

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, and Medicaid.	Emergency Operations Center Watch Desk: (225) 354-3570 www.ldh.la.gov transportation resources: http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/directory/detail/732 - click on "list of NEMT providers"
	Office of Aging and Adult Services -Serves aging adults and people with adult-onset disabilities.	(866) 758-5035 OAAAS.Inquiries@LA.GOV http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/118
	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 http://www.ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/94
	Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities - Provides services to people with developmental disabilities. 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 (866) 783-5553 http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/132 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 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	855-4LA-KIDS (855-452-5437) www.dcfcs.la.gov
	Adults, age 18 and over who have disabilities, including elders: DHH, Office of Aging and Adult Services, Adult/Elder Protective Services	(800) 898-4910 http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/118
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.dcfcs.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.	(877) 668-2722 VRS: (888) 890-6996 gov.louisiana.gov/disabilityaffairs/
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 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
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 www.doe.state.la.us
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.lsdvi.org
Communication		
Telecommunication 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		
Department 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

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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 www.aarp.org/la
Advocacy Center	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 www.advocacyla.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 (access local chapter with zip code) www.redcross.org/safeandwell (for info on displaced persons)
The Arc of Louisiana	Provides advocacy and education to policymakers, individuals with disabilities, families, providers and the community. Also, advocates for community based services and opportunities for people with disabilities to have choices as they live in the community.	(225) 383-1033 (866) 966-6260 www.thearca.org
Easterseals Louisiana	Provides exceptional services, education, outreach, and advocacy so that people living with autism and other disabilities can live, learn, work and play in their communities.	504-523-7325 www.easterseals.com/louisiana
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.	(800) 224-4010 www.ffcmh.org (National)
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.	http://www.mhal.org/ (800) 241-6425
Louisiana 2-1-1	Louisiana 2-1-1 is information and referral line for finding human services answers. Just dial 211 wherever you are.	2-1-1 www.louisiana211.org
Louisiana Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD)	Works as a voluntary agency liaison to assist with federal assistance programs, deadlines, and 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: (202) 955-8396 www.nvoad.org
Trach Mommas of Louisiana (TMOL)	Serves children and individuals who have tracheostomies and are medically fragile and technology dependent through education, advocacy, peer support, training and assistance with prescribed medical supplies.	(504) 723-7193 (225) 200-5178 www.trachmommas.org contact@trachmommas.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
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.epilepsyloisiana.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-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.	(800) 572-1717 http://mda.org/locate/state/la
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