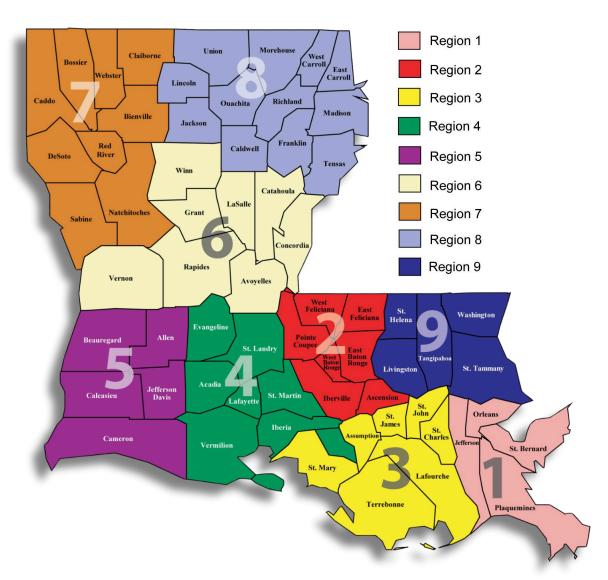
GOHSEP's Disability Assessment and Coordination Entity (DACE)

DISABILITY COMMUNITY REGIONAL PROFILE



^{*}The regions indicated in this document are those designated by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH).

LDH maintains vital data which depicts a functional profile of the disability community.

The Disability Community Regional Profile is offered as a snapshot of the disability community in each of the nine regions across the state of Louisiana. The information is to be used for planning purposes for community-wide, as well as, personal emergency preparation and emergency response situations. It is not intended to serve as a registry of individuals with disabilities.

The team at Disability Access Solutions has chosen to provide regional data for:

- General demographics
- Demographics of disability per parish
- Medicaid and Medicare programs which serve the disabled and aging population
- Geographic features
- Community transportation resources
- Emergency communication systems
- Community resources

With the aforementioned data points we intend to provide a thorough picture of the regional:

- Prevalence of individuals with disabilities and access and functional needs.
 - Who is in our communities?
- Availability and accessibility of critical infrastructure resources (transportation and communication) for individuals with disabilities.
 - What community resources can a person with a disability reasonably access?
- Geographical features which tell us about risk probability.
 - Based on their location, what lends to the probability that people with disabilities will be at risk for certain disasters?
- Demographics which illustrate the personal capacity to prepare.
 - To what extent are individuals with disabilities able to help themselves?

Notes About Geographic Features and Emergency Communications

In response to the current administration's emphasis on the use of AI in our processes, Google Gemini was utilized for the development of the geographic features and emergency communications portions of the Disability Community Regional Profile. The extent of AI influence on this portion of the document was extensive with 40% or more of information about the parishes being generated from this resource. Regarding geographic features the prompt "Geographic Features of (each specific parish)" was used for each parish to generate results. Regarding emergency communications, the prompt "emergency communications within (each specific parish)" was used for each parish to generate the results. Information was cross-referenced with state level resources to ensure accuracy. Therefore, the geographic features and emergency communications in the document are a collective record of information from Google Gemini, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and LSU AgCenter.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. LA-WAP October 2015.
 Chapter 2: State Overview

(https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/assets/Conservation/SWG/Files/11_WAP_2017_Ch_2.p df)

LSU Ag: Parishes

https://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/our_offices/parishes

GLOSSARY OF RESOURCES AND TERMS

Demographics:

<u>Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE)</u>: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed population are those people who are earning above the Federal Poverty Level but are living paycheck to paycheck and cannot keep up with rising costs of goods and services. ALICE data is published by the United Way. (www.Unitedforalice.org)

Disability Status and Type by Parish:

<u>Louisiana State Health Assessment</u>: Assesses the current status of health across the state by taking a specific look at: foundations of community health, behaviors and exposures, and medical conditions.

(https://dashboards.mysidewalk.com/louisiana-state-health-assessment/demographics-region-1)

Medicaid Enrollee: A person who is Medicaid eligible, has applied for and was approved by the Medicaid program to receive benefits regardless of whether he or she received any service and/or any claims were filed on his or her behalf.

Medicaid Waiver Participants: Those individuals who receive home and community-based services as an alternative to institutional care, like nursing homes, who would otherwise qualify for those services. Waivers enable people to receive care in their homes or communities.

* See the Appendix for a more in depth description of each waiver program offered in Louisiana.

Durable Medical Equipment (DME): Medically necessary equipment, appliance, or supply which can withstand repeated use, and is typically used in the home setting.

HHS emPOWER Map: Updated monthly and displays the total number of Medicare beneficiaries who have had an administrative claim for one or more types of electricity-dependent durable medical and assistive equipment (DME) and devices, as well as at-risk combinations data for those who rely on a certain essential health care service(s) and any electricity-dependent DME and devices.

(https://empowerprogram.hhs.gov/empowermap)

Medicare Recipients Who Have Made a Claim for *Electricity Dependent Durable*Medical Equipment (DME): Represents the total number of beneficiaries with claims in

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) databases for:

- ventilator;
- bilevel positive airway pressure (BiPAP) machine;
- enteral feeding machine;
- intravenous (IV) infusion pump;

- suction pump;
- at-home dialysis machine;
- electric wheelchair;
- electric scooter;
- electric bed equipment in the past 13 months;
- oxygen concentrator equipment in the past 36 months;
- implanted cardiac devices that include left ventricular assistive device (LVAD);
- right ventricular assistive device (RVAD);
- bi-ventricular assistive device (BIVAD); and
- total artificial heart (TAH) in the past 5 years.

Transportation:

<u>LaDOTD Transit Resource Guide</u>: Licensed transportation providers with their respective transportation assets. Details availability of accessible vehicles.

