

HOT TOPICS

Derek's Promise Task Force

- The Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) Acute Care and Crisis Response Task Force, also known as the **"Derek's Promise" Task Force**, has been formed to study gaps in acute care access for individuals with I/DD and to develop recommendations for a coordinated system of care across healthcare settings. The final report must be submitted to the Legislature by January 15, 2027.
- Created by [Rep. Rhonda Butler's HCR 67](#) of the 2026 Regular Session, the task force held its first two meetings on September 15 and October 13. [Meeting dates and agendas](#) are posted in the News section of the OIDD website, at www.ldh.la.gov/office-of-intellectual-and-developmental-disability-supports, as they come available.

Rate Increases in Effect

- Partial rate increases for certain home and community-based services (HCBS) went into effect on October 1, 2026. The changes mean an **increase of approximately 3%** across all affected services. An [updated rate sheet](#) was posted on the OIDD website.
- OIDD also is amending the rule to increase the **direct support professional (DSP) wage floor** by 3% to \$9.27.

State Health Care Facilities

- All of LDH's state health care facilities, including **Pinecrest Supports and Services Center** and **Central Louisiana Supports and Services Center**, are now overseen by the department's new Office of State Health Care Facilities (OSHCF), as of October 1, 2026. OSHCF was created under Act 715 of the 2026 Regular Session of the Legislature.

EarlySteps System Point of Entry Changes

- OIDD is **transitioning entry into the EarlySteps** program from contracted vendors to OIDD regional operations. The six-month **transition began on October 1 and will be complete March 31, 2027**.
- There will be **no interruption to services during the transition** period, and the transition will not negatively affect families.
- The move is part of a "No Wrong Door" approach to entry into the developmental disabilities system, creating one place for eligibility determinations for Louisianans of all ages.
- The change will **strengthen continuity of care** and, consistent with Gov. Jeff Landry's charge to state agencies, create efficiencies in processes and operations. The move also supports OIDD's long-term vision for a coordinated, efficient, and person-centered system of care for individuals and families.

OIDD Quarterly Activities

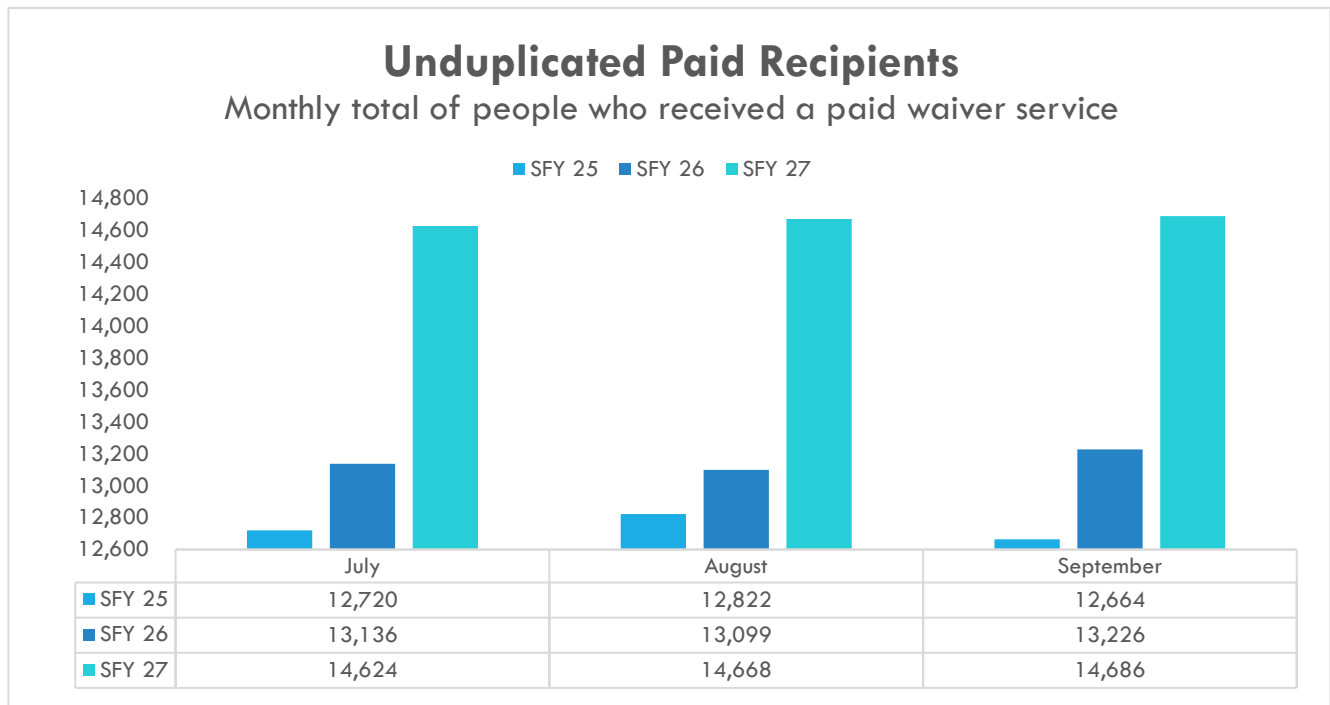
MyPlace/Money Follows the Person

- **8 individuals** transitioned into the community in the third quarter of 2026 through the NOW, ROW, and Children's Choice (CC) waiver programs, bringing the total thus far for 2026 to **35**.

