contracts and collaborating with emergency management partners.

Why This Project Matters

Louisiana experiences hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, power outages, and other disasters that can have a greater impact on people with disabilities. According to the proposal, people with

disabilities are more likely to experience evacuation challenges, prolonged displacement, institutionalization, and serious injury during disasters.

DAS believes emergency preparedness is most effective when people with disabilities help design, lead, and deliver training within their own communities. This peer-led approach is intended to strengthen local preparedness, increase independence, and improve long-term community resilience.

✓ What Will They Do?

Step 1 – Build Regional Partnerships

Recruit disability service organizations in each target region to serve as subcontracting partners and help recruit participants.

Step 2 – Train Disaster Resiliency Specialists

Recruit and provide workforce development training for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who will become Disaster Resiliency Specialists and help facilitate trainings.

Step 3 – Develop Accessible Training

Create an accessible emergency preparedness curriculum based on input from people with disabilities, regional organizations, and local emergency management personnel.

Step 4 – Deliver Community Trainings

Conduct disaster preparedness and resiliency trainings tailored to regional risks while providing accommodations such as plain language, captioning, and interpretation services as needed.

Step 5 – Build Sustainable Community Networks

Establish regional partnerships between disability organizations, emergency management agencies, and community partners so disaster preparedness efforts continue after the grant period.

Who Will Benefit?

This project is designed to benefit:

- People with intellectual and developmental disabilities

- Family members and caregivers
- Disability service organizations
- Regional emergency management personnel
- Community organizations
- Disaster Resiliency Specialists who receive workforce development training

Partnerships

DAS plans to collaborate with:

- Regional disability organizations
- Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP)
- Regional and parish emergency management offices
- Texas Statewide Independent Living Council (TX SILC)
- Community organizations throughout Louisiana

These partnerships are intended to improve coordination before, during, and after disasters while creating sustainable regional emergency preparedness networks.

Timeline – When will this happen?

Timeframe	Major Activities
October–December 2026	Recruit regional partners, recruit Disaster Resiliency Specialists, begin workforce development training, and gather community input.
January–May 2027	Develop accessible training materials, continue mentoring Specialists, and strengthen partnerships.
June–August 2027	Conduct community trainings and regional meetings with emergency management partners.
September 2027	Complete reporting, evaluate outcomes, and prepare for long-term sustainability.

Long-Term Vision: The proposal outlines a three-year regional implementation model beginning in Southwest Louisiana (Regions 4 and 5), followed by North/Central Louisiana and then Southeast Louisiana.

Council Note: The applicant proposes implementing this project through a multi-year regional approach. The funding request included in this packet reflects the Year 1 activities described in

the proposal.

\$ Budget at a Glance

Requested Funding: \$66,666.67

Budget Category	Grant Funds
Salaries & Wages	\$43,000.00
Related Benefits	\$3,866.67
Travel	\$4,000.00
Operating Costs	\$4,000.00
Professional Services	\$4,000.00
Supplies	\$2,000.00
Indirect Costs (8.7%)	\$5,800.00
Total Request	\$66,666.67

Budget Summary

Funding will support staff responsible for project coordination and training development, workforce development for Disaster Resiliency Specialists, travel throughout the state, accessible training materials, professional services such as captioning or interpretation when needed, project supplies, and indirect costs.

★ Key Facts

- Uses the Independent Living philosophy of **"Nothing About Us, Without Us."**
- People with disabilities help develop and deliver the training.
- Includes workforce development opportunities for Disaster Resiliency Specialists.
- Builds partnerships with emergency management agencies and disability organizations.
- Designed to continue through sustainable regional networks after grant funding ends.
- Training materials will include accessibility accommodations such as plain language and communication supports.

Questions to Consider

- Will this project improve emergency preparedness for people with developmental disabilities?
 - Does the peer-led model strengthen community leadership and self-determination?
 - Are the regional partnerships likely to continue after the grant period?
 - Is the proposed budget reasonable for the statewide scope of work?
 - Does this proposal support the goals of Activity 2.2.3?
-

Council Member Review

I understand this proposal.

☐ Yes ☐ Mostly ☐ Not Yet

I believe this project will improve emergency preparedness for people with developmental disabilities.

☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

I believe Disability Access Solutions has the experience to complete this project.

☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

I recommend this proposal for funding.

☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

Council Member Notes

Activity 3.1.3

Transition Planning and Family Support

Applicant: Bayou Land Families Helping Families (BLFHF)

Proposal Snapshot

Item	Information
Organization	Bayou Land Families Helping Families (BLFHF)
Activity	3.1.3
Project Title	Transition Planning and Family Support
Requested Funding	\$34,959
Population Served	Students with developmental disabilities, families, schools, and community partners
Project Period	October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027
Primary Goal	Help students and families prepare for adult life through education, transition planning, and ongoing support.
Primary Deliverables	Transition planning materials, family education, community trainings, progress reports, and final report.

About the Organization

Bayou Land Families Helping Families (BLFHF) is part of Louisiana's Families Helping Families Network. The organization provides information, education, and support to individuals with disabilities and their families. BLFHF helps families understand available services, prepare for the future, advocate for themselves, and connect with community resources.

The organization has extensive experience working with schools, state agencies, and community organizations to improve outcomes for children and adults with disabilities.

Why This Project Matters

The transition from high school to adult life can be exciting, but it is often overwhelming for students with developmental disabilities and their families.

Families may have questions such as:

- What happens after graduation?

- How do I prepare for employment?
- What adult services are available?
- Can my child continue their education?
- How can my child become more independent?

This project is designed to help families understand the transition process before students leave school so they can make informed decisions and prepare for adulthood.

✓ What Will They Do?

Step 1 – Provide Transition Planning

Help students and families understand the transition process and prepare for life after high school.

Step 2 – Educate Families

Provide family education on transition planning, adult services, employment opportunities, and available community supports.

Step 3 – Connect Families to Resources

Assist families in locating adult service providers, employment resources, independent living supports, and community programs.

Step 4 – Work with Community Partners

Collaborate with schools, state agencies, and community organizations to improve coordination and ensure families receive accurate transition information.

Step 5 – Provide Ongoing Support

Continue assisting students and families throughout the transition planning process to help them successfully prepare for adulthood.

Who Will Benefit?

This project is designed to benefit:

- Students with developmental disabilities
- Families and caregivers
- Schools
- Community organizations supporting transition-age youth

The project focuses on helping both students and their support systems prepare for successful adult outcomes.

Partnerships

BLFHF plans to work with:

- Local schools
- State agencies
- Community organizations
- Transition planning partners

These partnerships will help families receive coordinated information and connect more easily to services that support employment, education, independent living, and community participation.

Timeline – When will this happen?

Timeframe	Major Activities
Fall 2026	Meet with students and families, begin transition planning activities.
Winter–Spring 2027	Provide trainings, connect families with services, and collaborate with community partners.
Summer 2027	Complete project activities, prepare reports, and share project results with the Council.

\$ Budget at a Glance

Requested Funding: \$34,959.00

Budget Category	Grant Funds
Personnel	0.00
Related Benefits	0.00
Travel	0.00

Budget Category	Grant Funds
Operating Costs	\$8368.00
Professional Services	\$24,000.00
Supplies	0.00
Indirect Costs	\$2591.00
Total Request	\$34,959.00

Budget Summary

Funding will support staff who provide transition planning and family education, community trainings, travel to assist families throughout the service area, educational materials, and project administration.

★ Key Facts

- BLFHF has many years of experience supporting individuals with disabilities and their families.
 - The organization already works closely with schools and community partners.
 - The project emphasizes family education and long-term transition planning.
 - Students and families will receive practical information about adult services, employment, and independent living.
 - The project focuses on preparing families before students leave high school.
-

Questions to Consider

- Will this project help families better understand the transition process?
 - Will students be better prepared for employment, education, and adult life?
 - Does BLFHF have the experience and partnerships needed to carry out the project?
 - Is the proposed budget reasonable for the services being offered?
 - Does this proposal support the goals of Activity 3.1.3?
-

Council Member Review

I understand this proposal.

☐ Yes ☐ Mostly ☐ Not Yet

I believe this project will improve transition planning for students with developmental disabilities.

☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

I believe Bayou Land Families Helping Families has the experience to complete this project.

☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

I recommend this proposal for funding.

☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

Council Member Notes

Activity 3.1.3

Transition Assistance Project (TAP)

Applicant: Disability Rights Louisiana (DRLA)

Proposal Snapshot

Item	Information
Organization	Disability Rights Louisiana (DRLA)
Activity	3.1.3
Project Title	Transition Assistance Project (TAP)
Requested Funding	\$59,000
Population Served	Transition-age youth with developmental disabilities, families, educators, and community partners throughout Louisiana
Project Period	October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027
Primary Goal	Improve transition planning by providing training, technical assistance, information, and individualized support to youth with developmental disabilities and the people who support them.
Primary Deliverables	Individualized transition assistance, trainings, educational resources, technical assistance, outreach activities, progress reports, and final report.

About the Organization

Disability Rights Louisiana (DRLA) is Louisiana's federally designated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) organization. Since 1977, DRLA has protected the rights of people with disabilities through advocacy, education, legal services, monitoring, and community outreach.

DRLA has extensive experience helping young people with disabilities successfully transition from school to adult life. The organization works closely with families, schools, vocational rehabilitation programs, developmental disability service providers, and state agencies to improve transition outcomes.

The Transition Assistance Project (TAP) builds upon DRLA's existing statewide experience providing information, advocacy, and technical assistance to transition-age youth and their families.

♥ Why This Project Matters

Leaving high school is one of the biggest transitions a young person with a developmental disability will experience.

Many students and families struggle to understand:

- transition planning requirements
- adult service systems
- employment opportunities
- postsecondary education options
- independent living supports
- self-advocacy skills

Without proper planning, students may leave school without the supports they need to succeed as adults.

The Transition Assistance Project helps youth and families understand these systems before graduation so they can make informed decisions and develop meaningful transition plans.

✓ What Will They Do?

Step 1 – Provide Individualized Technical Assistance

Respond to requests from youth, families, educators, and professionals by providing individualized guidance related to transition planning and adult services.

Step 2 – Deliver Transition Training

Conduct presentations and workshops on topics such as:

- Transition planning
- Self-determination
- Employment
- Postsecondary education
- Independent living
- Supported decision-making
- Disability rights

Step 3 – Develop Educational Resources

Create and distribute easy-to-understand transition materials that explain available services, rights, and community resources.

Step 4 – Build Community Partnerships

Collaborate with schools, Families Helping Families Centers, Louisiana Rehabilitation Services, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD), Local Governing Entities (LGEs), and other organizations that support transition-age youth.

Step 5 – Increase Statewide Outreach

Participate in conferences, transition fairs, and community events to increase awareness of transition resources available throughout Louisiana.

Who Will Benefit?

This project is designed to benefit:

- Youth with developmental disabilities
- Parents and caregivers
- Teachers
- School transition coordinators
- Vocational rehabilitation counselors
- Adult service providers
- Community organizations

The project provides both direct assistance and educational resources that improve transition planning statewide.

Partnerships

The proposal includes collaboration with numerous organizations, including:

- Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS)
- Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD)
- Families Helping Families Centers
- Local Governing Entities (LGEs)
- School systems
- Postsecondary education programs
- Community rehabilitation providers
- Disability organizations
- Employers

These partnerships allow families to receive coordinated information and improve connections between education and adult service systems.

Timeline – When will this happen?

Timeframe	Major Activities
October–December 2026	Begin outreach, provide individualized assistance, and develop educational materials, schedule trainings.
January–March 2027	Deliver statewide trainings, technical assistance, and community presentations.
April–June 2027	Continue outreach, participate in transition fairs, strengthen partnerships, and update educational resources.
July–September 2027	Complete technical assistance activities, finalize reports, evaluate project outcomes, and submit deliverables.

\$ Budget at a Glance

Requested Funding: \$59,000

Budget Category	Grant Funds
Salaries & Wages	\$37,000
Related Benefits	\$7,200
Operating Costs	\$3,500
Professional Services	\$2,500
Supplies	\$1,000
Travel	\$2,700
Indirect Costs (8.7%)	\$5,100
Total Request	\$59,000

Budget Summary

Funding primarily supports personnel who will provide statewide transition information, individualized technical assistance, and training. Additional funding supports travel for outreach, educational materials, operating expenses, professional services, and indirect costs.

★ Key Facts

- Statewide Protection and Advocacy organization with nearly 50 years of experience.
 - Provides individualized technical assistance in addition to community training.
 - Builds on existing statewide partnerships and transition expertise.
 - Serves youth, families, educators, and professionals.
 - Focuses on employment, education, independent living, self-determination, and disability rights.
 - Includes statewide outreach through conferences, trainings, and transition fairs.
-

💬 Questions to Consider

- Will individualized technical assistance improve transition outcomes?
 - Does DRLA have the statewide experience needed to successfully complete the project?
 - Will the educational materials remain useful after the grant period?
 - Is the proposed budget appropriate for the statewide scope of work?
 - Does this proposal support the goals of Activity 3.1.3?
-

✓ Council Member Review

I understand this proposal.