(http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictransportation/transitresources/)



Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, & St. Bernard Parishes

Demographics:

- Approximately 367,230 households
- 36% Black households
- 42% White households
- 10% Hispanic households
- 104,122 age 65 and older
- 78,025 households have children living in the home
- 50% of households are living below ALICE

(www.Unitedforalice.org)

Disability Status and Type by Parish:

Parish	Ambulatory Difficulty of People 5 & Up	Cognitive Difficulty of People 5 & Up	Hearing Difficulty of All People	Independent Living Difficulty of Adults	People Living with Disability of All People	Vision Difficulty of All People
Jefferson	8.7%	6.6%	4.1%	6.7%	16.1%	3.5%
Orleans	7.6%	5.9%	3.1%	5.5%	14.1%	3%
Plaquemines	8%	4.8%	4.2%	4.9%	15.4%	4.2%
St. Bernard	9.7%	8.3%	4.5%	8.8%	18.6%	4.1%

Region 1 | Louisiana State Health Assessment

Medicaid Enrollees in Region 1 (in 2023):

Parish	Enrollee Total
Jefferson	202,137
Orleans	196,960
Plaquemines	9,371
St. Bernard	25,750
Total	434,218

(https://ldh.la.gov/assets/medicaid/AnnualReports/MedicaidAnnualReport2023.pdf)

Medicaid Waiver Participants:

• 2,360 total participants utilizing at least one adult and aging (OAAS) waiver service as of 3/31/25.

(https://laddc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/DD-Council-Report-April-2025_ V001.pdf)

• 2,043 total participants utilizing at least one developmental disability (OCDD) waiver service as of 3/31/25.

(https://laddc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/OCDD-Quarterly-report_1st-quarter_2025_final.pdf)

Medicare Recipients Who Have Made a Claim for Electricity Dependent Durable Medical Equipment (DME) (Indicative of a temporary or permanent access and functional need.):

Parish	Beneficiaries	At-Risk	% At-Risk
Jefferson	92,402	3,769	4.1%
Orleans	67,720	2,466	3.6%
Plaquemines	4,016	180	4.5%
St. Bernard	7,355	414	5.6%

(https://empowerprogram.hhs.gov/empowermap)

Geographic Features:

Jefferson Parish:

- The Mississippi River divides it into West & East banks.
- Lake Pontchartrain forms the northern boundary.
- The Gulf makes up the southern boundary positioning itself for a direct hit from hurricanes.
- Very low elevation and some areas are even below sea level making it highly susceptible to flooding from heavy rain and storm surges.

Orleans Parish:

- The Mississippi River divides it into West & East banks.
- Lake Pontchartrain forms the northern boundary.
- Very low elevation, either at or below sea level making it very vulnerable to flooding from heavy rainfall, river overflow, and storm surges.
- Land is also subject to subsidence which is gradual sinking of the ground. This occurs naturally as the underlying sediments compact, and is exacerbated by human activities such as draining wetlands and withdrawing groundwater. This subsidence further increases the city's vulnerability to flooding and sea level rise.

Plaquemines Parish:

 The Mississippi River flows through much of the parish.

St. Bernard Parish:

 Western boundary is formed by the Mississippi River.

- The Gulf makes up the southern boundary subjecting the area to storm surges from hurricanes.
- Exceptionally low-lying, with many areas at or below sea level. It experiences some of the highest rates of land subsidence in the world, which is a natural process of sediment compaction exacerbated by human activities like wetland drainage and oil/gas extraction. This makes the parish highly vulnerable to sea level rise and storm surge.
- Lake Borgne forms the northern boundary and is an extension of the Gulf of America; plays a major role in storm surge dynamics for the area.
- The Gulf surrounds the eastern and southern sides making it extremely vulnerable to hurricanes and storm surge.
- Elevation is extremely low, with many areas at or below sea level. This makes it highly vulnerable to flooding and exacerbates the effects of storm surge.
- Land subsidence, the gradual sinking of the land, is a pervasive issue in the parish.

Transportation:

 LaDOTD Transit Resource Guide: Licensed transportation providers with their respective transportation assets. Details availability of accessible vehicles.

(http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictransportation/transitresources/)

Jefferson Parish: http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictra nsportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?Pari sh=26	Orleans Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictra nsportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?Pari sh=36
Plaquemines Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictra nsportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?Pari sh=38	St. Bernard Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictra nsportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?Pari sh=44

Emergency Communication Systems:

Service	Availability By Parish
 Traditional media: local new channels and social media (parish government specific) Emergency Alert System (EAS) (multiple languages) Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) Alert FM MyStateUSA Emergency Alerts 	All Parishes in Region 1
JPAlert (English & Spanish)Smart 911Everbridge Emergency Alerts	Jefferson Parish
 NOLA Ready Emergency Alert System (special needs registry available) (English & Spanish) Smart 911 EVACNOLA for evacuation assistance on mandatory evacuations 	Orleans Parish
 Smart 911 Plaquemines Parish Emergency Notification System (PPENS) Everbridge Emergency Alerts 	Plaquemines Parish
 Smart 911 Everbridge Emergency Alerts Clty Assisted Transportation Network (CTN) 	St. Bernard Parish



Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge, & West Feliciana Parishes

Demographics:

- Approximately 267,090 households
- 38% Black households
- 50% White households
- 5% Hispanic households
- 69,049 are age 65 and older
- 66,498 households have children living in the home
- 50% of households are living below ALICE

(www.Unitedforalice.org)

Disability Status and Type by Parish:

Parish	Ambulatory Difficulty of People 5 & Up	Cognitive Difficulty of People 5 & Up	Hearing Difficulty of All People	Independent Living Difficulty of Adults	People Living with Disability of All People	Vision Difficulty of All People
Ascension	6.1%	5.4%	2.9%	5.1%	12.3%	2.9%
East Baton Rouge	6.7%	5.9%	3%	5.1%	14.5%	4.6%
East Feliciana	9.2%	7.1%	4.1%	8.5%	18.3%	3.7%
Iberville	9.5%	4.8%	3.7%	7.9%	16.4%	3.7%
Pointe Coupee	12.4%	8.6%	8%	12.2%	22.4%	6.6%
West Baton Rouge	6%	4.6%	3.4%	6.2%	13%	2.9%
West Feliciana	4.9%	4.8%	3.4%	4.1%	12.1%	4.2%

(Louisiana State Health Assessment, LDH Region 2:

https://dashboards.mysidewalk.com/louisiana-state-health-assessment/demographics-region-2)

Medicaid Enrollees in Region 2 (in 2023):

Parish	Enrollee Total	Enrollee: A person who is Medicaid eligible, has
Ascension	44,164	applied for and was approved by the Medicaid program to receive benefits regardless of whether
East Baton Rouge	196,899	he or she received any service and/or any claims

East Feliciana	9,948	were filed on his or her behalf. Refer to the	
Iberville	16,611	technical note on page 6 for more details. Recipient: A person is considered a 'recipient' if	
Pointe Coupee	9,847	any claims related transaction(s) or Medicare Buy-in or Part D premium payment(s) occurred on	
West Baton Rouge	12,094	behalf of that person during the state fiscal year.	
West Feliciana	5,102	The data for this report is based on a claim's date of payment (DOP). Refer to the technical note on	
Total 294,665		page 6 for a detailed explanation.	