Access to Behavioral and Medical Intervention in the Community (Resource Center)

- **1,153** individuals with I/DD received consultation or direct services from the Resource Center from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026
 - **95%** of individuals were able to remain living and working in the community
 - **98%** of individuals were satisfied with services
- **2,365** nurse outreach and education activities
- **121** training events with clinicians and providers
- **4** Louisiana universities participating in training for undergraduate and graduate-level students
- **58** urgent cases resolved this quarter (April-July 2026)
 - **38%** of urgent cases received consultation from the Resource Center
 - **91%** of the cases that the Resource Center consulted on were able to be maintained in the community without need for long-term institutionalization

Home- and Community-Based Services Waiver Information



Total Waiver Population

New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) **6,666**

Residential Options Waiver (ROW): **2,491**

Children's Choice: **3,130**

Supports Waiver: **2,659**

Annual Average Cost of Waiver per Recipient

SFY25 - **\$48,747**

SFY26 - **\$47,829**

SFY27 - **\$12,433** (July-September 2026)

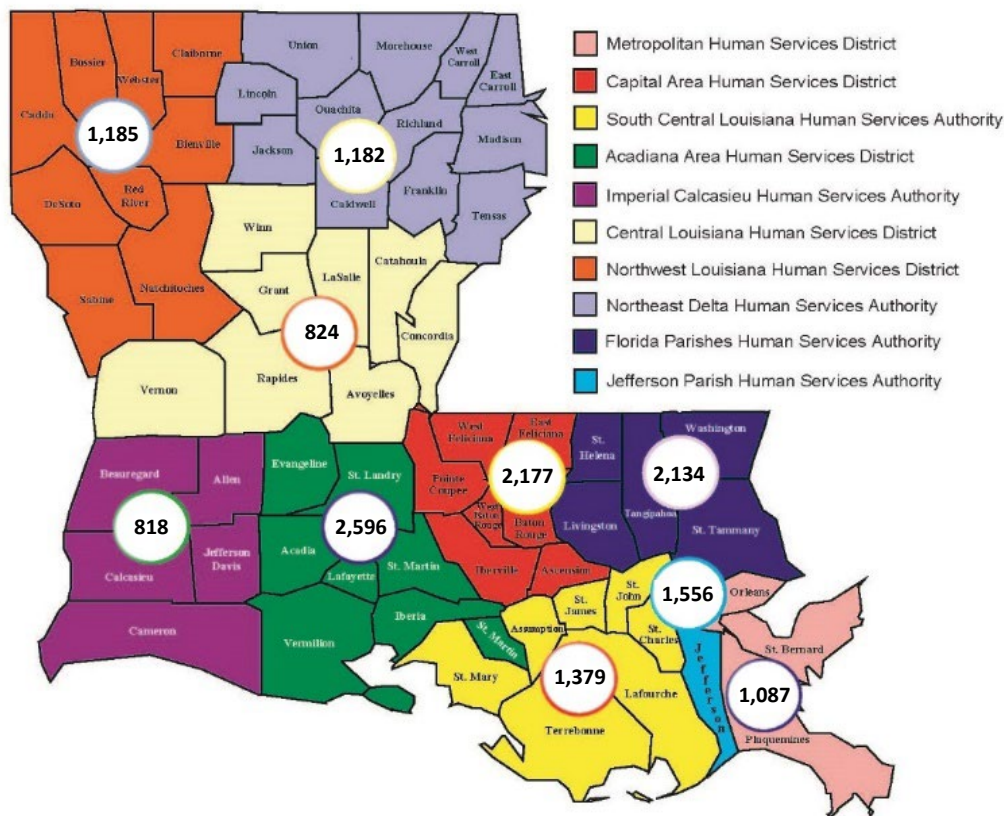
Total Annual Waiver Services Payments

SFY25 - **\$691.4 Million**

SFY26 - **\$739.4 Million**

SFY27 - **\$185.8 Million** (July-September 2026)

