

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

Advocacy & Support Groups		
AARP	Provides services to people age 50 and over, offering a wide range of unique benefits and services.	(866) 448-362C www.aarp.org
Advocacy Center	Provides the following to people with disabilities and the elderly: legally based advocacy, including information and referral, legal advice and representation, outreach, training, and systems advocacy.	(800) 960-7705 www.advocacy.a.org
American Red Cross Disaster Services	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 (access local chapter with zip code) (866) GET INFO (866) 438-4636 https://disastersafe.redcross.org (for info on displaced persons)
Down Syndrome Association of Greater New Orleans	Provides information and support to all parents with children with Down syndrome and other cognitive disabilities.	(504) 251-8953 www.dsagno.org
Families Helping Families of Louisiana	Provides information and referral on disability and special health care needs.	(504) 430-3604 www.fhfla.org
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 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.	(800) 450-8108 www.adaa.org Disabilities Information Access Line (DIAL) (800) 922-DIAL (3425) (225) 342-5704 TDD
Louisiana Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health (LAFFCMH)	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
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
National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities/LA Project PROMPT	Contact for information related to disabilities in infants, toddlers, children, and youth; IDEA, which is the law authorizing special education; No Child Left Behind; and research-based information on effective educational practices.	www.nichcy.org/states/la.htm
The Arc of Louisiana	Provides rights, education and advocacy services for children and youth with disabilities and special health care needs. Provides personal consultations in securing the most appropriate educational program.	(800) 766-7736 www.projectprompt.com
United Way 211	Contact for advocating for the rights and full participation of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.	(225) 303-0463 www.thearca.org
VOAD Volunteer Agencies Acting in Disaster	Contact for a comprehensive guide to community resources.	(225) 924-1431 ext.11 www.brcic211.org
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.	National: (202) 955-8396 State: (504) 620-3168 www.nvoad.org
Disability Specific Organizations		
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
Epilepsy Foundation Louisiana	Contact for information related to epilepsy research, education, advocacy, and services.	(800) 960-0587 www.epilepsylouisiana.org
Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society	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.	(800) 346-7323 www.nationalmssociety.org (access chapter with zip code)
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.	www.mda.org/ (access chapter with zip code)
National Spinal Cord Injury Association	Provides resources, services, and peer support to people with spinal cord injury and disease (SCI/D).	(800) 962-9629 www.spinalcord.org/ (access Local Resources by State)
Spina Bifida	Serves adults and children who live with the challenges of spina bifida through education, advocacy, research, and services.	(504) 737.5181 www.sbagno.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

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State Agencies

Department of Health & Hospitals (DHH)	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.	DHH Emergency Operations Behavioral Health Desk: (225) 763-5734 (225) 342-9500 www.dhh.louisiana.gov
	Office of Addictive Disorders -Promotes and supports individuals, families and communities in the prevention and treatment of addictive disorders.	(225) 342-6717 www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/?ID=23
	Office of Aging and Adult Services -Serves aging adults and people with adult-onset disabilities.	(866) 758-5035 www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/?ID=105
	Office of Mental Health -Provides treatment, rehabilitation and follow-up care for individuals with mental and emotional disorders.	(225) 342-2540 www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/?ID=62
	Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities – Provides supports and services to people with developmental disabilities. Also provides early intervention services to families, infants and toddlers 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 www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/?ID=77 Early Steps: (866) Early Steps (866) 327-5978 www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/?ID=334
Protective Services	Offers protective services to investigate possible abuse, neglect and exploitation and to arrange services in those instances where it is found. Agencies to contact are listed below based on the age of person involved:	
	Children up to age 18: The Department of Social Services, Office of Community Services	(225) 295-4571 www.dss.state.la.us (click on the link "Report Child Abuse/Neglect")
	Adults who have disabilities age 18 through 59 and emancipated minors: The Department of Health and Hospitals, Adult Protective Services	(800) 898-4910 www.dhh.louisiana.gov/office/?ID=95
	Elders, age 60 and older: The Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs, Elderly Protective Services	(800) 259-4990 http://goea.louisiana.gov/eps.htm (Reports can also be made via e-mail: eps@goea.state.la.gov)
Department of Social Services (DSS)	Develops and provides social services and employment rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities. Contact for services related to rehabilitation, family support, and community services.	(225) 342-0286 www.dss.louisiana.gov
	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 www.dss.louisiana.gov
Office of Youth Development	Provides services to youth who are at-risk or delinquent, including those with disabilities. Contact for related services.	(225) 287-7900 www.oyd.louisiana.gov
Governor's Office of Disability Affairs	Facilitates access to the opportunities needed for people with disabilities to live as fully engaged participants in society.	(877) 668-2722 VRS: (888) 890-6996 Email: disability.affairs@la.gov
Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs	Administers a broad range of home and community based services through a network of area agencies on Aging (e.g., LouisianaAnswers.com, Louisiana SenioRx, Long Term Care Ombudsmen and Elderly Protective Services).	(877) 340-9100 http://goea.louisiana.gov www.LouisianaAnswers.com www.LouisianaSenioRx.org
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.doe.state.la.us SER (Special Education Reporting System) (225) 342-6215 www.doe.state.la.us/lde/pair/1213.htm
Louisiana School for the Deaf	Contact for services for children who have a hearing loss.	(888) 769-8111 www.lalsd.org
Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired	Contact for information related to education and support services for children who are blind or visually impaired.	(225) 342-8694 www.lsvi.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)

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