LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT

Quarter 4: July 1, 2026 – September 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**	The Council promoted the 2027 Partners in Policymaking (PiP) class. A total of 31 applications were received by the deadline. The selection committee will meet in October to review and select participants. <u>Partners Active in Systems Change</u> 51 participants have been active in LaCAN advocacy and self-advocacy events. <u>Partners' Graduates Active in Systems Change</u> 2 serve as FHF Executive Directors 6 serve as LaCAN Leaders 27 responded to Action Alerts 25 participated in Yellow Shirt Days 28 attended roundtables <u>Graduates also serve on state and regional bodies such as</u>: • Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council (7) • Louisiana ABLE Account Advisory Board (1) • Disability Rights Louisiana Board of Directors (1)

	• Statewide Independent Living Council (4) • Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities State Advisory Council (5) • People First of LA Boards (4) • Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline (2) • Families Helping Families Boards (7) • Regional Human Services Districts/Authorities Boards (2) **Previous Quarter(s):** 20 participants (14 parents and 6 self-advocates) began the program in January with 16 participants graduating in June, including all 6 self-advocates.
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 September 2026, LaCAN has 6,052 individuals registered to receive information from the Council and LaCAN. Advocacy Activities 16 Action Alerts – 1,535 actions taken 7 Yellow Shirt Days – 189 attendees and 12 testimonies Disability Rights Day – 58 attended (included 3 council members) Trainings/ Meetings LaCAN continues to host two monthly LaCAN Leader calls to discuss current concerns/issues, develop advocacy strategies and support leader development. Legislative Visits 73 formal visits (42 with key committee members) 170 informal visits **Previous Quarter(s):** LaCAN Leaders and FHF Directors participated in Legislative Session Debriefing in June to discuss ideas and strategies to improve advocacy for the upcoming year. Throughout the year, LaCAN Leaders scheduled legislative visits and planned advocacy events and outreach.
1.1.3 Facilitate and support diverse advocacy events, including but not limited to Legislative Roundtables, toward training,	LaCAN Leaders and FHF Centers hosted community input meetings in July and August, giving the public a chance to provide ideas for the Council's 2027 legislative advocacy

<table>
<tr><td>services, and policies that will benefit individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
Approx. FFY 2026 Cost: $40,000</td><td>agenda. 205 individuals attended. Input will be shared with the Legislative Ad Hoc Committee.

Previous Quarter(s):
Previous quarters, leaders and directors spent time hosting virtual legislative roundtables in nine regions, with 364 participants. Work was also done to plan annual community input meetings.</td></tr>
<tr><td>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.</td><td>Since October 1, 2025:
25,503 individuals with disabilities and families supported.
42,292 units of information and referral completed.
340 trainings conducted with 6,841 attendees.
736 outreaches conducted at hospitals, pediatricians, school districts, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) clinics and physical therapy clinics.
All Centers participated in an annual desk audit to review contract activities and requirements. Centers showed positive financial standing and stable daily operations. Seven Centers met all required deliverables for the year. Additional information can be found in the FHF End-of-Year Report.

Previous Quarter(s):
Centers participated in audits of their FY 2025 contractual activities. The FY 2027 state budget (HB 1 - Act 3) also restored the proposed $250,000 reduction in Council funding for FHF Centers.</td></tr>
<tr><td>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).</td><td>The Council’s social media presence on Facebook continues to grow each quarter.

<table>
<tr><th></th><th>Listserv
Subscribers</th><th>Facebook
Followers</th><th>LaDDC News
sent</th></tr>
<tr><td>Q1</td><td>5,823</td><td>6,800</td><td>15</td></tr>
<tr><td>Q2</td><td>5,898</td><td>6,900</td><td>27</td></tr>
<tr><td>Q3</td><td>5,989</td><td>7,100</td><td>16</td></tr>
<tr><td>Q4</td><td>6,005</td><td>7,100</td><td>33</td></tr>
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</td></tr>
<tr><td>1.1.6 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder</td><td>18 LaDDC News articles were shared during this quarter to inform stakeholders about disability rights, services, supports, upcoming meetings and ways to provide input.

