



LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT

Quarter 3: April 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026

Activity	Progress
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.	
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.	
1.1.1 Provide financial support and technical assistance for Partners in Policymaking and its alumni network. Approx. FFY 2026 Cost: \$115,000	22 applications were received for the 2026 Partners in Policymaking (PiP) class. 18 graduated in June, including 6 self-advocates. Previous Quarter(s): There were 22 applicants, and 6 alternates were selected. Of those selected and the alternates, 20 applicants, including 14 parents and 6 self-advocates, accepted and began the program in January 2026. The first PiP session was held January 22–24, 2026.
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	As of June 2026, LaCAN has 5,989 individuals registered for the Council and LaCAN list serve to receive information and action alerts. Since October 1, 2025, there has been sixteen (16) LaCAN action alerts with seven (7) yellow shirt days. <u>Advocacy Activities</u> 16 Action Alerts – 1,535 actions taken 7 Yellow Shirt Days – 189 attendees and 12 testimonies Disability Awareness Day – 58 attended (including 3 council members)

	<u>Trainings/ Meetings</u> LaCAN Leaders and FHF Directors participated in a Legislative Session Debriefing meeting held on 06/25/2026 to discuss ideas and strategies for improving advocacy activities and its effectiveness for 2027 Legislative Session. LaCAN continues to host two LaCAN Leader conference calls per month to discuss current concerns/issues, develop advocacy strategies and support leader development. <u>Legislative Visits</u> LaCAN Leaders met with key committee members and other legislators throughout session to discuss this year's advocacy agenda. The Leaders completed 73 visits with 42 of those visits being with Key Members. They were also able to complete a total of 170 informal visits with legislators to discuss the advocacy agenda. <u>LaCAN Leader Positions</u> All leader positions are currently filled.
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	LaCAN Leaders are currently in the process of scheduling community input / member meetings to discuss concerns and ideas for the 2027 Legislative Advocacy agenda. LaCAN, FHF Centers, and the DD Council (through websites and social media) will provide promotion of the scheduled events. Previous Quarter(s): LaCAN leaders in collaboration with their local Families Helping Families Center held virtual roundtables in 9 different regions with 364 participants in attendance.
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.	Since October 1, 2025: • 25,735 individuals with disabilities and families supported. • Over 40,628 units of information and referral completed. • 325 trainings conducted with 6,397 attendees. • 436 outreaches conducted at hospitals, pediatricians, school districts, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) clinics and physical therapy clinics.

	The FY 2027 state budget (HB 1 – Act 3) passed and restored the \$250,000 reduction that was proposed to the Council's budget earlier in the legislative session. 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. Previous budget proposed by the Governor included a \$250,000 reduction in the Council's budget for FHF Centers.																
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).	The Council's social media presence on Facebook continues to grow each quarter. <table><tr><td></td><td>Listserv Subscribers</td><td>Facebook Followers</td><td>LaDDC News sent</td></tr><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><tr><td>Quarter 3</td><td>5,989</td><td>7,100</td><td>16</td></tr></table>		Listserv Subscribers	Facebook Followers	LaDDC News sent	Quarter 1	5,823	6,800	15	Quarter 2	5,898	6,900	27	Quarter 3	5,989	7,100	16
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1.1.6 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.	In Q3, 23 LaDDC News articles and alerts were shared to inform stakeholders about issues affecting the services, supports, and rights of people with I/DD, as well as upcoming meetings, leadership opportunities, trainings, and other ways to provide input. Previous Quarter(s): In Q1, there were 13 LaDDC News articles were shared informing stakeholders information about upcoming meetings and opportunities to provide input and recommendations on issues affecting the disability community. In Q2, 14 LaDDC News articles and alerts were shared to inform stakeholders about upcoming meetings, leadership opportunities, trainings, and other opportunities to provide input.																
1.1.7 Provide financial support and technical assistance for the Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum. Approx. FFY 2026 Cost: \$45,000	Final planning for the 2026 Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum (LAYLF) focused on camp readiness. The team confirmed 18 staff and 11 delegates, with additional delegate interviews still in progress. The Executive Team finalized the camp schedule, confirmed presenters, community partners, housing, and ordered needed supplies and equipment. Individual care plans and accommodations were developed for 2 delegates with higher																

