

**Louisiana Guide to Supports & Services for
People 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, and Medicaid.	Emergency Operations Center Watch Desk: (225) 354-3570 https://ldh.la.gov/ Healthy Louisiana: https://www.myplan.healthy.la.gov/
	Office of Aging and Adult Services -Serves aging adults and people with adult-onset disabilities.	(866) 758-5035 OAAS.Inquiries@LA.GOV https://ldh.la.gov/subhome/12
	Office of Behavioral Health -Provides treatment, care and support to improve quality of life for individuals with mental illness and/or addictive disorders.	(225) 342-2540 https://ldh.la.gov/subhome/10
	Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities – Provides services to people with developmental disabilities. Also, provides early intervention services to children 0-36 months who have developmental delays or who have a medical condition likely to result in a developmental disability (Early Steps).	(225) 342-0095 or (866) 783-5553 https://ldh.la.gov/subhome/11 Early Steps: www.laeikids.com/
	Louisiana Commission for the Deaf - The 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 https://ldh.la.gov/page/LCD
	In-Home Vaccination Program - provides free, in-home COVID-19 vaccination to homebound individuals and people with disabilities, along with any loved ones and caregivers in the home	Register by Phone: 855-453-0774 or Online: https://ldh.la.gov/inhomeshots Info: https://ldh.la.gov/page/4464
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.	(225) 342-0286 www.dcfs.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

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Protective Services	Children up to age 18: Department of Children and Family Services, Office of Child Welfare	855-4LA-KIDS (855-452-5437) https://www.dcfs.louisiana.gov/page/reporting-child-abuse-neglect
	Adults, age 18 and over who have disabilities, including elders: LDH-Office of Aging and Adult Services	(800) 898-4910 https://ldh.la.gov/page/120
	Adults, age 60 and over: Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs, Elderly Protective Services	(833) 577-6532 www.goea.louisiana.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	(877) 668-2722 https://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 Housing Corporation (LHC)	Administers federally-funded programs that assist residents impacted by natural disasters to find safe housing.	225-763-8700 www.lhc.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 is a section of LRS Vocational Rehabilitation Program that 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

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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 Special Education Reporting System (225) 342-6215
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 visual impairment. The schools are on the same campus and share some services or facilities.	(225) 769-8160 (888) 769-8111 www.lsvi.org
Communication		
Tele-communication s 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 Department of Transportation and Development Public Transportation Section has published the Louisiana Transit Resource Guide to inform citizens, public officials, administrators, transit managers, and other interested parties about the availability of public transportation in Louisiana.	http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictransportation/transitresources
Advocacy & Support Groups		
AARP	Provides support and information to people age 50 and over, offering a wide range of unique benefits and services.	(866) 448-3620 www.aarp.org/la
Disability Rights of Louisiana	Provides the following to people with disabilities and the elderly: information and referral, legal advice and representation, outreach, training, and systems advocacy.	(800) 960-7705 (504) 522-2337 https://disabilityrightsla.org/

**Louisiana Guide to Supports & Services for
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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 (access local chapter with zip code) 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 the local Families Helping Families resource center.	(800) 450-8108 www.laddc.org
Louisiana Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health	Provides education, support and information to families of children and adolescents with serious emotional, behavioral, or mental disorders statewide. Also, serves as collaborative partner in the Family Recovery Project for community mobilization to ensure that families and children with mental health needs get the support needed.	(240) 403-1901 www.ffcmh.org (National)
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 http://fhfogn.org/laptic
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 have medically complexities, disabilities, or are of the aging population.	225-200-5178 http://www.trachmommas.org/
Special Needs & Parent Support Services of LA (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 disabilities waivers.	Text/Call: 504-300-5117 FB: @SNAPSSLa Messenger: @SNAPSSLa Web: KarenScallen.com

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People with Disabilities, Elders and Their Families Affected by Disasters**

Mental Health America of Louisiana	Provides community awareness campaigns, consumer protection services, and advocacy for mental health reform. Contact for consumer protection, advocacy, and crisis links.	225-978-2177 http://www.lsndc.org/index.php/component/cpx/?task=resource.view&id=469305
The Arc of Louisiana	An advocacy organization that provides resources, supports and services to individual with disabilities and their families.	(866) 966-6260 www.thearca.org/
Louisiana 211	Louisiana 2-1-1 is an information and referral line for finding human services answers. Just dial 211 wherever you are.	211 www.louisiana211.org/
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.	703-778-5088 (national) www.nvoad.org (national) https://www.swlavoad.org (SWLA)
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, assistance with purchase/loan of prescribed medical equipment.	225-343-9880 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
Down Syndrome Assoc. of GNO	Provides information and support to all parents with children with Down syndrome and other cognitive disabilities.	(504) 259-6201 www.dsagno.org
Louisiana Autism Society	Responds to the need for quality life options for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder living throughout Louisiana.	www.lastateautism.org

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People with Disabilities, Elders and Their Families Affected by Disasters**

Epilepsy Foundation Louisiana	Contact for information related to epilepsy research, education, advocacy, and services.	(800) 960-0587 www.epilepsylouisiana.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.lighthouselouisiana.org/
Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society-Louisiana	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-FIGHT MS, Option 1 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.	http://mda.org/near-you (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 http://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
UCP/United Cerebral Palsy	Identifies and provides treatment to children with cerebral palsy, developmental delays, and learning disabilities; works to enhance the quality of life for the families of these children.	Baton Rouge: (225) 923-3420 www.mcmainscdc.org New Orleans: (504) 461-4266 www.ucpgno.org

The Louisiana Emergency Management Disability and Aging Coalition (EMDAC) created this document. Revised: September 2022