LACAN
LOUISIANA COUNCIL'S ADVOCACY NETWORK

LOUISIANA REHABILITATION SERVICES (LRS)

HOW LRS HELPS PEOPLE WORK

HELPING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES WORK

Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) provides vocational rehabilitation (VR) services to help people with disabilities get ready for work, find jobs, and keep working.



ONE PROGRAM HELPS PEOPLE AT TWO STAGES

ADULTS LOOKING FOR WORK

VR services can help adults get job training, get help paying for education, find work, and get support on the job.

STUDENTS GETTING READY FOR WORK

VR services can help students explore jobs, get help paying for education, build work skills, and try out work activities.

MORE PEOPLE ARE GETTING HELP

LRS reported these changes from state fiscal year 2025 to 2026:

17%

More people finished VR services with a job outcome.

11%

More people got services LRS paid for.

21%

More money was spent on services for people.

HOW LRS MAKES A DIFFERENCE

"My job counselor at the time encouraged me to pursue higher education and I did – at Delgado Community College. ... When I eventually entered the workforce, LRS followed me. ... I can't express how important LRS has been in my life and professional development"

Steven Nguyen, Self-Advocate, Greater New Orleans area

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LOUISIANA HAS LEFT FEDERAL MONEY UNUSED

LRS gets state and federal funding. For every $1 in eligible state funds, Louisiana can get about $3.69 in federal funds, up to its federal limit. Without enough state funding, Louisiana cannot use all available funds.

$180.4 MILLION

Federal funds not used from 2021 through 2026.

$25.5 MILLION

Not used in 2026 alone.



WHAT HAS CHANGED?

Louisiana used a larger share of its federal funds in 2026 than in 2025. That is progress, but the state still could not use all available funds.

STATE FUNDING NEEDED FOR 2028

$5,974,631

Additional state funding requested for the 2028 state budget.

WHAT MORE FUNDING COULD DO

Help more students explore careers and gain work skills. Help more adults with disabilities get job training, find work, and receive support to keep their jobs.

When more people with disabilities work, they can earn wages, pay taxes, rely less on public assistance, and spend money in their communities. This helps strengthen Louisiana's economy.

More funding could also help LRS address staffing shortages. LRS has 74 counselors and 25 vacant counselor positions.

Sources: LRS (FY25-26 results, staffing, FY28 request); LRS VR Reallotment History (2021-26); 34 CFR 361.60 (78.7% federal / 21.3% state match).