

LSU Human Development Center Quarterly Report 2026 Activities Report, 3rd Quarter for July - September 2026

What Is HDC?

The Human Development Center (HDC), located at LSU Health Sciences Center, helps people with developmental disabilities across Louisiana. HDC is part of a national group of similar 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 Health New Orleans [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 [Employment First Training](#), [LADBP \(Deafblind Project\)](#), [LASARD \(K-12 School Support\)](#), [PAYCheck \(Pre-employment Training for Students\)](#), [WIPA \(Benefits Planning\)](#),

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 \(FASD\)](#).

Quarterly Updates on HDC Core Functions

Direct Services – Working directly with children, families, or individuals

Includes EHS Screenings, EHS Family Support Services, ELC, NESTT, PAYCheck, WIPA, LEND Clinical Services.

- The **EHS-CCP** program completed enrollment of 180 children in 9 New Orleans early childcare centers, and has begun their vision, hearing, and developmental screenings.
- **HDC** launched an initiative called Growing Together where adults with disabilities can build friendships, practice life skills, and explore the community.

- **PAYCheck** program started the 26-27 school year with 11 new transition students and 4 returning students and began giving them work readiness training, employer site visits, and job shadowing. The 4 returning students each started their second Work Based Learning Experience (WBLE).
- Five out of eight (5/8 or 63%) of last year's **PAYCheck** graduates ended the program in permanent job placements.
- **WSC WIPA** worked with 24 persons who receive Social Security Benefits to assist them with detailed benefits planning.

Community and Interdisciplinary Pre-service Training - Training for individuals, families, and community groups and interdisciplinary training to future professionals & leaders
Includes EHS Family Training, LADBP Community Training, LASARD Community Training, LEND trainee training.

- HDC honored the **FASD** Awareness month of September with "None for Nine" campaign videos promoting alcohol abstinence during pregnancy and a TV appearance (see links in Information Dissemination section).
- **FASD 101** trainings are continuing to be offered for families, professionals, and communities around the state.
- Louisiana's **FASD** United chapter continues to meet via Zoom every month where members work together to plan awareness activities, community trainings, professional development, and peer support to families and caregivers.
- **HDC** hosted an Inclusive Family Activities Tent at the inaugural [Gumbo Bowl: Adding the Missing Ingredients](#) to promote awareness of adaptive sports and recreation. Over 200 visitors attended including special education students from 5 local schools.
- **LADBP** is offering two credit classes this fall semester to graduate students at LSU Health Sciences Center: American Sign Language and Working with Individuals Who are Blind or Visually Impaired.
- **LASARD** held a Lunch & Learn in September focused on Behavior as Communication.
- **LA LEND** has started the year with 11 new scholars from various disciplines including Audiology, Speech Language Pathology, Psychology, Counseling, Dentistry, Physician's Assistant, and individuals with lived experience. LA LEND scholars completed one day of orientation and a Foundations Week during August. In September, they began attending bi-weekly seminars where they learn about various topics aligned to Maternal Child Health standards, participate in bi-weekly Policy-in-Practice sessions, attend clinical and field experiences, and work with mentors who have lived experience.

Continuing Education and Professional Development - Training for Professionals

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

- **EHS-CCP** trained 70 teachers and school leaders from 11 centers for two full days in July. Topics included Promoting Success for Children with Disabilities, Frog Street Learning for Infants and Toddlers, Teacher Wellness and Professional Growth, and Quality through Compliance.
- **Employment First** cohosted, along with several other state agencies, a virtual [Empowerment through Employment Conference](#) which can be viewed on [YouTube](#).
- For **Employment First** Training, 7 Employment Support Professionals completed 40-hour Core Employment First Training and 3 participated in Continuing Education.
- **LADBP** presented at the Louisiana Department of Education Pupil Appraisal Conference to help increase identification and referral of students who are DeafBlind.
- **LADBP** also presented at the Usher Syndrome Coalition International Conference in Minneapolis about their career mentoring program for youth with Usher syndrome and gave two more presentations at the Louisiana Accessible Educational Materials conference.
- **LASARD** provided professional development to educators in 28 state school districts.
- **PAYCheck** trained 40 teachers and school district staff on Building Transition Programs and Community Partnerships in Ascension Parish.

Technical Assistance and Coaching – Help for providers and community groups

Includes EHS-CCP Disability Support Technical Assistance (TA), EHS-CCP Teacher TA, LADBP TA, LASARD Coaching and Communities of Practice, PAYCheck Transition Coaching

- **EHS-CCP** began coaching teachers in early childhood classrooms across 8 partner centers in Orleans Parish and Jefferson Parish.
- **LADBP** began coaching two professionals to become certified as DeafBlind interveners.
- **LASARD** provided around 215 hours of direct coaching in 28 state school districts.

Dissemination – Sharing information

- **HDC Social Media**

- September Newsletter: <https://hdc-mailings.lsuhsu.edu/d0e7s7f7h7>
- Disability Pride Month: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/nAg5QfuL9Mw>
- Growing Together Events: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1FCG8a7BSY/>
- Empowerment through Employment Promotional Video:
<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1Du3xPtAjG/>
- Will Johnson presented at LSU Integrative Community Studies:
[https://www.facebook.com/share/p/18cjLERHZx/
Empowerment Through Employment Reflections.pdf](https://www.facebook.com/share/p/18cjLERHZx/Empowerment%20Through%20Employment%20Reflections.pdf)

- **FASD Social Media**

- FASD Awareness Month: https://www.hdc.lsuhsu.edu/News1/2026-09-01_none-for-nine.aspx
- [FASD Awareness - Dr. Krista James on the news](#)
- FASD Impact Week: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1HgVR2HyJA/>

- **PAYCheck Social Media**

- Get to know the new PAYCheck Crew - <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1HD24cTP4R/>
<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/18AmY8r5AJ/>

Upcoming Events

LASARD Lunch & Learn Virtual Series

Free teacher and parent training on the second Friday of every month during the school year, see their Louisiana Autism Spectrum and Related Disabilities (LASaRD) Project Facebook page for links to register <https://www.facebook.com/LASARD.Project>

- October 9, 12:00 – Understanding the “Why” Behind Behavior
- November 13, 12:00 – Building Classroom Readiness: Where to Start
- December 11, 12:00 – Preventing Challenging Behaviors Through Proactive Supports