	support needs. Staff also completed inventory, organized a volunteer workday with 10 volunteers, developed staff training, and prepared camp materials. Planning also began for an alumni event focused on relationship and dating skills for people with disabilities. Previous Quarter(s): The LAYLF 2026 camp will be held July 9–12 at Louisiana State University at Eunice. 37 applications: 22 staff and 15 delegates. 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.
1.1.8 Provide financial support and technical assistance to educate and train individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, caregivers, and families on abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Approx. FFY 2026 Cost: \$78,000	Two trainings were completed on April 29 in the Greater New Orleans area and May 8 in the Florida Parishes. The remaining trainings were scheduled. A LaDDC News article highlighting the July Team Dynamics training opportunities was shared on June 5, 2026, and posted on the Council's website. Previous Quarter(s): Team Dynamics created and distributed an anonymous survey for individuals with I/DD, families, and caregivers to help identify abuse and neglect training topics and preferred scheduling. The survey received 68 responses, which were used to plan nine workshops across the state.
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.	Multiple alerts were shared this quarter about HB 1107 by Rep. Michael Melerine. The bill would have changed how courts decide whether a person has an intellectual disability in death penalty cases. It would have placed more emphasis on IQ scores than on adaptive skills, such as everyday living and decision-making skills, which are also used to determine whether a person has an intellectual disability. The bill did not become law. The Council will continue to monitor this issue if it is considered again in a future legislative session.
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.	
1.2.1 Provide technical assistance and training opportunities designed to strengthen the self-advocacy network and	The People First annual conference was held in Lafayette on June 18. The featured speaker was Tracy Schmidt, also known as "Unstoppable Tracy." The conference received positive feedback from attendees. Everyone who completed a survey said they

the effectiveness of its systems change activities and promote self-advocacy participation in training of other self-advocates in leadership positions. Approx. FFY 2026 Cost: \$23,000	learned something new and were satisfied with the event. Many participants said they learned that they can achieve their goals and that having a disability does not stop them from doing great things. A total of 111 people attended, including 76 self-advocates, 7 family members, and 28 professionals. 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 of Unstoppable Tracy as the keynote presenter. Annual training scheduled for June.
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.	In Q3, 6 LaDDC News articles and alerts were sent sharing information about upcoming meetings and feedback opportunities for various advisory bodies. Previous Quarter(s): In Q1, six LaDDC News articles were shared this quarter with opportunities to participate in and provide feedback to various disability advisory bodies in Louisiana. In Q2, 9 LaDDC News articles and alerts were shared this quarter sharing information about upcoming meetings and leadership opportunities.
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.	The Executive Committee participated in a training in April with the Executive Director and Parliamentarian. The training focused on how to conduct Council meetings successfully and additional opportunities for one-on-one training. The Council staff and members participated in the 2026 Disability Awareness Day at the Capitol in May to promote awareness, inclusion, and meaningful change within the disability community. The theme was: "From Lived Experience to Lasting Policy," and featured a fireside chat with the Secretary of LDH, Bruce Greenstein and networking opportunities for disability organizations. The Executive Director and Council staff conducted "Lunch & Learn" orientation sessions for all Council members, especially newly appointed members, to help them better understand the Council's purpose and their role and responsibilities on the Council. June 2026 sessions included: What DD Councils Are & What You'll Do as a Member and How the Louisiana DD Council Works. These sessions will continue through July 2026.

	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. State DD Council Executive Directors met with the Administration on Disabilities' new Commissioner, Dr. Rebecca Hines, to discuss her vision for advancing disability research, evidence-based practices, and translating research into policy and practice.
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.	
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.	
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.	The FY 2027 state budget (HB 1 – Act 3) passed without any cuts to disability services. The budget includes more than \$33 million in state and federal funding to increase Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver rates. It also restores the \$250,000 reduction that was proposed to the Council's budget earlier in the legislative session. In addition, funding was approved for 750 Community Choices Waivers for older adults and people with adult-onset disabilities. Lawmakers also passed Act 347, creating a new emergency alert program called Bryan's Call to help locate people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) who go missing. The Council and LaCAN tracked many other bills and budget issues that affected the disability community during the 2026 Legislative Session. More information is available in the LaDDC News recap of the 2026 Legislative Session and the Council's Legislative Tracker. The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) has officially changed its name to the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disability Supports (OIDD). A memo and fact sheet are available with more information about the name change. LDH was to host a mini rate study summit on June 29th. This event was canceled and rescheduled for July 17th.

	19 LaDDC News articles and action alerts were sent to inform individuals of trainings, advocacy and stakeholder input opportunities regarding federal and state systems of supports and services. 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. LaDDC News promoted stakeholder participation in the January OCDD Summit and Medicaid and Beneficiary Advisory Group meetings. The Council presented its advocacy agenda at 9 legislative roundtables and legislative visits, focusing on an emergency alert for people with I/DD who go missing and increased funding for home and community-based services and direct support worker wages. The HCBS rate study was released in February and informed advocacy efforts. The Council also shared 10 LaDDC News articles and action alerts promoting trainings, advocacy opportunities, and stakeholder input.
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	The Council contracted with LSU to create an accessible education program for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, families, and professionals. The program will provide information about sexual development, healthy relationships, and lifelong sexual health. The Council staff held a meeting with LSU in June to discuss progress with the project including timelines and submitting reports and invoices timely. As of June 30, 2026, LSU has not submitted any reports or invoices for this project. Previous Quarter(s): LSU agreed to move forward with their contractual obligations on 03/25/2026 by sending the signed contract, along with their revised proposal. LSU also agreed to draft/ create materials and host 3 co-design workshops to include 15-20 adults with I/DD, caregivers and experts. Pilot lessons will be completed in at least 3 Louisiana school districts.
2.1.3 Provide financial support for training to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities on how to navigate the Developmental Disability,	Three in-person wellness trainings were held this quarter in the Greater New Orleans (Region 1/10), Houma-Thibodaux (Region 3), and Northwest Louisiana (Region 7) areas. A total of 52 people attended, including 39 self-advocates, 3 family members, and 10 professionals. Participants shared positive feedback about the trainings. Many said they

