

Louisiana
Developmental Disabilities Council

State Plan
FFY 2007 - 2012

Goals and Objectives
for
FFY 2008

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: \$76,123 for FFY 2008

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 Develop a system to keep track of graduates and maintain supportive connections (i.e., develop a listserve; 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.

Strategy 1.2 Continue to contract with Families Helping Families 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: \$38,000 for FFY 2008

Total Approximate Cost: \$114,123 for FFY 2008

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 2008

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 2008

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.
Approximate Cost: \$27,745 for FFY 2008
- 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 2008
- Strategy 3.3 Support Council leadership's participation in national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities.
Approximate Cost: \$6,000 for FFY 2008

Total Approximate Cost: \$36,745 for FFY 2008

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 2008

Strategy 4.1.2 Collaborate on efforts to gain public input.

Total Approximate Cost: \$13,386 for FFY 2008

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

Strategy 5.2 Evaluate and continue project if pilot project is successful.

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.

Strategy 6.1 Oversee implementation of the Community and Family Support System Plan.
Approximate Cost: \$22,485 for FFY 2008

Strategy 6.2 Continue to provide financial and other support to LaCAN for the expansion of the Community and Family Support System.
Approximate Cost: \$115,540 for FFY 2008

Strategy 6.2.1 Determine legislative goals and implement legislative strategy.

Strategy 6.2.2 Hold strategy meeting with LaCAN Leadership to select new team leaders where there are vacancies and update and implement member recruitment plan.

- Strategy 6.2.3 Establish calendar of advocacy activity and develop fact sheets and cost figures.
 - Strategy 6.2.4 Conduct and evaluate annual LaCAN leader and FHF directors' training event.
 - Strategy 6.2.5 Support FHF directors and LaCAN leaders to conduct and evaluate regional LaCAN events.
 - Strategy 6.2.6 Provide ongoing staff support and assistance to LaCAN leaders and monitor their activities.
 - Strategy 6.2.7 Collaborate and coordinate LaCAN activities with other advocacy groups.
- Strategy 6.3 Participate in advocacy activities to expand Home and Community Based Waiver services.
Approximate Cost: \$12,000 for FFY 2008

- Strategy 6.3.1 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 waiting list.
- Strategy 6.3.2 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 begin to close its existing developmental centers.
- Strategy 6.3.3 Collaborate with other advocacy groups to plan and support an annual Disability Rights Rally at the State Capitol.

Total Approximate Cost: \$150,025 for FFY 2008

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

- Strategy 7.1 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 7.2 Educate legislators on the need for long-term care reform through face-to-face visits by Council members.

Strategy 7.3 DD Council members will be trained and supported to make presentations about the DD Council at regional conferences and forums.

Strategy 7.4 Advocate for an efficient and effective guardianship program.

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.

Strategy 8.2 Continue to fund the Families Helping Families of Louisiana Executive Director position.

Approximate Cost: \$55,000 for FFY 2008

Total Approximate Cost: \$55,000 for FFY 2008

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.

Approximate Cost: \$59,800 for FFY 2008

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.

Total Approximate Cost: \$59,800 for FFY 2008

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.

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.

Strategy 10.3 Participate in other groups working on Direct Support Professional issues.

Objective 11 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 11.1 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.

Strategy 11.2 Continue to collaborate with members of the DD network in efforts to include people with disabilities in emergency planning and preparedness.

HOUSING ACTIVITIES

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

Objective 12 Persons with disabilities will have increased access to housing through Council efforts.

Strategy 12.1 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 12.2 Fund consulting and technical assistance to housing developer(s) to insure the availability of affordable, accessible, and integrated housing.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2007

Strategy 12.3 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: \$33,000 for FFY 2008

Total Approximate Cost: \$33,000 for FFY 2008

HEALTH ACTIVITIES

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

Objective 13 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 13.1 Participate in collaborative advocacy bodies, including but not limited to the Mental Health Planning Council, the Mental Health Reform Coalition, the Advocacy Center Board, the Human Development Center Consumer Advisory Council, the DHH Medical Care Advisory Committee, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the Donaldsonville Health Coalition and Healthy Washington Parish 2010.

