

Louisiana
Developmental Disabilities Council

State Plan
FFY 2007 - 2012

Goals and Objectives
for
FFY 2009

QUALITY ASSURANCE ACTIVITIES

GOAL **People have information, skills, opportunities and supports to live free of abuse, neglect, financial and sexual exploitation, and violations of their human and legal rights.**

Objective 1 1588 persons with developmental disabilities and family members will be trained to become effective advocates.

Strategy 1.1 Continue financial support for the Partners in Policymaking program.
Approximate Cost: \$78,000 for FFY 2009

Strategy 1.1.1 Solicit applications from potential participants and meet with selection committee by November of each year to select a new Partners class.

Strategy 1.1.2 Modify application form to solicit information from applicants on issues of concern and their ideas for improvement. **ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2007**

Strategy 1.1.3 Continue to conduct individual session evaluations of the Partners in Policymaking Program and modify the program as warranted.

Strategy 1.1.4 Maintain a system to keep track of graduates and maintain supportive connections (i.e., develop a listserv; recruit graduates as mentors for current participants, etc.)

Strategy 1.1.5 Coordinate and fund a reunion of graduates in conjunction with a refresher course to enhance leadership skills. **ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2008**

Strategy 1.2 Continue to contract with Families Helping Families and People First of Louisiana to financially support stipends for persons with developmental disabilities and their family members to participate in training conferences, meetings, events, and community memberships.
Approximate Cost: \$46,000 for FFY 2009

Strategy 1.3 Provide financial support for the Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum, a leadership training program for high school students with developmental disabilities.
Approximate Cost: \$10,000 for FFY 2009

Strategy 1.4 Provide guidance and assistance to boards of regional Human Services Authorities and Districts (HAS/D) in developing and implementing effective training and technical assistance plans that ensure HAS/D's board members are knowledgeable and prepared to address systems issues that result in improved community-based service delivery systems.

Strategy 1.5 Provide financial support for the development and implementation of training for people with developmental disabilities by individuals with developmental disabilities on topics that increase skill and knowledge in areas related to communicating needs and wants, abuse and neglect and other areas identified by individuals with developmental disabilities through the "My Choice" project.
Approximate Cost: \$10,000 for FFY 2009

Total Approximate Cost: \$144,000 for FFY 2009

Objective 2 The statewide self-advocacy organization will be supported and strengthened through collaboration with the Louisiana Self-Advocacy Project.

Strategy 2.1 Continue supporting the operation of People First of Louisiana.
Approximate Cost: \$110,000 for FFY 2009

- Strategy 2.1.1 Support training for the organization's officers and leadership.
- Strategy 2.1.2 Fund sufficient staff positions to supervise and coordinate all self-advocacy activities in the state.
- Strategy 2.1.3 Develop and support local self-advocacy chapters and support volunteer advisors across the state.
- Strategy 2.1.4 Ensure that all meetings are conducted in an accessible format (i.e., sign language interpreters, large print, etc.).
- Strategy 2.1.5 Ensure that sufficient funds are available to support transportation needs of People First members.

Strategy 2.2 Advocate for and help facilitate the appointment and participation of individuals with developmental disabilities, especially those with cognitive disabilities, on state and regional boards and committees (i.e., advocate for travel reimbursement).

Total Approximate Cost: \$110,000 for FFY 2009

Objective 3 Members of the Council and its committees will be supported to serve as effective advocates for state and national systems change and receive staff and administrative support to effectively implement the Council's mission and goals.

Strategy 3.1 Support individuals with developmental disabilities and family members of individuals with developmental disabilities in participation in Council meetings and other functions.

Strategy 3.2 Support individuals with developmental disabilities and family members of individuals with developmental disabilities on the Council in participation in training and educational opportunities.

Approximate Cost: \$3,000 for FFY 2009

Strategy 3.3 Support Council leadership's participation in national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities.

