



Louisiana’s Disability Services System Needs YOUR Support!

Background information:

Across Louisiana, nearly 41,000 individuals with disabilities and their families depend on disability services to remain healthy and safe in their communities.

Some of these services include, but are not limited to:

Personal Care Assistance	Supported Living & Residential Services
Medication Administration	Support Coordination
Skilled Nursing	Vocational Services

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected individuals with disabilities, their families and the organizations that support them. The legislature and the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) have offered support through supplemental funding and allowing for flexibilities in the delivery of services that have enabled organizations to keep these vulnerable individuals safe and healthy. This support must continue through 2021 as the pandemic persists.

We need your help this session to ensure that the disability service system can continue to weather the pandemic. Please support HB 204!

HB 204 would permanently continue certain COVID-related program flexibilities:

- Allow Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) to exceed the 16-hour per day service limitation.
- Allow recipient and worker to live in the same setting and or allow legally responsible relatives to be direct support workers.
- Allow HCBS waiver providers and support coordinators to conduct virtual check-ins and obtain electronic signatures for participants upon request by participant.

We will work with LDH, individuals with disabilities and families, and other stakeholders to ensure that proper safeguards remain in place to protect the health and safety of program recipients.

These program flexibilities have brought comfort to families concerned with keeping their loved ones safe and have also proven to be a more efficient way to provide services with no cost to the state. **Please help us make these changes permanent by supporting HB 204!**