

# Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

## About

The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) is established in the Developmental Disabilities Law contained in Louisiana R.S. 28:451. OCDD is responsible for setting policy and ensuring oversight of the developmental disabilities services system. The **Local Governing Entities** (also referred to as human services districts/authorities) serve as the points of entry for individuals to receive developmental disabilities services. People who request services participate in an assessment to determine if they are eligible for OCDD services. Eligibility is based on the person meeting the definition of a developmental disability as established in statute. If a person is deemed eligible for services, they qualify for programs and services offered through OCDD.

OCDD's mission is to provide programmatic leadership necessary in the design and development of services to afford people with developmental disabilities and their families a seamless service system that is responsive to both individual needs and desires. OCDD's vision is a society that promotes partnerships and relationships which empower people with developmental disabilities to live fully integrated and valued lives.

## Leadership

**Julie Foster Hagan**, OCDD Assistant Secretary  
**Bernard Brown**, OCDD Deputy Assistant Secretary, Services  
**Brandi Kelly, Ph.D.**, OCDD Clinical Director  
**Amy Greer, Ph.D.**, OCDD Access, Education, and Research Director  
**Erin Downing**, OCDD Senior Advisor/Communications Director  
**Malcolm Carpenter**, Fiscal Director (Interim)

## Act 378 Programs – Flexible Family Fund/Individual and Family Support

There are two OCDD programs that were established through Act 378 of the 1989 Legislative Session, Family Flexible Fund and Individual and Family Support programs. These programs are administered through OCDD policy by the Local Governing Entities, who are required by statute to allocate a minimum of 9% of the state general funds that they receive to these programs.

**Flexible Family Fund (FFF)** is a monthly stipend to families of eligible children (from birth to age 18) with severe or profound developmental disabilities living in their home to help families meet extraordinary costs.

**Individual and Family Support (IFS)** services provide assistance not available from any other resource that will allow people with developmental disabilities to live in their own homes or with their families in their own community. Examples include: respite care, personal assistance services, dental and medical services, equipment and supplies, communication services, crisis intervention, specialized nutrition, and family education. IFS services are guided by family and individual needs.

## Home and Community-Based Waivers (HCBS)

In 2018, OCDD implemented revisions to the HCBS waiver system to better meet the needs of Louisiana residents who have developmental disabilities. Individuals now receive an offer for waiver services based on identification of unmet needs that can be addressed through waiver services, the urgency of those unmet needs, and the request for services registry date. A person-centered planning/assessment process determines the most appropriate waiver to meet the individual's needs as follows:

- The **Children's Choice Waiver** offers supplemental support to children ages birth through age 20 with developmental disabilities who currently live at home with their families or who will leave an institution to return home. This waiver is designed to enhance home and community-based supports and services available to children, who would otherwise require an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (ICF/IID). Children's Choice Waiver participants are eligible for all medically necessary Medicaid services. Under the tiered waiver process, all children under 21 will receive a Children's Choice Waiver offer when the level of need indicates the priority for a waiver offer.
- The **Supports Waiver** offers individualized vocational services to people age 18 and older who otherwise would require the level of care of an ICF/IID. The waiver is intended to provide specific, activity-focused services rather than continuous custodial care. Each service is limited based on annual service limits. Some of the services offered through the Supports Waiver include: Support Coordination, Supported Employment (individual and group), Day Habilitation, Prevocational, Respite, and Permanent Supportive Housing Stabilization.
- The **Residential Options Waiver (ROW)** offers people of all ages services designed to support them to move from institutions to community-based settings or to serve as an alternative to institutionalization; support needs are determined by an Inventory for Client and Agency Planning (ICAP) assessment. This is a budget-capped waiver offered to individuals whose needs cannot be met by the Supports Waiver. The ROW provides four residential-based support options. Participants under 21 years of age must access Early Periodic Screening and Diagnostic Treatment (ESPDT) services to compliment ROW services. Some of the services available through the ROW include: Community Living Supports, Companion Care, Shared Living, Environmental Modifications, Assistive Technology/Specialized Medical Equipment, Respite (Center-Based), and Supported Employment.
- The **New Opportunities Waiver (NOW)** offers people age 3 and older who otherwise would require the level of care of ICF/IID services to remain in their communities. Services are based on the needs of the individual. The NOW is the most comprehensive waiver in the OCDD waiver system and is offered when individual needs exceed the supports available through the other OCDD waivers services. Some of the services provided through the NOW include: Individualized and Family Support (IFS) Service-Day-Night, Center-Based Respite, Environmental Accessibilities Adaptations, Supported Living, Day Habilitation/Transportation, Supported Employment/ Transportation, Prevocational Services, Professional Services, Self-Direction Option, and Housing Stabilization Services.

## My Place Louisiana

My Place Louisiana is the state's program for the federally funded Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration. My Place Louisiana is designed to help states deliver innovative methods of Medicaid services in home and community based settings. The demonstration collaborates with participants and support coordinators to move or "transition" participants who have spent over 60 days in an institution, nursing home, or hospital into a home and community-based living setting, such as a home or apartment. MFP participants range from children born with complex needs and stayed at least 60 days in a hospital setting to children and adults diagnosed with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

## OCDD Resource Center

The OCDD Resource Center provides highly specialized, critical community-based behavioral health, nursing, and allied health services to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. In addition, the OCDD Resource Center provides training for service providers across the state. OCDD Resource Center services include, but are not limited to professional training and continuing education for behavioral health, crisis diversion services, court ordered evaluations and services, allied health consultations, and medical/nursing and dental consultation. To get additional information about the OCDD resource center services and the OCDD Resource Centers Directory, visit [ldh.la.gov/OCDDResourceCenter](http://ldh.la.gov/OCDDResourceCenter).

## Facility-Based Programs

A **placement search** can be provided for families and/or individuals with developmental disabilities when the individual or guardian agrees that placement at an Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID) is needed. Packets are sent to private ICF/IID facilities in the geographic locations desired by the family/guardian/individual to assist in facilitating placement when requested. A placement search is handled through the Local Governing Entity.

**Pinecrest Supports and Services Center**, a state-operated 24-hour residential facility, specializes in the treatment of people with comorbid intellectual and developmental disabilities and complex medical, behavioral, and psychiatric support needs. The mission of Pinecrest is to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to reach their treatment goals and to return to more integrated community living settings.

**Central Louisiana Supports and Services Center (CLSSC/The Center)**, formerly the Louisiana Special Education Center, is also a state-operated 24-hour residential facility. The Center provides services as prescribed on the individual plan of care, and focuses on active treatment, supporting meaningful engagement and other ADLs/areas of function using a holistic service model addressing medical, nutritional, therapeutic, positional, transition and/or educational needs.

## EarlySteps

EarlySteps is Louisiana's early intervention system for families with infants and toddlers age birth to three years who have a medical condition likely to result in a developmental delay or who have developmental delays. EarlySteps services are provided according to requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) Part C and are designed to support families in meeting the developmental needs of their eligible children. Eligibility determinations for entry into EarlySteps is different than eligibility into other programs and services in the OCDD services system. To access EarlySteps services, contact the system point of entry (SPOE) office for the individual's parish of residence found at [ldh.la.gov/EarlySteps](http://ldh.la.gov/EarlySteps).

To learn more about **services and programs**, and to **find a location** near you, visit [ldh/la.gov/OCDD](http://ldh/la.gov/OCDD).