Total Approximate Cost: \$3,000 for FFY 2009

Objective 4 The lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families will be enhanced by continuing a collaborative relationship among the Council, the Advocacy Center, and the Human Development Center.

Strategy 4.1 Multiply the impact of the efforts of the three DD Programs by focusing on and coordinating mutually agreed upon objectives.

Strategy 4.1.1 Promote efficiency and cost-effectiveness for the three programs through joint ventures such as producing and distributing a joint newsletter in print and on-line.

Approximate Cost: \$13,386 for FFY 2009

Strategy 4.1.2 Collaborate on efforts to gain public input.

Total Approximate Cost: \$13,386 for FFY 2009

Objective 5 The parents or family members of 25 individuals residing in developmental centers will be educated on the value and benefits of transition from institutional services to individualized community supports and resources that are available in the community (including housing).

- Strategy 5.1 Develop and implement an SOP for a 1-year pilot project to identify and educate parents/family members on the value and benefits of transition from institutional services to individualized community supports. **ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2007**

OTHER SERVICES AVAILABLE OR OFFERED TO INDIVIDUALS IN A COMMUNITY, INCLUDING FORMAL AND INFORMAL COMMUNITY SUPPORTS THAT AFFECT THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE

GOAL Individuals have access to other services available or offered in a community, including formal and informal community supports that affect their quality of life.

Objective 6 2500 individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will receive individual and family supports through support of grassroots systemic advocacy. **Accomplished in FFY08**

Objective 7 Reform of the long term care system to align resources to meet demand for individual and family supports will be advanced through grassroots systemic advocacy, collaboration, coordination, and education of legislators, policy makers and other stakeholders.

Strategy 7.1 Oversee implementation of the Community and Family Support System Plan.

Strategy 7.2 Continue to provide financial and other support to LaCAN for the coordination of grassroots advocacy efforts regarding individual and family supports.
Approximate Cost: \$130,000 for FFY 2009

Strategy 7.2.1 Conduct and evaluate annual LaCAN leader and FHF directors' training event.

Strategy 7.2.2 Support FHF directors and LaCAN leaders to conduct and evaluate regional LaCAN events.

Strategy 7.2.3 Collaborate and coordinate LaCAN activities with other advocacy groups.

Strategy 7.3 Advocate for Louisiana to begin to reallocate resources away from developmental centers and invest additional resources to provide community supports to the individuals re-entering the community and those on the waiver waiting list.

Strategy 7.4 Advocate for Louisiana to continue transitioning individuals out of developmental centers into home and community based waiver services in their own homes in the community and continue to close its existing developmental centers.

Strategy 7.5 Advocate for elimination of the waiver waiting list.

Strategy 7.6 Collaborate with other advocacy groups to plan and support an annual Disability Rights Rally at the State Capitol.
Approximate Cost: \$5,000 for FFY 2009

Strategy 7.7 Support and actively participate in the Governor's Long-Term Care reform efforts consistent with the Long-Term Care Executive Order
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2007

Strategy 7.8 Educate legislators on the need for long-term care reform and the expansion of individualized supports through face-to-face visits by Council members.

Strategy 7.9 Develop video and other media materials to be broadcast via website and a PSA campaign designed to educate policy makers of the needs of those on the waiver waiting list and the benefits that community living opportunities affords recipients.
Approximate Cost: \$15,000

Strategy 7.10 Monitor the transition of the guardianship program from OCDD to GODA to ensure the effectiveness of the program.