(https://ldh.la.gov/assets/medicaid/AnnualReports/MedicaidAnnualReport2023.pdf)

Medicaid Waiver Participants:

• 2,657 total participants utilizing at least one of the aging and adult (OAAS) waivers as of 3/31/25.

(https://laddc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/DD-Council-Report-April-2025_ V001.pdf)

• 1,768 total participants utilizing at least one of the developmental disability (OCDD) waiver services as of 3/31/25.

(https://laddc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/OCDD-Quarterly-report_1st-quarter_2025_final.pdf)

Medicare Recipients Who Have Made a Claim For Electricity Dependent Durable Medical Equipment (DME) (Indicative of a temporary or permanent access and functional need.):

——————————————————————————————————————					
Parish	Beneficiaries	At-Risk	% At-Risk		
Ascension	21,097	840	4.0%		
East Baton Rouge	81,565	2,696	3.3%		
East Feliciana	4,886	204	4.2%		
Iberville	6,797	335	4.9%		
Pointe Coupee	5,144	239	4.6%		
West Baton Rouge	5,198	193	3.7%		
West Feliciana	2,421	204	3.2%		

(https://empowerprogram.hhs.gov/empowermap)

Geographic Features:

Ascension Parish:

- The Mississippi River makes up the western border.
- Predominantly flat with very low elevations (7ft above sea level) making it susceptible to flooding from heavy rainfall and river overflow.

East Baton Rouge Parish:

- The Mississippi River makes up western boundary; Bayou Manchac forms the southern boundary; Amite River forms much of the eastern border; Comite River forms much of the northern border.
- Areas around the Rivers are generally lower in elevation and are more susceptible to localized flooding.

East Feliciana Parish:

- Characterized by gently rolling to sometimes steeply rolling hills.
- It generally sits at a higher elevation, making it less susceptible to the widespread flooding.

Iberville Parish:

- Defined by its unique position between the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers.
- Has a generally low elevation, with some areas susceptible to flooding from heavy rainfall and river overflow; it is still part of the subsiding deltaic plain, meaning the land is gradually sinking over time due to sediment compaction.

Pointe Coupee:

- Located between the mighty Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers.
- Has a generally low elevation. While the agricultural areas are protected by levees, the wetland areas are naturally low and subject to subsidence (gradual sinking of the land).
- Susceptible to flooding from heavy rainfall or river backwater, despite the levee systems.

West Baton Rouge Parish:

- Located on the western bank of the Mississippi River across from Baton Rouge.
- Gulf Intracoastal Waterway
- Landscape is predominantly flat and has low elevations making it susceptible to flooding from heavy rainfall and river overflows.

West Feliciana Parish:

- Western boundary of the parish is made up by the Mississippi River.
- Higher elevation with its highest point at 365 ft above sea level
- Situated along the Tunica Hills; these are significant bluffs and rolling hills formed by wind-blown silt (loess) deposits, overlooking the Mississippi River floodplain. This gives the parish a much higher elevation and more undulating terrain than most of southern Louisiana, providing natural drainage and protection from river floods.

Transportation:

 LaDOTD Transit Resource Guide: Licensed transportation providers with their respective transportation assets. Details availability of accessible vehicles.

(http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictransportation/transitresources/)

Ascension Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=3	East Baton Rouge Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=17			
East Feliciana Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=19	Iberville Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=24			
Pointe Coupee Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=39	West Baton Rouge Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=61			
West Feliciana Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictransportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?Pari				

Industrial and Chemical Facilities for Ascension Parish:

 "Cancer Alley" / Petrochemical Corridor: Ascension Parish is a major part of Louisiana's "Cancer Alley" or "Chemical Corridor," a stretch of the Mississippi River heavily populated by petrochemical plants, refineries, and chemical manufacturers.

sh=63

- Major Plants: Companies like Shell, BASF, Honeywell, CF Industries (a world leader in ammonia production with a significant presence in Donaldsonville), Motiva, and Air Products have large-scale operations in Ascension Parish.
- RiverPlex MegaPark: This is a vast, developing industrial park on the west bank of the Mississippi River in Donaldsonville, attracting significant new investments, including the recently announced Hyundai steel plant and a new low-carbon ammonia facility by CF Industries, JERA, and Mitsui. These developments are adding substantially to the parish's industrial critical infrastructure.

The high concentration of petrochemical and manufacturing facilities makes Ascension Parish's critical infrastructure particularly sensitive to disruptions, with potential for widespread impacts on regional and national supply chains, as well as significant environmental and public health risks if incidents occur.

Emergency Communication Systems:

Service	Availability By Parish
 Traditional media: local new channels and social media (parish government specific) Emergency Alert System (EAS) (multiple languages) Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) Alert FM MyStateUSA Emergency Alerts NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) FirstNet Smart 911 	All Parishes in Region 2
Ascension Parish Community Alerting System by Everbridge	Ascension Parish
 LSUalert for campus specific emergencies Community Alert System (CAL) Emerge-Alert (Cable Television Override) Mobile Sirens & Door-to-Door Notifications Next-Generation Core Services (NGCS) for 911 Red Stick Ready© Mobile App and Website 	East Baton Rouge Parish
Not available at this time	East Feliciana Parish
 EveryBridge Emergency Notification 28 outdoor warning sirens (tornadoes or industrial incidents) Telephone ringdown system & Cable override system (for emergency broadcasts) Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) & 911-displays information from the parish's Special Needs Assistance database ensuring first responders are aware of any special needs Iberville-Community Awareness Emergency Response (I-CAER) Committee Alertus Mass Notification System 	Iberville Parish
Text-Based Alert System (Text to 225-638-2556)	Pointe Coupee Parish
Not available at this time	West Baton Rouge Parish
Direct-to-Device Alerts via Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) within a 10 mile radius of the plants	West Feliciana Parish



Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John, St. Mary, & Terrebonne Parishes

Demographics:

- Approximately 151,149 households
- 23% Black households
- 64% White households
- 5% Hispanic households
- 41,495 are age 65 and older
- 42,955 households have children living in the home
- 47% of households are living below ALICE

(www.Unitedforalice.org)

Disability Status and Type by Parish:

Parish	Ambulatory Difficulty of People 5 & Up	Cognitive Difficulty of People 5 & Up	Hearing Difficulty of All People	Independent Living Difficulty of Adults	People Living with Disability of All People	Vision Difficulty of All People
Assumption	7.4%	5.3%	5.9%	9.1%	17%	4.2%
Lafourche	9.6%	6.3%	5%	7.6%	17%	3.5%
St. Charles	7.1%	6.8%	4.8%	5.6%	16.3%	4.1%
St. James	7.5%	4.8%	2.6%	4.8%	12%	2.4%
St. John	7.7%	6.7%	3.3%	8%	15%	2.8%
St. Mary	8.5%	6%	4.7%	7.8%	16%	5.3%
Terrebonne	8.9%	8.2%	3.7%	8%	17%	3.7%

Region 3 | Louisiana State Health Assessment

Medicaid Enrollees in Region 3 (in 2023):

Parish	Enrollee Total
Assumption	8,972
Lafourche	38,718
St. Charles	18,610

St. James	9,607
St. John	23,625
St. Mary	28,634
Terrebonne	55,471
Total	183,637

(https://ldh.la.gov/assets/medicaid/AnnualReports/MedicaidAnnualReport2023.pdf)

Medicaid Waiver Participants:

 793 total participants utilizing at least one aging and adult (OAAS) waiver service as of 3/31/25.

(https://laddc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/DD-Council-Report-April-2025_ V001.pdf)

• 1144 participants utilizing at least one developmental disability (OCDD) waiver service as of 3/31/25.

(https://laddc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/OCDD-Quarterly-report_1st-quarterly-report_1st-

Medicare recipients who have made a claim for Electricity Dependent Durable Medical Equipment (DME) (Indicative of a temporary or permanent access and functional need.):

		· · ·	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Parish	Beneficiaries	At-Risk	% At-Risk	
Assumption	4,662	206	4.4%	
Lafourche	18,931	849	4.9%	
St. Charles	10,043	430	4.3%	
St. James	4,896	209	4.3%	
St. John	8,881	349	3.9%	
St. Mary	11,304	551	4.9%	
Terrebonne	22,975	1,308	5.7%	

(https://empowerprogram.hhs.gov/empowermap)

Geographic Features:

Assumption Parish:	Lafourche Parish:
Elevations are generally just a few feet	Land varies in elevation, ranging from a few

above sea level, making it susceptible to flooding from heavy rainfall and, particularly, from storm surge during hurricanes.	feet above sea level in the northern areas to below sea level in the southern, coastal region. • Extremely vulnerable to hurricanes.
St. Charles Parish: • Bisected by the Mississippi River.	St. James Parish: • The Mississippi River cuts through the parish.
 St. John Parish: The Mississippi River runs through the parish. Lake Pontchartrain, Lake Maurepas, & Lac des Allemands contribute to the parish's total area being approximately 39% water. Generally very low in elevation, making it susceptible to flooding from heavy rainfall and, particularly, storm surge from 	 St. Mary Parish: Borders the Atchafalaya Basin and the Gulf of America. Vast majority of the parish is very low-lying, often just a few feet above sea level, and large portions are at or below sea level. The entire region is experiencing significant subsidence, contributing to ongoing coastal land loss and increased vulnerability to
hurricanes. Significant portions of the parish are at or below sea level.	flooding from rain and storm surge.

Terrebonne Parish:

- Borders the Gulf of America.
- Over 85% of the parish is water and wetlands.
- Prone to flooding and direct impacts from hurricanes.

Transportation:

• LaDOTD Transit Resource Guide: Licensed transportation providers with their respective transportation assets. Details availability of accessible vehicles.

http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictransportation/transitresources/

Assumption Parish: http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=4	Lafourche Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=29
St. Charles Parish: http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=45	St. James Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=47
St. John Parish: http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=48	St. Mary Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=51

Terrebonne Parish:

http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictransportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?Parish=55

St. Charles, St. James, and St. John Parishes: The River Parish Transit Authority (RPTA) was created by special Louisiana legislation for the purpose of providing regional transit service covering St. Charles, St. James, and St. John the Baptist parishes. RPTA operates five 10 to 12 passenger vehicles. Each vehicle is equipped with a wheel chair lift and can accommodate two wheelchair passengers. Service is curb to curb, meaning passengers will be picked up and dropped off at that point along the public street nearest to the point they wish to get on or off the bus.

https://rptarolls.org/about/

Emergency Communication Systems:

Service	Availability By Parish
 Traditional media: local new channels and social media (parish government specific) Emergency Alert System (EAS) (multiple languages) Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) Alert FM MyStateUSA Emergency Alerts NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) FirstNet Smart 911 Everbridge Emergency Alert System 	All Parishes in Region 3
CivicReady/AlertSense	Assumption Parish
Connect Lafourche Parish (camera registry/integration)	Lafourche Parish
 St. Charles Parish Alerts (SCP) Outdoor warning sirens for industrial incidents Network of digital Roadside Signage Emergency Info Hotline (1-888-SCP-9EOC) St. Charles Parish Waterworks Text Notification System 	St. Charles Parish
 Rave Mobile Safety St. James Parish Emergency Operations System St. James Parish website and Alert System 	St. James Parish
 Mass Notification System/Parish Emergency alerts via text & email Outdoor warning sirens for industrial incidents St. John Government Access Channel 	St. John Parish

 Code Red Emergency Notification System Everbridge Nixle St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office Alerts & Update Signup 	St. Mary Parish
 Terrebonne Alert Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) Pro System Terrebonne OHSEP Smartphone App 	Terrebonne Parish



Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, & Vermilion Parishes

Demographics:

- Approximately 239,497 households
- 24% Black households
- 65% White households
- 4% Hispanic households
- 67,830 households have children living in the home
- 61,026 are age 65 and older
- 50% of households are living below ALICE