Previous Quarter(s):</td></tr>
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input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.	50 LaDDC News articles and alerts were shared during the first three quarters to inform stakeholders about disability rights, services, supports, upcoming meetings, trainings, leadership opportunities, and ways to provide input.
1.1.7 Provide financial support and technical assistance for the Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum. **Approx. FFY 2026 Cost: $45,000**	Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum (LAYLF) was held July 9–12 at LSU Eunice. Several new activities were introduced including a disability awareness session, interactive music and movement activities, community gardening opportunities, and hands-on voting demonstrations in partnership with the Secretary of State's Office. The LAYLF team held three debriefing meetings to review feedback and identify improvements for 2027. Areas of focus included staff training, sensory accessibility, increased support for delegates, and stronger community partnerships. Upcoming alumni events include the Audubon Aquarium in November and an educational event on dating and relationships in partnership with LSU Human Development Center. **Previous Quarter(s):** 37 applications received (22 staff and 15 delegates). The team confirmed 18 staff and 11 delegates. Team spent three quarters preparing for LAYLF in July and developing a pilot internship program. Also partnered with LSU HDC to plan an 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**	Team Dynamics completed 7 statewide trainings on abuse, neglect and exploitation. A total of 61 participants attended trainings in Baton Rouge, Greater New Orleans, the Florida Parishes, Lafayette, Houma/Thibodaux, Lake Charles, and Alexandria. Trainings covered identifying signs of abuse, neglect, and exploitation; developing safety plans; and understanding how and where to report concerns. Participants also completed interactive activities and knowledge assessments. All survey respondents reported satisfaction with the trainings. **Previous Quarter(s):** Team Dynamics received 68 survey responses from people with I/DD, families, and caregivers to identify training needs and preferred schedules. Feedback was used to plan 9 statewide abuse and neglect prevention workshops. Training opportunities were also promoted through LaDDC News.
1.1.9 Advocate for systems change based on emergent advocacy issues including subject matters on (but not limited to) advocacy, voting, exploitation prevention,	No activity this quarter. **Previous Quarter(s):**

financial stability and responsibilities, and decision making.	Multiple LaCAN alerts were shared about HB 1107, which proposed changing how intellectual disability is determined in death penalty cases. The bill did not become law.
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 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**	Funding was used for registration and lodging to help 15 self-advocates and a Direct Support Worker attend Louisiana's American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities 2026 Conference. **Previous Quarter(s):** Previous quarters spent planning for the annual conference held June 18, in Lafayette with keynote speaker "Unstoppable Tracy." 76 self-advocates, 7 family members, and 28 professionals attended. All survey respondents reported learning something new and being satisfied with the event. Participants also reported increased confidence in their ability to achieve personal goals.
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.	8 LaDDC News articles and alerts were shared this quarter to inform stakeholders about upcoming meetings, leadership opportunities, and ways to participate in and provide feedback to disability advisory bodies across Louisiana. **Previous Quarter(s):** 21 LaDDC News articles and alerts were shared during the first three quarters to inform stakeholders about upcoming meetings, leadership opportunities, and ways to participate in and provide feedback to disability advisory bodies across Louisiana.
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 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. July 2026 sessions included: Our Advocacy Network (LaCAN), Extra topics: Conflict of Interest, Financial Forms, and Your Questions, and How We Run Our Meetings (Parliamentary Procedure). The Executive Director served as a mentor to new Executive Directors during training provided by the Information and Technical Assistance Center for Councils on Developmental Disabilities (ITACC) in July. **Previous Quarter(s):** The Executive Director attended a national leadership summit and met with the new Administration on Disabilities Commissioner to discuss disability policy and research. The

	Executive Committee received training on conducting Council meetings. Council members and staff participated in Disability Awareness Day at the Capitol and Lunch & Learn sessions on Council operations, roles, and responsibilities.
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.	Shared 9 LaDDC News articles and alerts covering advocacy opportunities, disability services, stakeholder surveys, and opportunities to provide input on state policies and programs. Following the Legislature's approval of funding to increase HCBS waiver rates and DSP pay, LDH held a stakeholder summit in July to present options for using the funding. The original proposals did not include an increase to the DSP wage floor. Council staff advocated for its inclusion. LDH ultimately approved a 3% increase in affected HCBS rates and a 3% increase in the DSP wage floor (from $9 per hour to $9.27). New rates went into effect October 1. Wage floor is in the administrative rule process. LDH also announced at the summit plans to collect updated cost reports from providers by the end of November. These reports are expected to provide a more accurate picture of service delivery and administrative costs. LDH plans to use the information to have Milliman revise its February 2026 rate study. The updated study could result in changes to the recommended HCBS rates and help inform future funding needs. **Previous Quarter(s):** The Council adopted legislative priorities focused on emergency alerts for missing people with I/DD, HCBS waiver rates, and Direct Support Worker wages. Lawmakers approved over $33 million for HCBS rate increases, restored $250,000 to the Council's proposed budget, funded 750 Community Choices Waiver slots, and established Bryan's Call through Act 347. OCDD was also renamed the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disability Supports (OIDD).
2.1.2 Provide financial support to provide appropriate, accessible sexual education to middle and high school aged people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.	LSU submitted an invoice and progress report in July. Following the end of the reporting and contract period on October 7, 2026, LSU provided an update on the project's status. The middle school curriculum had been developed but