Total Approximate Cost: \$150,000 for FFY 2009

- Objective 8 75,000 persons with developmental disabilities and their families will continue to obtain the information, training, and support they need through support to the Families Helping Families Resource Centers.
- Strategy 8.1 Continue supporting Families Helping Families Resource Centers.
- Objective 9 27,000 people with developmental disabilities and their families will continue to receive information on disability services and resources through the continued operation, update and promotion of the Disabilities Information Access Line (DIAL) and the Information and Referral services provided by the 10 FHF Regional Resource Centers.
- Strategy 9.1 Provide information and referrals to persons with disabilities and their families to access needed community services or resume services disrupted by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
- Strategy 9.2 Maintain and update disaster recovery and emergency preparedness information.
- Objective 10 300 direct support professionals (DSP) will be recruited and/or supported through collaboration with the Human Development Center in the development and distribution of recruitment materials. **ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2008**
- Strategy 10.1 Develop Council approved brochures, posters, radio spots, DVDs, and other recruitment materials describing the career of Direct Support Professionals. **ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2007**
- Strategy 10.2 Distribute the approved recruitment materials to workforce development and career placement offices at community colleges, vocational technical schools, colleges, and universities, one stop career centers, libraries, etc. **ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2008**
- Objective 11 Direct Support Professionals (DSP) will be compensated at or above the southern regional average.
- Strategy 11.1 Work collaboratively with OCDD, Medicaid and the LSU-HDC on initiatives to establish a career ladder and increase wages for DSPs.
- Strategy 11.2 Track the implementation of the Long Term Care (LTC) Comprehensive Plan.
- Objective 12 The emergency preparation needs of 5000 people with developmental disabilities will be included in the Red Cross sheltering plans and the state and parish emergency operations' plans.
- Strategy 12.1 Educate and work with the Red Cross, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and Parish Offices' of Emergency Preparedness to provide for the needs of people with developmental disabilities in their emergency operations' plans and their emergency sheltering services including communication systems.
- Strategy 12.2 Continue to collaborate with members of the DD network in efforts to include people with disabilities in emergency planning and preparedness.
- Objective 13 People with disabilities will have expanded social and friendship network opportunities as a result of a Louisiana on-line interactive web-based community
- Strategy 13.1 Provide funding for the maintenance of a facebook Disaboom website specific to people with disabilities in Louisiana.
 Approximate Cost: \$5,000

Total Approximate Cost: \$5,000 for FFY 2009

HOUSING ACTIVITIES

GOAL **Adults choose where and with whom they live.**

Objective 14 Persons with disabilities will have increased access to housing through Council efforts.

Strategy 14.1 Provide funding for website for collaborative grant project with the Advocacy Center, the Human Development Center, and the Fair Housing Action Center to provide fair housing education and outreach.

ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2007

Strategy 14.2 Fund consulting and technical assistance to housing developer(s) to insure the availability of affordable, accessible, and integrated housing.

ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2007

Strategy 14.3 Provide rental subsidy and start up funding for people with developmental disabilities transitioning out of institutions through the Money Follows the Person grant.

Approximate Cost: \$20,000 for FFY 2009

Strategy 14.4 Provide financial support for the development of a Home of Your Own program in Baton Rouge and training on how to develop a Home of Your Own program in six other regions of the state.

Approximate Cost: \$20,000 for FFY 2009

Strategy 14.5 Provide financial support to develop and maintain a website with housing information for people with developmental disabilities such as housing advocacy issues, housing terminology, training opportunities, and resources for developing and maintaining local CHANs.

Approximate Cost: \$1,050 for FFY 2009

Total Approximate Cost: \$41,050 for FFY 2009

HEALTH ACTIVITIES

GOAL **People are healthy and benefit from the full range of needed health services.**

Objective 15 Health care for persons with developmental disabilities will become a priority in Louisiana as a result of the DD Council's collaboration with at least 8 advocacy bodies, programs and projects.

Strategy 15.1 Participate in collaborative advocacy bodies, including but not limited to the Act 451 Rulemaking and Oversight Committee, Louisiana Integrated Treatment System Consumer Advisory Board, Donaldsonville Health Coalition, Advocacy Center Board, National Association of State Medicaid Directors, the DHH Medical Care Advisory Committee, Behavioral Health Action Network, the Human Development Center Constituency Advisory Council, and Healthy Washington Parish 2010.

