

Louisiana Guide to Supports & Services for Individuals with Disabilities, Elders and Their Families Affected by Disasters

State Agencies		
Louisiana Department of Health (LDH)	Protects and promotes health and ensures access to medical, preventive, and rehabilitative services. Contact for services and assistance related to addictive disorders, aging, mental health, developmental disabilities, public health, Medicaid and Medicaid transportation.	Emergency Operations Center Watch Desk: 225-354-3570 www.ldh.la.gov Healthy Louisiana http://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/2327
	Office of Aging and Adult Services -Provides services that offer meaningful choices to older adults and people with adult-onset disabilities.	866-758-5035 OAAS.Inquiries@LA.GOV www.oaas.dhh.louisiana.gov
	Office of Behavioral Health -Manages and delivers services and supports necessary to improve the quality of life for people with mental illness and/or addictive disorders.	225-342-2540 www.obh.dhh.louisiana.gov
	Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities – Services as the Single Point of Entry into the developmental disabilities services system and oversees public and private residential services and other services for people with developmental disabilities.	225-342-0095 http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/subhome/11/n/8 Early Steps: www.laeikids.com/
	Louisiana Commission for the Deaf - Provides accessibility services for persons whom are Deaf, deaf-blind, or have hearing loss or speech impairment to gain equal access to any public or private service.	800-256-1523 www.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/318
Protective Services	Children up to age 18: The Department of Children and Family Services, Office of Child Welfare, Child Protective Services	855-4LA-KIDS (855-452-5437) http://www.dhchs.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&nid=298&pid=109
	Adults, age 18 – 59 and emancipated minors: LDH, Office of Aging and Adult Services, Adult Protective Services	800-898-4910 http://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/120
	Older adults, age 60+: Governor’s Office of Elderly Affairs, Elderly Protective Services	833-577-6532 http://goea.louisiana.gov/assets/EPS/EPSPage.pdf
Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)	Provides food Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits (D-SNAP). Provides Child Welfare services. Provides other community support services such as TANF.	888-524-3578 888-997-1117 (EBT card) http://www.dhchs.la.gov/
Office of Juvenile Justice	Provides services to youth who are at-risk or delinquent, including those with disabilities. Contact for related services.	225-287-7900 www.ojj.la.gov
Governor’s Office of Disability Affairs (GODA)	Facilitates access to the opportunities needed for people with disabilities to live as fully engaged participants in society. All Independent Living Centers can be reached through GODA	225-219-7550 http://gov.louisiana.gov/page/disability-affairs
Governor’s Office of Elderly Affairs	Administers a broad range of home and community-based services through an aging network.	225-342- 7100 http://goea.louisiana.gov
Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs	Provides comprehensive care and quality service to Louisiana’s veterans and families with regard to health care, education, disability benefits, long-term care, and burial honors	1-877-GEAUXVA 225-219-5000 www.vetaffairs.la.gov
Louisiana Workforce Commission	Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) - Assists persons with disabilities to obtain/maintain employment and/or achieve independence by providing rehabilitation services and working cooperatively with business and other community resources.	800-737-2958 http://www.laworks.net/WorkforceDev/LRS/LRS_Main.asp
	Blind Services provides services to eligible individuals who are blind or visually impaired. The Randolph-Sheppard Business Enterprise Program and the Older Blind/Visually Impaired Program are parts of Blind Services.	225-219-2943 or 800-737-2958 http://www.laworks.net/WorkforceDev/LRS/LRS_BlindServices.asp
Education Services		
Department of Education	Maintains information for displaced students/teachers. Also provides verification of eligibility for Special Education Services for transferring or homeless children through SER (Special Education Reporting) System. Contact for related information.	(877) 453-2721 www.louisianabelieves.com
Louisiana Schools for the Deaf and the Visually Impaired	Contact for services for children who have a hearing loss and/or are blind or have a vision impairment. The schools are on the same campus and share some services and facilities.	(225) 769-8160 (888) 769-8111 www.lsdvi.org
Communication		
Telecommunications Relay Services	Contact for telephone communication assistance for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or with speech impairments.	(800) 947-5277 (V) (800) 846-5277 (TTY); 711 (TTY) (888) 550-5277 (ASCII) (888) 272-5530 (Speech to Speech) (800) 737-1813 (Spanish)
Transportation		
Dept. of Transportation and Development (DOTD)	The Louisiana DOTD Public Transportation Section has published the Louisiana Transit Resource Guide to inform administrators, transit managers, and other interested parties about the availability of public transportation in Louisiana.	http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictransportation/transitresources

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Advocacy & Support Organizations