Behavioral Health and Medicaid/Managed Care Organization Systems. Approx. FFY 2026 Cost: \$30,000	found the wellness guide and other resources helpful. They also reported a better understanding of Louisiana's service system and the importance of health and wellness. Planning is underway for future trainings in Central Louisiana (Region 6) and the Northshore (Region 9). LaDDC News also shared information about the August 5th wellness training in the Acadiana (Region 4) area. Previous Quarter(s): This initiative continued with The Arc of Louisiana, adding a focus on wellness for people with dual diagnoses. One virtual and three in-person trainings were held across the state, with 86 participants, including 55 self-advocates, 12 family members, and 19 professionals.
2.1.4 Advocate for systems change based on emergent community living and supports issues.	LaDDC News shared regarding the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) legal opinion on the integration mandate under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The opinion states that these laws do not require services to always be provided in the most integrated setting. While the opinion does not change the law, it may influence future federal regulations, guidance, and court decisions. People were encouraged to write their federal and state policymakers to share their thoughts on the opinion.
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.	
2.2.1 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.	This quarter, 7 LaDDC News articles were shared this quarter with opportunities to participate in and provide feedback. Previous Quarter(s): Q1, 7 LaDDC News articles were shared this quarter with opportunities to participate in and provide feedback to various disability advisory bodies in Louisiana. Q2, 6 LaDDC News articles were shared this quarter with opportunities to participate in and provide feedback.
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)	

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	The Council contracted with LSU to create plain-language, visual resources about important women's health issues identified by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and NIH (National Institutes of Health). The Council staff held a meeting with LSU in June to discuss progress with the project including timelines and submitting reports and invoices timely. As of June 30, 2026, LSU had not submitted any reports or invoices for this project. Previous Quarter(s): LSU agreed to move forward with their contractual obligations on 03/26/2026 by sending the signed contract, along with their revised proposal. LSU has agreed to now draft 10 health toolkits (3 fully validated and available online and in clinics and 7 for future piloting), receive 100+ downloads and 30+ QR scans, and distributed/ shared with over 200 Louisiana women with I/DD.
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.	
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.	
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 all special education laws and policies that align with the Council's mission.	There was no action taken on this activity during the 3rd quarter. Previous Quarter(s): The Council added Functional Behavior Assessments (FBAs) to its 2026 Legislative Advocacy Agenda and met with the Louisiana Department of Education to discuss concerns about timely completion. LDOE agreed to provide additional guidance. The issue was later removed from the legislative agenda, but the Education and Employment Committee continued its work on improving FBA processes and timelines.
3.1.2 Advocate for educational systems change based on emergent education issues.	Several education bills received attention this past legislative session because of their possible impact on students with disabilities. Multiple alerts were sent as well as advocacy by staff: HB 283 (Act 539) increased consequences for students who harm teachers or school staff. Protections were added for students with disabilities, but concerns remain about students whose behavior may be related to an undiagnosed disability.

	HB 342 (Act 943) requires school systems, rather than families, to show that a student's special education program is appropriate in certain disputes. This may create a fairer process for families. HB 352 (Act 944) helps students receive medically necessary behavioral health services, including Applied Behavior Analysis therapy, during the school day. It also requires school systems to make their policies available to families.
3.1.3 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.	LaDDC News was sent on April 13th to let people know the Department of Education was looking for feedback on their Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grant application. Previous Quarter(s): In Q1, 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. In Q2, the Council shared one Action Alert encouraging advocates to contact Attorney General Liz Murrill about the Section 504 lawsuit. One LaDDC News article also shared opportunities for stakeholder input, including the Louisiana Department of Education's IDEA stakeholder survey.
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	One training was completed in Q3, on April 10th. The remaining trainings were scheduled. A LaDDC News article highlighting the July Team Dynamics training opportunities was shared on June 5, 2026, and posted on the Council's website. Previous Quarter(s): Team Dynamics distributed an anonymous survey for individuals with I/DD and their caregivers to identify transition-to-adulthood training needs. The survey received 46 responses, which were used to schedule workshops across the state. A LaDDC News article with training and registration information was shared on March 13, and the first workshop was held in Ponchatoula on March 25 with two attendees.
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.	

3.2.1 Advocate for systems change based on emergent employment issues.

The FY 2027 state budget ([HB 1 – Act 3](#)) passed with an additional \$2 million in additional funding for Louisiana Rehabilitation Services to help people with disabilities find and keep competitive, integrated employment. Multiple [action alerts](#) were sent on this issue.

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. 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 and through action alerts.