Strategy 15.2 Support outreach efforts to the disability community for health related systems like LaCHIP, LaMOMS, and the Family Opportunity Act.

Objective 16 Consumer-directed health care practices will be improved as a result of Council action.

Strategy 16.1 Council members and other stakeholders will participate in the implementation of SB 546 to ensure consumer choice, flexibility, and control of services to support independent living in the community (i.e., rule making, policy development, etc.).

EDUCATION AND EARLY INTERVENTION ACTIVITIES

GOAL **Students reach their educational potential and infants and young children reach their developmental potential.**

Objective 17 500 people will become active in systems advocacy about inclusive education through support of a statewide family-driven special education grassroots advocacy organization.

Strategy 17.1 Continue to provide financial and other support to LaTEACH for the promotion of appropriate, inclusive education for all students.
Approximate Cost: \$60,000 for FFY 2009

Strategy 17.1.1 LaTEACH will continue to collaborate annually with the LA Department of Education to sponsor parent conferences in multiple regions of the state.

Strategy 17.1.2 LaTEACH will continue involvement and advocacy for policymaking in assessment, accountability, curriculum, graduation, and exit issues.

Strategy 17.1.3 LaTEACH will continue to implement strategies with the LA Department of Education to disseminate information to special education students and their families.

Strategy 17.1.4 LaTEACH will continue to provide an area coordinator in each BESE district.

Strategy 17.1.5 LaTEACH will develop and implement strategies on how the concerns identified in the parent needs assessment can be addressed by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and other policymakers.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2007

Strategy 17.2 Educate members of the general public on the rights and abilities of persons with developmental disabilities through the Council's public awareness efforts.
Approximate Cost: \$3,500 for FFY 2009

Strategy 17.2.1 Form an ad hoc committee to collaborate with the Louisiana Department of Education, Governor's Office of Disability Affairs, Families Helping Families and other agencies and organizations to initiate and implement public awareness activities in conjunction with National Inclusive Schools Week.

Strategy 17.2.2 Increase outreach to all schools (private, parochial, etc.) through advertisement (signs, media alerts, etc.) of the annual statewide Inclusive Schools Art Contest.

Strategy 17.2.3 Display contest entries in a location frequently used by the general public (i.e., shopping mall) and include a demonstration of alternative techniques used by an artist with a disability.

Strategy 17.2.4 Host an annual Awards Ceremony to recognize winning contestants and educate attendants on the rights and abilities of persons with developmental disabilities.

Total Approximate Cost: \$63,500 for FFY 2009

- Objective 18 The DD Council will be represented on at least 3 educational decision making bodies in order to represent the interests of students with developmental disabilities.
- Strategy 18.1 The DD Council will continue to be represented on Louisiana’s Task Force to respond to the US Department of Education’s Federal Monitoring Citations including the Validated Practices Committee.
- Strategy 18.2 The DD Council will continue to be represented on planning and policy review groups created by the LA Department of Education including but not limited to: State Performance Plan (SPP) Part B Committee/Policy Review Group and Steering Committee; LDOE Dispute Resolution Advisory Committee; Consortium of Low Incidence Disabilities; SIG Management Team; State Autism Team; and the Louisiana State Positive Behavioral Support Advisory Committee
- Strategy 18.3 The DD Council will continue to be represented on the SICC.
- Strategy 18.4 The DD Council will continue to be represented on the LA Children’s Cabinet.
- Objective 19 30 children with autism and their families will receive early intervention services in inclusive community-based programs that result in improved language and social skills
- Strategy 19.1 The DD Council will collaborate with OCDD and HDC to build a pilot project that provides support to early intervention provider agencies with delivering effective evidence-based early intervention services to young children with autism.
Approximate Cost: \$60,000 for FFY 2009

Total Approximate Cost: \$60,000 for FFY 2009

EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES

GOAL People get and keep employment consistent with their interests, abilities and needs.