☐ Yes ☐ Mostly ☐ Not Yet

I believe this project will improve transition planning for youth with developmental disabilities.

☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

I believe Disability Rights Louisiana has the experience to complete this project.

☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

I recommend this proposal for funding.

☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

 Council Member Notes

Activity 3.1.3

Strategic Transition Education and Guidance

Applicant: Southwest Louisiana Independence Center (SLIC)

Proposal Snapshot

Item	Information
Organization	Southwest Louisiana Independence Center (SLIC)
Activity	3.1.3
Project Title	Strategic Transition Education and Guidance
Requested Funding	\$36,361.44
Population Served	Transition-age youth with developmental disabilities, families, schools, and community organizations
Project Period	October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027
Primary Goal	Help families understand and connect to adult services before students leave school through practical, one-on-one guidance and community outreach.
Primary Deliverables	Transition Toolkit Cheat Sheet, school partnerships, community outreach events, one-on-one application assistance, progress reports, and final report.

About the Organization

Southwest Louisiana Independence Center (SLIC) is a state-designated Independent Living Center serving Southwest Louisiana. Its mission is to help people with disabilities and older adults live as independently as possible by connecting them with resources, promoting self-determination, and supporting community participation.

SLIC has extensive experience helping individuals access Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), coordinating community resources, maintaining secure consumer data systems, and providing individualized support. The proposal also highlights the lived experience of key leadership, who are parents of transition-aged youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Why This Project Matters

Many families are unsure how to navigate the transition from school to adult services. Although information exists, families often need someone to help them understand the process, complete applications, and connect with the right agencies.

The proposal identifies a gap between schools and adult service systems. SLIC believes that providing direct guidance, school partnerships, and community outreach can improve access to services and help youth prepare for successful adult lives. The project focuses on making existing resources easier to use rather than creating new service systems.

✓ What Will They Do?

Step 1 – Build School Partnerships

Develop formal partnerships with schools, participate in transition planning, and establish referral pathways so families can receive assistance early in the transition process.

Step 2 – Provide One-on-One Guidance

Work directly with families to:

- Complete applications,
- Understand adult service systems,
- Connect with Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) and OCDD,
- Navigate community resources, and
- Identify next steps.

Step 3 – Create Easy-to-Use Resources

Develop a plain-language **Transition Toolkit Cheat Sheet** that explains adult services, employment supports, important contacts, and the transition process.

Step 4 – Conduct Community Outreach

Hold informational events in schools, libraries, health clinics, and community centers where families already gather, making transition information more accessible.

Step 5 – Track Outcomes

Maintain a secure tracking system to monitor referrals, successful service connections, outreach activities, and project outcomes, using the data to improve future transition efforts.

Who Will Benefit?

This project is designed to benefit:

- Transition-age youth with developmental disabilities
- Families and caregivers

- School counselors and transition coordinators
- Community organizations
- Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS)
- Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) partners

The emphasis is on helping families successfully connect to existing adult services before students leave school.

Partnerships

SLIC plans to collaborate with:

- Lafayette Parish School System (LPSS)
- Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS)
- Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD)
- Parish libraries
- Regional health clinics
- Community organizations
- School counselors and IEP coordinators

These partnerships are intended to strengthen referrals and improve coordination between schools and adult service providers.

Timeline – When will this happen?

Timeframe	Major Activities
October–December 2026	Establish school partnerships, create referral processes, develop the Transition Toolkit, and begin one-on-one assistance.
January–March 2027	Train school staff, conduct community outreach, assist families with applications, and expand outreach to middle school students.
April–June 2027	Continue outreach events, strengthen partnerships, provide direct application assistance, and monitor outcomes.
July–September 2027	Complete community outreach, analyze project data, prepare reports, and submit final project deliverables.

\$ Budget at a Glance

Requested Funding: \$36,361.44

Budget Category	Grant Funds
Personnel & Related Benefits	\$32,448.00
Travel	\$720.00
Operating Expenses & Supplies	\$500.00
Indirect Costs	\$2,693.44
Total Request	\$36,361.44

Budget Summary

Funding supports two Independent Living Specialists and one Program Supervisor who will establish school partnerships, provide direct application assistance, and conduct community outreach. Additional funds support local travel, production of the Transition Toolkit Cheat Sheet, outreach materials, and administrative costs. SLIC also contributes **\$9,220** in non-federal in-kind support.

