

Financial



My child has a disability; is he/she eligible for Social Security?

If your child has a physical and mental condition or a combination of both, Social Security will assist with financial assistance in the care of your child.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is for parents caring for minor children; based on the parent income. **Social Security Disability (SSDI)** is transferred to the adult child. (Eligibility is based on family income and the child's disability qualification for SSI)

<http://www.ssa.gov/disabilityssi/apply.html>

If my child receives a surplus in money (i.e. assets willed to the child, etc.) will he/she lose Social Security benefits, Medicaid or waiver services?

This requires a Special Needs Trust which is a trust that is designed for beneficiaries with both physical and/or mental disabilities. It is best to contact an attorney that specializes in Special Needs Trust.

Will my child continue to receive support when he/she goes to college?

They are no longer protected under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); they are protected under section 504 Rehabilitation Act and Americans Disability Act. Make sure your child has an Individualized Transition Plan (as early as age 14, but no later than age 16) in high school. See your child's Special Education coordinator or school counselor.

After acceptance to a university, contact the Disability Service office. Most colleges and universities offer services, assistance, and support for individuals with disabilities to ensure their full participation in activities, programs and services at the university.

Employment



Are there any agencies to help my child become employed?

Louisiana Rehabilitation Services [LRS]

Assist people with disabilities in their desire to obtain or maintain employment and/or achieve independence in their communities. Services are designed to provide them with the skills, resources, attitudes, and expectations needed to compete in the interview process, get the job, keep the job, and develop a lifetime career. Begin planning for employment while your child is still in school.

Development of an **Individual Transition Plan** can began as early as age 14 and is a part of the IEP process. Inquire about opportunities by contacting LRS at www.laworks.net/workforcedev/LRS/LRS_Main.asp

The US Department of Labor has published an online guide to answering questions for individuals and families as they prepare and transition to employment opportunities at www.dol.gov/odep/i toolkit/individualsAndFamilyMembersyouth.htm

What if my child is unable to work, are there any opportunities for him/her to be productive outside of the home?

If your child cannot work, Day Programs are available and offer a variety of opportunities to be productive outside of the home. The OCDD office will connect your child with local provider agencies to help you with selection.

Inquire about **Day Programs at OCDD**
<http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/139/n/139>

Family to Family: A Resource Guide for Individuals with Disabilities



If you suspect your child of having a disability contact the child's doctor and/or school system (teacher, principal, counselor, etc.)

- *Make NO assumptions*
- *Keep ALL documentation*
- *Keep the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) informed*

For Support, Contact:

Pyramid Community Parent Resource Center
www.pyramidparentcenter.org

Families Helping Families in your region
www.laddc.org/Initiatives.cfm?aid=6&id=9

LA Developmental Disabilities Council
www.laddc.org



Initial Steps



My child has just been diagnosed with a disability, what do I do next?

If your child has developmental disabilities (i.e. autism, intellectual, down syndrome, etc.), your first stop would be to contact your local **Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD)** office and check the services they provide. Services include funding to offset medical bills, family support service, etc. Contact OCDD for next steps to qualify for services at www.dhh.state.la.us/index.cfm/page/136/n/138

If your child is 3 and under, contact OCDD and Early Steps - new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/139/n/139

If your child has special health care needs, (i.e. Spina Bifida, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, seizure disorders), contact **Children Special Health Services (CSHS)**. They assist children with severe health care needs that affect how the child grows, moves, and acts. Services include: hospital care, medicine, therapy and equipment, etc. Inquire about how your child can receive equipment and therapy by contacting: dhh.louisiana.gov/assets/oph/Center-PHCH/Center-PH/cshs/CSHSbrochure.pdf

If your child has a mental health need, (i.e. bipolar, emotional disturbance, Asperger's, depression, etc.), contact **OCDD's Mental Health Department**. Services include crisis support, psychological testing, individual/group therapy, etc. Inquire about mental health support by contacting OCDD www.dhh.state.la.us/index.cfm/page/136/n/138

The National Alliance on Mental Illness [NAMI] Louisiana provides support and services for individuals with mental illness throughout the state. Services include family support groups, peer support, resource materials, crisis line, etc. <http://namilouisiana.org/>

Home Resources



What if my child needs adaptive equipment at home (i.e. ramps, bathroom modifications, beds)?

If your child needs support with mobility at home, OCDD's services may provide additional equipment for your child. Inquire about adaptive equipment for the home by contacting the OCDD office. <http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/139/n/139>

Are there any resources and assistance available to support my child with schoolwork?

If your child needs additional support with demonstrating their knowledge and skills, they may benefit from choosing appropriate assistive technology tools www.atanswers.com/about-us

Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network (LATAN) is a state-wide non-profit organization that connects individuals with disabilities to the Assistive Technology (AT) that enables independence in employment & daily activities, school, and community living. <http://www.latan.org/>

The Louisiana Homework Helpline is free online tutoring service and offers one-to-one assistance. homeworkla.org/

Louisiana State Department of Education (LDOE) offers additional educational support for students with disabilities. Access tools, resources and information by visiting www.louisianabelieves.com/academics/students-with-disabilities

Recreation



When my child is not in school, are there any recreational opportunities?

If your child would like to have some summertime experiences, contact:

Families Helping Families Center - publish a summer guide that informs of recreational opportunities fhfjefferson.org/about-us/families-helping-families-network

People First of Louisiana
www.peoplefirstla.org

Recreation Resource Guide
<http://fhfjefferson.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/chnola-summer-camp-resource-guide-2013.pdf>

Your parish's **Department of Recreation**

Special Olympics - ask about "track and field" www.laso.org

Next Chapter Book Club - for adults with disabilities (statewide)
www.nextchapterbookclub.org

The Miracle League
www.gnomiracleleague.org/

Crane Rehab Center (activities to students in the SE Region) www.cranerehab.com/