(www.Unitedforalice.org)

Disability Status and Type by Parish:

Parish	Ambulatory Difficulty of People 5 & Up	Cognitive Difficulty of People 5 & Up	Hearing Difficulty of All People	Independent Living Difficulty of Adults	People Living with Disability of All People	Vision Difficulty of All People
Acadia	9.6%	8.1%	4.2%	9.8%	18.8%	4%
Evangeline	11.9%	8.3%	7.6%	9.4%	21%	5.5%
Iberia	8.1%	8%	5.2%	7.4%	17.2%	5%
Lafayette	6.5%	5.2%	3%	6.1%	12.3%	2.4%
St. Landry	8.8%	7.5%	3.6%	7.2%	14.5%	2.6%
St. Martin	9.8%	6.4%	3.9%	7.7%	16.9%	3.1%
Vermilion	8.3%	8%	4.1%	8%	17.2%	3.9%

Region 4 | Louisiana State Health Assessment

Medicaid Enrollees in Region 4 (in 2023):

Parish	Enrollee Total
Acadia	33,509
Evangeline	18,984
Iberia	40,479

Lafayette	102,980
St. Landry	54,420
St. Martin	25,361
Vermilion	28,393
Total	304,126

(https://ldh.la.gov/assets/medicaid/AnnualReports/MedicaidAnnualReport2023.pdf)

Medicaid Waiver Participants:

• 4042 total participants utilizing at least one aging and adult (OAAS) waiver service as of 3/31/25.

(https://laddc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/DD-Council-Report-April-2025_ V001.pdf)

• 2156 participants utilizing at least one developmental disability (OCDD) waiver service as of 3/31/25.

(https://laddc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/OCDD-Quarterly-report_1st-quarter_2025_final.pdf)

Medicare recipients who have made a claim for Electricity Dependent Durable Medical Equipment (DME) (Indicative of a temporary or permanent access and functional need.):

Parish	Beneficiaries	At-Risk	% At-Risk
Acadia	12,383	566	4.6%
Evangeline	7,086	443	6.3%
Iberia	15,781	835	5.3%
Lafayette	46,332	1,807	3.9%
St. Landry	20,461	1,033	5.0%
St. Martin	10,408	516	5.0%
Vermilion	12,120	557	4.6%

(https://empowerprogram.hhs.gov/empowermap)

Geographic Features:

Acadia Parish:

 Consists of dry land prairies in the north and wetland heavy areas which border The Gulf making it susceptible to inland flooding

Evangeline Parish:

- · Consists of dry, land prairies.
- Northern parts of the parish feature low,

from hurricanes.	piney woods and hills.	
Iberia Parish:	Lafayette Parish:	
 Has significant coastline along The Gulf making it highly vulnerable to Tropical Storms and Hurricanes. 	 Relatively flat terrain and low elevation. Lies on the western rim of the Atchafalaya Basin. 	
 High percentage of "water area" in the parish; approximately 44% of the parish's 	Contains several Canals and Coulees which are vital for managing rainwater runoff.	

 Eastern part of the parish borders and extends into the Atchafalaya Basin which is low-lying and frequently floods.

St. Martin Parish:

 Eastern part of the parish contains the Atchafalaya Basin characterized by cypress-tupelo swamps, bottomland hardwood forests, and low-lying flood-prone land.

Contains Teche-Vermilion Pump Station &

stagnation and water control issues.

Canal which augments river flow to address

 Western part of the parish consists of coastal prairies that have low elevations making them susceptible to flooding.)

St. Landry Parish:

total area is water.

- Western side of the parish consists of flat lands.
- Eastern part of the parish contains alluvial plains which are susceptible to flooding.
- Eastern and southeastern part of the parish consists of bottomland, hardwood forests and cypress-tupelo swamps.
- Eastern boundary is the Atchafalaya River.

Vermilion Parish:

- Borders The Gulf at its southern border.
- Situated in "Hurricane Alley" making it highly vulnerable to tropical storms and hurricanes, which can cause severe flooding, storm surge, and extensive damage.
- Very low-lying which causes it to be susceptible to flooding, tidal influences, and storm surge.
- About 50% of the parish is marshland.
- The parish relies on gravity drainage; however, subsidence, sea-level rise, and increased tidal amplitude are impacting this, causing water to drain slower and leading to increased flooding risks in upstream areas.

Transportation:

 LaDOTD Transit Resource Guide: Licensed transportation providers with their respective transportation assets. Details availability of accessible vehicles.

http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictransportation/transitresources/

Acadia Parish: http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=1	Evangeline Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=20
Iberia Parish: http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=23	Lafayette Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=28
St. Landry Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=49	St. Martin Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=50

Vermilion Parish:

http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/public transportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?Parish=57

Emergency Communication Systems:

Service	Availability By Parish
 Traditional media: local new channels and social media (parish government specific) Emergency Alert System (EAS) (multiple languages) Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) Alert FM MyStateUSA Emergency Alerts NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) FirstNet Everbridge Emergency Alert System 	All Parishes in Region 4
 Acadia Parish Alerts Acadia Parish Sheriff's Office Communication Acadia Parish Police Jury Website & Emergency Preparedness Department Acadia Parish Schools App and Automated Messages 	Acadia Parish
 Evangeline Parish Sheriff's Office (EPSO) Alerts and Mobile App Evangeline Parish School Board Communications 	Evangeline Parish
 Iberia PINS/Smart 911 New Iberia Police Department Real-Time Crime Center 	Iberia Parish
 Lafayette NOW Emergency Alert System Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office Agency Alert Notifications Smart 911 	Lafayette Parish

 St. Landry Parish Mass Notification System - Parish Emergency alerts via telephone, text & email St. Landry Parish School Board Emergency Communications 	St. Landry Parish
Enhanced 911	St. Martin Parish
 Vermilion Parish Code Red Emergency Notification System Enhanced 911 	Vermilion Parish

Regional Note of Interest:

"[T]he DeafBlind population in Louisiana is now the largest in the U.S. and the second largest in the world" ("DeafBlind Cajuns" by Phyllis Baudoin Grifard. Originally published: February 28, 2020. https://static.nsta.org/case_study_docs/case_studies/deafblind.pdf) Region 4 hosts the largest population of individuals who are Deaf-Blind in the United States due to the prevalence of Usher type 2 Syndrome. For the Deaf-Blind community, two barriers to engaging with emergency preparedness and community resources are accessible communication and transportation.