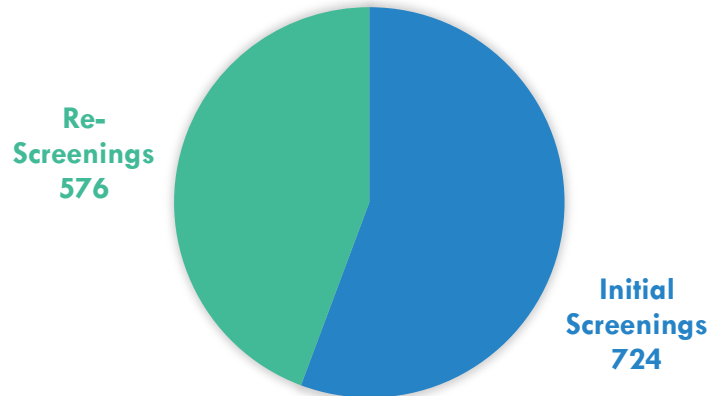
Waiver Participants by Region



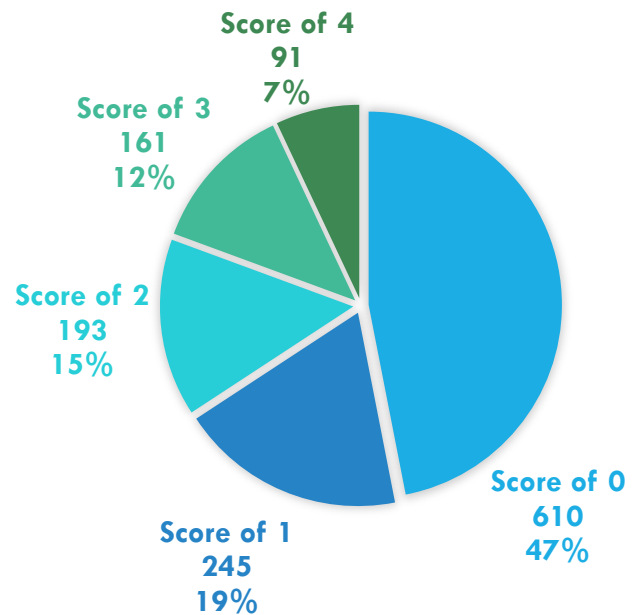
Screening for Urgency of Need (SUN) Quarterly Data

- OIDD uses the SUN to determine if HCBS or other services can meet an individual's support needs. SUN looks at services and supports that are already in place, Medicaid eligibility, severity or complexity of the person's disabilities, additional supports individuals need, and any changes in an individual's living situation.
- SUN scores range from 0-4, with 4 representing unmet needs at the emergent level, 3 represents unmet needs at the urgent level, 2 means unmet needs at the critical level, 1 shows unmet needs at the planning level, and 0 is for no identified unmet needs.
- Waiver offers are made to all individuals with a SUN score of 3 or 4, so no individual with current unmet needs is on the DD Request for Services Registry. As of **September 30, 2026**, there are **15,560¹** on the registry.
- From July – September 2026, OIDD conducted **1,300** screenings.

Reason for SUN Screening



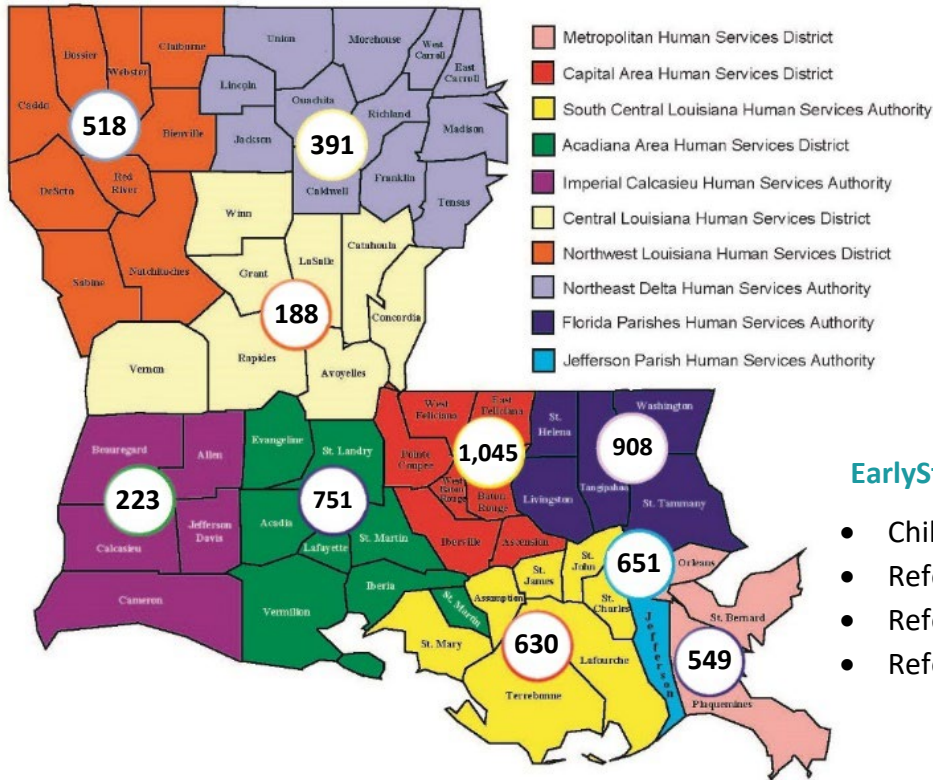
SUN Scores



¹ The total number of individuals listed in the Registry will **fluctuate** due to new additions, closures, and post-closure re-opens.

EarlySteps

Children with active Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP) by Region (as of 10/1/2026)



EarlySteps Child Count/Referrals

- Child count (as of 10/1/26): **5,854**
- Referrals July 2026: **1,140**
- Referrals August 2026: **1,304**
- Referrals September 2026: **1,376**