Approx. FFY 2026 Cost: $53,000	had not yet been tested in schools to gather feedback. The high school curriculum was still being developed and would also require testing. LSU expects to complete testing of both curricula and provide the Council with a summary of feedback by December 15, 2026. Although this falls outside the federal contract period, LSU indicated it intends to complete the remaining contract requirements without requesting additional payment for work performed after the contract ends. **Previous Quarter(s):** The Council contracted with LSU to develop an accessible sexual health education curriculum for students with I/DD. The project includes stakeholder workshops to help develop the curriculum and testing in at least three 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, Behavioral Health and Medicaid/Managed Care Organization Systems. **Approx. FFY 2026 Cost: $30,000**	The Arc of Louisiana held 2 in-person wellness trainings in Central (Region 6) and Northshore (Region 9) Louisiana, along with 1 statewide virtual training. A total of 145 people participated, including 71 self-advocates, 45 family members, and 29 professionals. Feedback remained positive, with most participants reporting increased knowledge of available support systems and the benefits of using a wellness guide to support their health. This was the final year of the activity. Across all 10 trainings, 283 people participated, including 165 self-advocates, 60 family members, and 58 professionals. **Previous Quarter(s):** The Arc of Louisiana held 7 wellness trainings (6 in-person and 1 virtual) during the first three quarters, reaching 138 participants. Attendees reported a better understanding of Louisiana's service system and the importance of health and wellness.
2.1.4 Advocate for systems change based on emergent community living and supports issues.	Shared 3 LaDDC News articles to inform stakeholders about federal actions that could affect the rights of people with disabilities to live and receive services in their communities. Updates covered the U.S. Department of Justice's decision to stop relying on certain *Olmstead* guidance and developments in *Texas v. Kennedy*, a lawsuit involving Louisiana that challenged federal Section 504 rules protecting community integration. The articles explained the potential impact of these actions, clarified that existing protections under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504, and the *Olmstead* decision remain in place, and shared opportunities for stakeholders to stay informed and make their voices heard.

	Previous Quarter(s): LaDDC News shared information about the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) legal opinion on the integration mandate under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504. News and alerts also shared regarding the Texas v. Kennedy lawsuit challenging Section 504 rules on community integration.
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.	Shared 10 LaDDC News articles during the quarter informing stakeholders about opportunities to share input about practices and policies impacting the HCBS service delivery system. **Previous Quarter(s):** 20 LaDDC News articles were shared during the first three quarters informing stakeholders about 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**	LSU has not submitted any reports or invoices since July 2026. In an October 7 update, LSU reported that all 10 toolkits had been developed. However, the toolkits still need to be shared with women in the community to gather feedback, and a summary of the results must be submitted to the Council. LSU expects to complete the remaining work by December 15, 2026. Although this falls outside the federal contract period, LSU indicated it intends to fulfill the remaining requirements without requesting additional payment for work completed after the contract ends. **Previous Quarter(s):** The Council contracted with LSU to develop 10 accessible women's health toolkits. Project goals include testing and distributing three toolkits, preparing seven for future testing, reaching more than 200 Louisiana women with I/DD, and receiving at least 100 downloads and 30 QR code scans.
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.	Council staff attended the September Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) meeting, where the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) presented a new four-tier framework to strengthen monitoring and oversight of local school districts. The framework provides different levels of support and monitoring based on student performance and compliance with special education requirements. LDOE also discussed special education performance targets and efforts to improve district accountability. Several Council members serve on SEAP, providing ongoing opportunities to share concerns, offer input, and advocate for stronger oversight and improved outcomes for students with disabilities. The Next SEAP meeting is November 9th. **Previous Quarter(s):** The Council added Functional Behavior Assessments (FBAs) to its 2026 Legislative Advocacy Agenda and met with LDOE about delays in completing assessments. LDOE agreed to provide additional guidance. Although removed from the legislative agenda, the issue remains a priority for the Education and Employment Committee.
3.1.2 Advocate for educational systems change based on emergent education issues.	No activity this quarter. **Previous Quarter(s):** The Council monitored and shared multiple LaCAN alerts on education bills affecting students with disabilities during the 2026 Legislative Session. Council staff also conducted advocacy on these issues. Three bills became law: • HB 283 (Act 539) increased consequences for students who harm school staff while adding protections for students with disabilities • HB 342 (Act 943) shifted the burden of proof to school systems in certain special education disputes • HB 352 (Act 944) improved access to medically necessary behavioral health services during the school day.
3.1.3 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder	No activity this quarter. **Previous Quarter(s):**

input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.	The Council shared five LaDDC News articles and action alerts to promote stakeholder input and advocacy opportunities. These included LDOE's IDEA stakeholder survey and grant application public comment period and action alerts about the Section 504 lawsuit.
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**	Four trainings were completed in Ponchatoula, Greater New Orleans, Lafayette, and Baton Rouge, with 30 total attendees. Training topics included employment preparation, financial literacy, health and well-being, waiver services, independent living skills, and planning for future housing and supports. All respondents to the reported 2026 workshop evaluations indicated they learned something new and were satisfied with the trainings. **Previous Quarter(s):** Team Dynamics received 46 survey responses from people with I/DD and caregivers to identify transition-to-adulthood training needs and plan statewide workshops. Two trainings were completed in previous quarters. Trainings were scheduled and promoted through LaDDC News.
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.	No activity this quarter. **Previous Quarter(s):** The Council supported increased funding for Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) during the 2026 Legislative Session. The legislature approved an additional $2 million for LRS.