Communication with the Deaf-Blind Community: It is said that because of the extreme lack of accessible communication for the Deaf-Blind community, they are often unaware of potential risks in the area. Hurricanes may enter the Gulf of America without their knowledge. Weather updates and orders to evacuate are not often provided in an accessible format and this community is largely left behind.

Transportation for the Deaf-Blind Community: Travel can be very disorienting for individuals who are deaf-blind because they rely heavily on predictable environmental layout for independence. Oftentimes, this community does not evacuate because of the unfamiliarity of the sheltering location. Deaf-Blind individuals become totally dependent on others for tasks such as going to the bathroom.

Affiliated Blind of Louisiana:

- Training Center, Lafayette: approximately 20 attendees, 14 residential and 6 day students
- Maison De Lemaire, Lafayette: 24 unit apartment complex houses physically disabled, blind
- **Daigle House Apartments, Lafayette:** 32 unit apartment complex houses physically disabled, blind



Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, & Jefferson Davis Parishes

Demographics:

- Has approximately 114,848 households
- 19 % Black households
- 72% White households
- 3% Hispanic households
- 31,037 households have children living in the home
- 31,969 are age 65 and older
- 46% of households are living below ALICE

(www.Unitedforalice.org)

Disability Status and Type by Parish:

Parish	Ambulatory Difficulty of People 5 & Up	Cognitive Difficulty of People 5 & Up	Hearing Difficulty of All People	Independent Living Difficulty of Adults	People Living with Disability of All People	Vision Difficulty of All People
Allen	9.6%	7.5%	7.8%	7.3%	19.3%	3.3%
Beauregard	9.8%	6.4%	6.7%	6.5%	18.7%	2.9%
Calcasieu	7.4%	6.1%	4.1%	6.6%	14%	3.3%
Cameron	6.3%	3.9%	5.5%	4.7%	15.5%	6.6%
Jefferson Davis	9.2%	8.5%	5.8%	8.6%	16.3%	3.5%

Region 5 | Louisiana State Health Assessment

Medicaid Enrollees in Region 5 (in 2023):

Parish	Enrollee Total
Allen	11,413
Beauregard	17,380
Calcasieu	90,454
Cameron	1,025
Jefferson Davis	15,353

(https://ldh.la.gov/assets/medicaid/AnnualReports/MedicaidAnnualReport2023.pdf)

Medicaid Waiver Participants:

 646 total participants utilizing at least one aging and adult (OAAS) waiver service as of 3/31/25.

(https://laddc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/DD-Council-Report-April-2025_ (100V

• 687 participants utilizing at least one developmental disability (OCDD) waiver service as of 3/31/25.

(https://laddc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/OCDD-Quarterly-report_1st-qua rter 2025 final.pdf)

Medicare recipients who have made a claim for Electricity Dependent Durable Medical Equipment (DME) (Indicative of a temporary or permanent access and functional need.):

Parish	Beneficiaries	At-Risk	% At-Risk
Allen	4,444	239	5.4%
Beauregard	8,585	445	5.2%
Calcasieu	39,810	1,674	4.2%
Cameron	536	45	8.4%
Jefferson Davis	6,527	308	4.7%

(https://empowerprogram.hhs.gov/empowermap)

Geographic Features:

Allen Parish: **Beauregard Parish:** Has a gently rolling to undulating Significant portion is characterized by pine forests. topography; elevation ranges from around 20 feet in the south to over 150 feet in some Exhibits a gently rolling to flat topography; northern areas. the elevation generally ranges from around 20 feet in the south to over 150 feet in the • Contains extensive pine forests. northwestern part of the parish. Calcasieu Parish: Cameron Parish:

- Southern part extends to The Gulf; it experiences tidal fluctuations and is highly susceptible to storm surge from hurricanes.
- Very flat and low-lying in the southern coastal and marsh areas, to gently rolling hills in the northern parts; elevations can

- Borders The Gulf.
- Majority of land area consists of extensive marshlands.
- Entire parish is extremely low-lying, with much of it at or near sea level. This makes it

range from near sea level at the southern
border to around 100 feet at the
northernmost point.

highly vulnerable to coastal erosion, land loss, subsidence, and devastating storm surge from hurricanes.

Jefferson Davis Parish:

- Generally low lying and flat.
- Susceptible to occasional flooding due to low elevation.

Transportation:

• LaDOTD Transit Resource Guide: Licensed transportation providers with their respective transportation assets. Details availability of accessible vehicles.

http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictransportation/transitresources/

Allen Parish: http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=2	Beauregard Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=6
Calcasieu Parish: http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=10	Cameron Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=12

Jefferson Davis Parish:

http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictransportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?Parish=27

Emergency Communication Systems:

Service	Availability By Parish
 Traditional media: local new channels and social media (parish government specific) Emergency Alert System (EAS) (multiple languages) Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) Alert FM MyStateUSA Emergency Alerts NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) FirstNet Everbridge Emergency Alert System 	All Parishes in Region 5
 Code Red Emergency Notification System Allen Parish Sheriff's Office Text Alerts 	Allen Parish

 Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office Alerts City of DeRidder Alert Center Beauregard Parish Schools Communication Systems 	Beauregard Parish
 Smart 911 CalcaShout Emergency Alert System (Powered by Everbridge) 	Calcasieu Parish
Code Red Emergency Notification System	Cameron Parish
JeffCoALert (Powered by AlertSense)	Jefferson Davis Parish



Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Vernon, & Winn Parishes

Demographics:

- Approximately 59,906 households
- 19% Black households
- 69% White households
- 5% Hispanic households
- 16,353 households have children living in the home
- 17,073 are age 65 and older
- 56% of households are living below ALICE

(www.Unitedforalice.org)

Disability Status and Type by Parish:

