

Disability Rights Louisiana Report to the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council for

October 2026

LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL REPORT

Voting Accessibility, Policy and Community Engagement

We are preparing for the November and December elections, with a focus on making sure people with disabilities can exercise their right to accessible voting. We have partnered with the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs to share information with the public about this right.

Dr. Ashley Volion has presented two webinars on the voting rights of people with disabilities. One was held with the Louisiana Hispanic Association, and the other with Families Helping Families of Southwest Louisiana and Families Helping Families Region 7.

Before the upcoming elections, we will contact the local registrars responsible for voting locations that had accessibility issues during the last election to make sure those issues have been addressed. DRLA staff across the state will also monitor polling places during early voting and on election days. We will operate a hotline on each election day to help address accessibility issues as they arise.

DRLA Policy Analyst Dr. Ashley Volion has also been meeting with state legislators to build relationships, discuss Disability Rights Louisiana's services and expertise, and raise awareness of our work across the state. She presented at the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs conference on "How to Effectively Tell Your Disability Story to Policymakers."

Community Living Ombudsman Program (CLOP)

During the grant year that ended June 30, 2026, CLOP served 3,877 people living in 475 community homes across Louisiana. Staff completed 1,669 visits and recorded 9,965 resident contacts and 745 resident complaints.

The program documented a total of 1,289 complaints. These included:

- 110 complaints of alleged abuse;
- 623 complaints of alleged neglect;



- 272 complaints about rights violations; and
- 156 complaints about quality of life.

These complaints led to several outcomes, including:

- 31 responsible facility staff members being fired;
- 3 criminal charges being filed against staff;
- 202 complaints being validated by LDH Health Standards, generally requiring corrective action;
- 2 residents recovering funds;
- 40 clients receiving appropriate medical treatment or services;
- 48 staff shortages being corrected; and
- 22 clients receiving a transfer they wanted.

Supported Independent Living Assistance Program (SILAP)

During the grant year that ended June 30, 2026, SILAP served 49 individuals, helping them remain in their communities and address concerns affecting their daily lives.

This assistance included improving living environments, conditions, locations, and accessibility; helping individuals obtain or receive necessary health care; strengthening self-advocacy skills; supporting meaningful relationships; and helping individuals access rehabilitation and employment services.

SILAP also helped individuals improve their relationships with Support Coordinators, Providers, and Regional Offices; obtain additional service hours through different waivers; relocate to new housing; and coordinate visits with friends and family.

Financial Access Inclusion and Resources Project (FAIR)

FAIR continues to support individuals with disabilities who are returning to the community after incarceration through comprehensive case management and financial coaching.



During the 18-month period from March 1, 2025, through August 31, 2026, FAIR provided information and referrals to 128 individuals and case management and financial coaching to 66 active clients.

Of those 66 active clients:

- 44% increased their income while participating in FAIR, with a combined increase of \$29,098 per month.
- 47% were employed during this period. Of those employed, 74% maintained employment for at least 90 days.
- 32 entered the program with existing debt. Of those clients, 18, or 56%, reduced their debt by a combined total of \$40,718 during this period.
- Only 4 were reincarcerated.

Client Assistance Program (CAP)

CAP staff are currently serving 41 clients, including 11 PABSS-funded clients and 10 PAAT-funded clients. Their work addresses both individual concerns and issues with systemic impacts.

Jeannie Doiron played a key role in organizing the virtual Empowerment Through Employment Conference held on July 28. The conference was co-presented by Bayou Land Families Helping Families, the Statewide Independent Living Council, the Human Development Center at LSU Health, and LDH's Office for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities.

The conference brought together 209 participants and received very positive feedback on its content and professionalism.

A recording is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-JudVGt3vIQ>.