Strategy 13.2 Support outreach efforts to the disability community for health related systems like LaCHIP and LaMOMS.

Objective 14 Consumer-directed health care practices will be improved as a result of Council action.

Strategy 14.1 Council members and other stakeholders will review the impact of the implementation of Act 451 (resulting from passage of HB697) to ensure consumer choice, flexibility, and control of services to support independent living in the community (i.e., monitor rule amendments, related legislation, etc.)

EDUCATION AND EARLY INTERVENTION ACTIVITIES

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

Objective 15 500 people will become active in systems advocacy about inclusive education through support of a statewide family-driven special education grassroots advocacy organization.

Strategy 15.1 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 2008

Strategy 15.1.1 LaTEACH will continue to collaborate annually with the LA Department of Education to sponsor parent conferences in multiple regions of the state.

Strategy 15.1.2 LaTEACH will expand involvement and advocacy for policymaking in assessment, accountability, curriculum, graduation, and exit issues.

- Strategy 15.1.3 LaTEACH will develop and implement strategies with the LA Department of Education to better disseminate information to special education students and their families.
- Strategy 15.1.4 LaTEACH will provide an area coordinator in each BESE district.
- Strategy 15.1.5 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 15.2 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: \$7,000 for FFY 2008

- Strategy 15.2.1 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 15.2.2 Increase outreach to all schools (private, parochial, etc.) through advertisement (signs, media alerts, etc.) of the annual statewide Inclusive Schools Art Contest.
- Strategy 15.2.3 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 15.2.4 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: \$67,000 for FFY 2008

Objective 16 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 16.1 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 16.2 The DD Council will continue to be represented on planning and policy review groups created by the LA Department of Education.

Strategy 16.3 The DD Council will continue to be represented on the SICC.

Strategy 16.4 The DD Council will continue to be represented on the LA Children's Cabinet.

Objective 17 The capacity of libraries to increase awareness of disabilities will be enhanced through the development of library resources and corresponding programs.

Strategy 17.1 Contract to replicate the disability awareness program developed by McNeese University to expand and enhance disability awareness resources and corresponding programs in existing school library programs.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2007

EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES

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

Objective 18 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 18.1 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.
Approximate Cost: \$35,000 for FFY 2008

Strategy 18.2 Collaborate with LRS on Job Fairs held in conjunction with National Disability Awareness Month.

Total Approximate Cost: \$35,000 for FFY 2008

TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITIES

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

Objective 19 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 19.1 The Council will continue to participate in interagency collaborations on transportation issues including United We Ride.

Strategy 19.1.1 The Council will support efforts to expand transportation services and develop new transportation services in the state through interagency collaborative efforts.

Strategy 19.2 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 20 50 individuals with developmental disabilities will have opportunities to enjoy increased or enhanced recreational activities through Council collaborative efforts.

Strategy 20.1 Advocate for the involvement of people with developmental disabilities in projects funded or supported by LA Serve.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2007

Strategy 20.2 Facilitate the involvement of representatives of LA Serve in inclusive recreational opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2007

Strategy 20.3 Develop an SOP and contract to enhance the capacity of existing recreational programs to provide inclusive recreational opportunities to individuals with disabilities, including those who require positive behavioral supports.
Approximate Cost: \$42,000 for FFY 2008

Strategy 20.4 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: \$42,000 for FFY 2008

CHILD CARE ACTIVITIES

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

Objective 21 Childcare providers in each region of the state will have access to training on supporting children with disabilities in inclusive day care settings.

Strategy 21.1 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.

Approximate Cost: \$15,000 for FFY 2008

Total Approximate Cost: \$15,000 for FFY 2008