★ Key Facts

- State-designated Independent Living Center.
 - Emphasizes one-on-one application assistance rather than classroom training.
 - Builds formal partnerships with schools and community organizations.
 - Creates a plain-language Transition Toolkit Cheat Sheet.
 - Conducts outreach where families already gather.
 - Includes outcome tracking to measure successful service connections.
 - Provides significant in-kind support to the project.
-

Questions to Consider

- Will direct application assistance help families access adult services more successfully?
- Will stronger school partnerships improve the transition process?
- Does the community outreach strategy reach families who might otherwise miss available services?

- Is the proposed budget appropriate for the scope of work?
 - Does this proposal support the goals of Activity 3.1.3?
-

Council Member Review

I understand this proposal.

☐ Yes ☐ Mostly ☐ Not Yet

I believe this project will improve transition planning for youth with developmental disabilities.

☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

I believe Southwest Louisiana Independence Center has the experience to complete this project.

☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

I recommend this proposal for funding.

☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

Council Member Notes

Activity 3.1.3 Proposal Comparison

Category	Bayou Land Families Helping Families (BLFHF)	Disability Rights Louisiana (DRLA)	Southwest Louisiana Independence Center (SLIC)
Requested Funding	\$34,959	\$59,000	\$36,361.44
Project Focus	Family education and transition planning	Individualized transition assistance, training, and advocacy	Hands-on transition guidance and navigation
Primary Population Served	Students with developmental disabilities and their families	Transition-age youth, families, educators, and professionals	Transition-age youth, families, schools, and community organizations
Primary Service Strategy	Educate families before students leave high school	Provide individualized technical assistance and statewide training	Help families successfully connect with adult service systems
Family Support	✓ Extensive family education	✓ Individual technical assistance	✓ One-on-one guidance and application assistance
Student Support	Transition planning and preparation	Self-determination, employment, education, and independent living	Direct navigation to adult services and community resources
Training Activities	Family workshops and education	Statewide trainings, presentations, and workshops	Community outreach events and school-based education
Individual Assistance	General guidance	Extensive individualized technical assistance	Extensive one-on-one navigation and application support
Educational Materials	Transition planning information	Educational resources and transition materials	Transition Toolkit Cheat Sheet
School Partnerships	Local schools	Schools statewide	Formal partnerships with school districts
Community Partnerships	State agencies and community organizations	LRS, OCDD, Families Helping Families, LGEs, schools, employers, and community organizations	LRS, OCDD, schools, libraries, health clinics, and community organizations
Geographic Reach	Regional	Statewide	Southwest Louisiana with regional partnerships

Category	Bayou Land Families Helping Families (BLFHF)	Disability Rights Louisiana (DRLA)	Southwest Louisiana Independence Center (SLIC)
Unique Strength	Family-centered education and transition planning	Statewide expertise, advocacy, and individualized technical assistance	Practical, hands-on navigation connecting families directly to adult services
Long-Term Impact	Better-informed families	Stronger statewide transition systems and increased self-determination	Earlier connections to adult services and stronger school-community partnerships

Key Takeaways for Council Members

All three proposals support **Activity 3.1.3** by improving transition planning for youth with developmental disabilities. While their goals are similar, each applicant uses a different approach:

Applicant	Primary Approach
BLFHF	Educates families so they understand the transition process and available resources.
DRLA	Provides individualized technical assistance, training, and advocacy to strengthen transition planning statewide.
SLIC	Helps families navigate adult service systems through direct guidance, school partnerships, and community outreach.

Council Funding Recommendations

FY2027 Proposal Review

Activity	Applicant	My Recommendation
2.1.2	MilestoneMate	☐ Fund ☐ Discuss ☐ Do Not Fund
2.2.3	Disability Access Solutions	☐ Fund ☐ Discuss ☐ Do Not Fund
3.1.3	Bayou Land Families Helping Families	☐ Fund ☐ Discuss ☐ Do Not Fund
3.1.3	Disability Rights Louisiana	☐ Fund ☐ Discuss ☐ Do Not Fund
3.1.3	Southwest Louisiana Independence Center	☐ Fund ☐ Discuss ☐ Do Not Fund