- Objective 20 Young adults with developmental disabilities will gain employment experience through a governmental internship program developed by the Council in collaboration with other state agencies.
- Strategy 20.1 Implement the “Count Us In” Government Internship program to provide young adults with developmental disabilities the opportunity to intern at the State Capitol and other state and local offices.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2008
- Objective 21 The number of people with developmental disabilities obtaining and maintaining integrated, community employment and careers will be increased through Council initiatives.
- Objective 21.1 Provide financial support to develop or obtain a curriculum and provide training to agencies on recommended practices for supporting people with disabilities in employment.
Approximate Cost: \$75,000 for FFY 2009
- Objective 21.2 Provide financial support to develop and conduct an “outreach campaign” to educate employers, individuals with disabilities, family members, and provider agencies about the benefits of having people with developmental disabilities as part of the community-based workforce.
Approximate Cost: \$42,863 for FFY 2009

- Objective 21.3 Participate in advisory groups that promote policies that provide incentives to community providers for providing integrated community employment versus segregated day programming through mechanisms such as differential reimbursement rates favoring community employment outcomes.
- Strategy 21.4 Collaborate with LRS on Job Fairs held in conjunction with National Disability Awareness Month.

Total Approximate Cost: \$117,863 for FFY 2009

- Objective 22 The Council will learn the status of employment for people with developmental disabilities in Louisiana and have the data to effectively plan and advocate for meaningful employment options for people with developmental disabilities.
 - Strategy 22.1 Provide financial support for an intensive study of the state of the state of employment opportunities for people with DD.
Approximate cost: \$ 35,000 for FFY 2009
 - Strategy 22.2 Establish an agenda to address the issues identified in the study for meaningful employment options for people with developmental disabilities

Total Approximate Cost: \$ 35,000 for FFY 2009

TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITIES

GOAL People have transportation services for work, school, medical, and personal needs.

- Objective 23 Transportation choices and opportunities for persons with disabilities will be expanded through the Council's assistance in the coordination of at least one transportation program in Louisiana.
 - Strategy 23.1 The Council will continue to participate in interagency collaborations on transportation issues including United We Ride.
 - Strategy 23.1.1 The Council will support efforts to expand transportation services and develop new transportation services in the state through interagency collaborative efforts.
 - Strategy 23.2 The Council will be represented on Mayor's Councils on Disabilities to advocate for accessible public transportation in major metropolitan areas.

RECREATION ACTIVITIES

GOAL People benefit from inclusive recreational, leisure and social activities consistent with their interests and abilities.

- Objective 24 50 individuals with developmental disabilities will have opportunities to enjoy increased or enhanced recreational activities through Council collaborative efforts.
 - Strategy 24.1 Advocate for the involvement of people with developmental disabilities in projects funded or supported by LA Serve.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2007
 - Strategy 24.2 Facilitate the involvement of representatives of LA Serve in inclusive recreational opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2007

Strategy 24.3 Expand the existing Positive Behavioral Support recreation project by replicating inclusive recreational opportunities to individuals with disabilities, including those who require positive behavioral supports with additional recreation departments in other parishes.

Approximate Cost: \$36,000 for FFY 2009

Strategy 24.4 Collaborate with the Louisiana Indian Education Association (LIEA) to facilitate the inclusion of ten American Indian students with disabilities in activities funded or supported by LIEA.

Total Approximate Cost: \$36,000 for FFY 2009

CHILD CARE ACTIVITIES

GOAL Children and families benefit from a range of inclusive, flexible child care options.

Objective 25 Childcare providers in each region of the state will have access to training on supporting children with disabilities in inclusive day care settings.

Strategy 25.1 Develop an SOP and contract to utilize training modules developed by Project PACT to implement and evaluate a train-the-trainer program for Department of Social Services' Regional Entities charged with training child care providers.

Accomplished in FFY 2008