AARP	Provides support and information to people age 50 and over, offering a wide range of unique benefits and services.	866-448-3620 https://states.aarp.org/region/louisiana/
Disability Rights Louisiana	Provides the following to people with disabilities: information and referral, legal advice and representation, outreach, training, and systems advocacy.	800-960-7705 504-522-2337 https://disabilityrightsla.org/
American Red Cross	Contact for assistance with immediate emergency disaster-caused needs including shelters. Also provides a register for individuals affected by disasters to post themselves as "safe and well" and for family members to search for those affected by disaster.	www.redcross.org 1-800-733-2767 www.redcross.org/safeandwell (for info on displaced persons)
LATAN (Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network)	Contact for assistive devices and durable medical equipment for disaster survivors, and for information regarding other programs and services for people with disabilities and age-related limitations who can benefit from assistive devices and daily living aids.	800-270-6185 (LA toll-free) 225-925-9500 (V/TT) www.latan.org
Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council	Contact this advocacy organization for information and referral to available resources, supports and services for people with disabilities, including your local Families Helping Families resource center.	800-450-8108 www.laddc.org
The Arc of Louisiana	Contact for advocating for the rights and full participation of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.	866-966-6260 www.thearca.org/
Louisiana 211	Louisiana 2-1-1 is an information and referral line for finding local services and resources in your community.	211 www.louisiana211.org/
Louisiana Parent Training and Information Center	As a program within Families Helping Families of Greater New Orleans, LaPTIC assists families to navigate the maze of special education services throughout Louisiana.	504-888-9111 https://fhfofgno.org/laptic
Louisiana Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)	Works as a volunteer agency liaison to assist with federal assistance programs, deadlines, coordination with other volunteer organizations and donation management. Also identifies populations with special needs and assists applicants to avoid duplication of benefits.	www.lavoad.org National: 703-778-5088 www.nvoad.org
Trach Mommas of Louisiana	Provides peer support, resources, education, training, information and advocacy to parents, caregivers, and individuals with a tracheostomy. Provides disaster relief to all who are medically complex or rely on technology.	225-200-5178 http://www.trachmommas.org/
Special Needs & Parent Support Services of LA, LLC (SNAPSS, La) Medicaid Help Line	Free Medicaid advocate assisting people with disabilities and complex medical needs navigate all Medicaid Services. Info, referral, resources, access to care, denials of care, appeals, elderly or developmental disability waivers.	Text/Call: 504-300-5117 FB: @SNAPSSLa Messenger: @SNAPSSLa Web: KarenScallan.com
Portlight Inclusive Disaster Strategies	Provides supports and services to people with disabilities who are surviving a disaster.	800-626-4959 http://www.portlight.org/

Disability Specific Organizations

ALS Association	Provides services for persons with ALS (Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) through hospital-affiliated clinics, support groups for individuals and their families, and assistance with the purchase/loan of prescribed medical equipment.	800-891-3746 alsalams.org
Alzheimer's Association	Contact for referrals to community programs and services for people exhibiting problems with memory, decision-making, self-care, communication and disorientation. Available to address caregiver stress.	800-272-3900 24/7 HELPLINE Available in multiple languages www.alz.org/louisiana
Louisiana Autism Society	Responds to the need for quality life options for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder living throughout Louisiana.	https://www.lastateautism.org/
Down Syndrome Association of GNO	Provides information and support to all parents with children with Down syndrome and other cognitive disabilities.	504-259-6201 www.dsagno.org
Epilepsy Foundation Louisiana	Contact for information related to epilepsy research, education, advocacy, and services.	(800) 960-0587 www.epilepsyloouisiana.org
Lighthouse Louisiana	Serves people who are blind or visually impaired by providing job training, competitive employment and services. Our goal is to promote individual independence and self-reliance.	888-792-0163 www.lighthouseloouisiana.org/
Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society; Louisiana Chapter	Promotes research, educates, advocates for people with multiple sclerosis, and organizes a wide range of programs including support for the newly diagnosed and those living with MS over time.	1-800-344-4867 http://www.nationalmssociety.org/chapters/LAM/index.aspx
Muscular Dystrophy Association	Provides services for children and adults with neuromuscular diseases through hospital-affiliated clinics; assists with the purchase/loan of prescribed medical equipment; offers support groups for individuals and their families and summer camps for children with muscular dystrophy.	800-572-1717
Nat'l Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) Louisiana	Provides resources, insights, coping skills, and genuine support for families and those in recovery and living with mental illness. All programs are led by peers and family members.	225-291-6262 info@namilouisiana.org https://www.namilouisiana.org/
National Spinal Cord Injury Association	Provides resources, services, and peer support to people with spinal cord injury and disease (SCI/D).	718-803-3782 www.spinalcord.org/
Spina Bifida Association	Serves adults and children who live with the challenges of spina bifida through education, advocacy, research, and services.	(800) 621-3141 www.spinabifidaassociation.org