Parish	Ambulatory Difficulty of People 5 & Up	Cognitive Difficulty of People 5 & Up	Hearing Difficulty of All People	Independent Living Difficulty of Adults	People Living with Disability of All People	Vision Difficulty of All People
Avoyelles	12.4%	11.4%	8.3%	12.8%	24.8%	8.2%
Catahoula	8.7%	8.6%	6.2%	7.1%	17.9%	2.7%
Concordia	10.3%	12.9%	3.7%	11.3%	21.6%	3%
Grant	9.3%	9.1%	5.7%	8.1%	19.2%	2.8%
LaSalle	10.7%	7.9%	4%	7.1%	18.3%	2.5%
Vernon	11.5%	9.5%	7.8%	8.8%	22.1%	5%
Winn	11.3%	7.5%	5.3%	6.8%	18.9%	5.3%

Region 6 | Louisiana State Health Assessment

Medicaid Enrollees in Region 6 (in 2023):

Parish	Enrollee Total
Avoyelles	23,094
Catahoula	5,869
Concordia	11,952

Grant	10,149
LaSalle	7,015
Vernon	18,389
Winn	6,906
Total	83,374

(https://ldh.la.gov/assets/medicaid/AnnualReports/MedicaidAnnualReport2023.pdf)

Medicaid Waiver Participants:

• 1186 total participants utilizing at least one aging and adult (OAAS) waiver service as of 3/31/25.

(https://laddc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/DD-Council-Report-April-2025_ V001.pdf)

• 712 participants utilizing at least one developmental disability (OCDD) waiver service as of 3/31/25.

(https://laddc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/OCDD-Quarterly-report_1st-quarter_2025_final.pdf)

Medicare recipients who have made a claim for Electricity Dependent Durable Medical Equipment (DME) (Indicative of a temporary or permanent access and functional need.):

Parish	Beneficiaries	At-Risk	% At-Risk
Avoyelles	9,035	462	5.1%
Catahoula	2,482	176	7.1%
Concordia	4,145	270	6.5%
Grant	4,464	268	6.0%
LaSalle	3,146	237	7.5%
Vernon	7,515	486	6.5%
Winn	2,706	200	7.4%

(https://empowerprogram.hhs.gov/empowermap)

Geographic Features:

Avoyelles Parish:	Catahoula Parish:
 Red River forms a significant portion of the parish's western and northern boundary; Atchafalaya River forms the eastern 	 Ouachita River forms part of the parish's eastern boundary; Little River forms a significant portion of Parish's western
•	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

boundary.

- Vast majority of Avoyelles Parish lies within the Red River and Atchafalaya River floodplains which are exceptionally flat.
- Parish features a unique elevated area an older, slightly higher loess (wind-blown silt) bluff formation, representing the only significant "high ground" in much of the parish.
- In the eastern parts, adjacent to the Atchafalaya Basin, there are significant areas of cypress-tupelo swamps and bottomland hardwood forests.

- boundary, separating it from LaSalle Parish.
- Portions of the parish, particularly along the Ouachita, Black, and Little Rivers, consists of flat, fertile alluvial plains and low lying wetlands.
- Moving eastward and westward from the major river floodplains, the terrain transitions into gently rolling to moderately rolling uplands. These areas are part of the larger Pineywoods region.

Concordia Parish:

- Almost entirely bounded by rivers, making it a classic example of a "river parish" with a flat, fertile landscape shaped by millennia of river flooding.
- The Mississippi River forms the entire eastern border of the parish; Red River forms the southern boundary; Black River forms the western boundary; Tensas River forms the northern boundary.
- Parish is characterized by its exceptionally flat terrain. Elevations are very low, generally ranging from around 30 to 60 feet above sea level. This flatness makes it susceptible to flooding from the surrounding rivers, necessitating extensive levee systems.

Grant Parish:

- Red River and associated flood plain forms a significant portion of the western boundary.
- Terrain transitions into gently rolling uplands which are part of the larger Pineywoods region.

LaSalle Parish:

- Much of the parish consists of gently rolling to hilly terrain typical of the Pineywoods region.
- Varies from relatively flat areas along some waterways to more pronounced rolling hills.
- Little River forms a significant portion of the parish's eastern boundary, separating it from Catahoula Parish. It's a major drainage feature for the parish.
- Part of the larger geological formations that contain oil and natural gas deposits, contributing to a historical and ongoing industry in the region.

Vernon Parish:

- Dominant landform in the parish is its gently rolling to hilly terrain, a classic characteristic of the Pineywoods region.
- Heavily forested, making it one of Louisiana's leading timber-producing parishes.)

Winn Parish:

• Often referred to as the "Forestry Capital" due to its vast timberlands - 92% of land area is covered by timber.

• Parish is characterized by rolling hills and numerous waterways, typical of the larger Pineywoods region.

Transportation:

• LaDOTD Transit Resource Guide: Licensed transportation providers with their respective transportation assets. Details availability of accessible vehicles.

http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictransportation/transitresources/

Avoyelles Parish: http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=5	Catahoula Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=13		
Concordia Parish: http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=15	Grant Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=22		
LaSalle Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=30	Vernon Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=58		
Winn Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictransportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?Parish=64			

^{*} Grant, Catahoula, and Concordia have no transportation resources listed. This factor significantly affects individuals with disabilities ability to help themselves.

Emergency Communication Systems:

Service	Availability By Parish
 Traditional media: local new channels and social media (parish government specific) Emergency Alert System (EAS) (multiple languages) Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) Alert FM 	All Parishes in Region 6

 MyStateUSA Emergency Alerts NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) FirstNet Everbridge Emergency Alert System 	
Not available at this time	Avoyelles Parish
Not available at this time	Catahoula Parish
Genasys Mass Notification System	Concordia Parish
Grant Parish Sheriff's Office Alerts/Nixle	Grant Parish
LaSalle Alerts Mass Notification System	LaSalle Parish
Vernon Parish Sheriff's Office Notification System/Nixle	Vernon Parish
City of Winnfield Mass Notification System	Winn Parish



Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine, & Webster Parishes

Demographics:

- Approximately 212,243 households
- 37% Black households
- 54% White households
- 3% Hispanic households
- 51,089 households have children living in the home
- 62,715 are age 65 and older
- 52% of households are living below ALICE

(www.Unitedforalice.org)

Disability Status and Type by Parish:

Parish	Ambulatory Difficulty of People 5 & Up	Cognitive Difficulty of People 5 & Up	Hearing Difficulty of All People	Independent Living Difficulty of Adults	People Living with Disability of All People	Vision Difficulty of All People
Bienville	10.7%	10.2%	6.5%	8.2%	20.2%	4.5%
Bossier	7.2%	5.2%	4%	5.4%	14.3%	2.9%
Caddo	9.9%	8%	4.7%	8.2%	18.6%	4.5%
Claiborne	9%	5.5%	3.7%	4.9%	14.6%	1.4%
DeSoto	11.9%	8.8%	5.3%	10.3%	20.7%	4%
Natchitoches	9%	6.9%	5.1%	7.1%	16.9%	4.9%
Red River	9.9%	8.7%	4.9%	8.8%	18.5%	7.3%
Sabine	12.3%	9.9%	7.9%	10.1%	22.8%	4.9%
Webster	9.9%	7.3%	4.4%	7.5%	17.5%	4.2%

Region 7 | Louisiana State Health Assessment

Medicaid Enrollees in Region 7 (in 2023):

Parish	Enrollee Total	
Bienville	8,186	

Bossier	48,494
Caddo	124,129
Claiborne	7,082
DeSoto	13,525
Natchitoches	19,015
Red River	4,878
Sabine	11,631
Webster	21,129
Total	258,069

(https://ldh.la.gov/assets/medicaid/AnnualReports/MedicaidAnnualReport2023.pdf)

Medicaid Waiver Participants:

• 2502 total participants utilizing at least one aging and adult (OAAS) waiver service as of 3/31/25.

(https://laddc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/DD-Council-Report-April-2025_ V001.pdf)

• 989 participants utilizing at least one developmental disability (OCDD) waiver service as of 3/31/25.

(https://laddc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/OCDD-Quarterly-report_1st-quarter_2025_final.pdf)

Medicare recipients who have made a claim for Electricity Dependent Durable Medical Equipment (DME) (Indicative of a temporary or permanent access and functional need.):

Parish	Beneficiaries	At-Risk	% At-Risk
Bienville	3,529	244	6.9%
Bossier	22,857	1,386	6.1%
Caddo	52,234	2,703	5.2%
Claiborne	3,157	202	6.4%
DeSoto	6,445	356	5.5%
Natchitoches	7.904	469	5.9%
Red River	1,819	117	6.4%
Sabine	5,459	357	6.5%

Webster	9,947	658	6.6%

(https://empowerprogram.hhs.gov/empowermap)

Geographic Features:

Bienville Parish:

- Much of the parish is characterized by rolling hills and upland that are largely covered by forests.
- Features Mount Driskill and Jordan Mountain.

Bossier Parish:

- Red River forms the western boundary which contains flood plains.
- Eastern & northern parts feature higher elevations referred to as the "Bossier Hills" or "Ozark Spur," and are considered remnants of older mountain ranges, though now significantly eroded. These areas contain evergreen/deciduous forests.

Caddo Parish:

- Elevation varies across the parish.
- Features flood plains around the Red River and Caddo Lake.
- Also features "Bluffs" or gently rolling uplands and higher elevation areas that contain evergreen/deciduous forests.

Claiborne Parish:

- Parish is noted as being the highest parish in the state by average elevation.
- Rolling hills and uplands covered with forests dominate most of the parish.
- Part of the larger geological formations of the region, including Haynesville Shale which are significant natural gas reserves.

DeSoto Parish:

- Much of DeSoto Parish consists of rolling, piney woods with higher elevations.
- Western portion contains Toledo Bend Reservoir and the Sabine River.

Natchitoches Parish:

- Contains the Red River and Cane River Lake which feature lower elevations from their associated flood plains.
- Parish is generally composed of rolling oak uplands and the fertile bottomlands associated with the Red River and its tributaries.
- Large part of the parish is covered by the Kisatchie National Forest, showcasing rolling pine and oak uplands, sandstone bluffs.

Red River Parish:

- Features the Red River and its associated flood plains and low lying bottomlands which are seasonally flooded.
- Parish also features oak & pine lined up lands which are on the east and west sides of the Red River

Sabine Parish:

- Much of the parish consists of rolling to hilly terrain that is heavily forested.
- Entire western boundary is formed by the Toledo Bend Reservoir.

Webster Parish:

- Elevation varies across the parish.
- Lake Bistineau forms a significant portion of the western boundary and contains associated

flood plains.

 Rest of the parish contains rolling uplands featuring higher elevations, and forests including Kisatchie National Forest.

Transportation:

Natchitoches Parish:

Rural Public Transportation Pilot Program: The program provides curb-to-curb transportation service throughout the Natchitoches Parish area as part of a program operated by the Rapides Area Planning Commission. This flexible public transportation service provides rides locally and to nearby destinations, but requires a ride reservation be made in advance. All vehicles are ADA accessible.

https://www.rapc.info/transit-pilot

Shreveport: SporTran OnDemand is our paratransit van service that is specially equipped with wheelchair lifts/ramps and other accessibility features that allow maximum mobility for customers with disabilities.

Three categories of people are eligible for OnDemand Paratransit:

- Persons who are unable to board, ride, or de-board a bus, even if they can get to the bus stop and the bus is accessible. This includes those with mental or visual impairments who cannot navigate the system
- Persons with disabilities who cannot use buses without wheelchair lifts or other accommodations. These persons are eligible for paratransit service if accessible buses are not available on the fixed-route on which they want to travel
- 3. Persons with disabilities who cannot travel to or from a bus stop. A person is eligible in this category if travel is impossible because of architectural or environmental barriers that, when combined with the disability, prevent that individual from reaching the bus stop.

https://sportran.org/101/OnDemand-Paratransit-Services

• LaDOTD Transit Resource Guide: Licensed transportation providers with their respective transportation assets. Details availability of accessible vehicles.

http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictransportation/transitresources/

Bienville Parish: http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=7	Bossier Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=8
Caddo Parish:	Claiborne Parish:

http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=9	http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=14
DeSoto Parish: http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=16	Natchitoches Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=35
Red River Parish: http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=41	Sabine Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=43

Webster Parish:

http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/public transportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?Parish=60

Emergency Communication Systems:

Service	Availability By Parish
 Traditional media: local new channels and social media (parish government specific) Emergency Alert System (EAS) (multiple languages) Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) Alert FM MyStateUSA Emergency Alerts NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) FirstNet Everbridge Emergency Alert System 	All Parishes in Region 7
Bienville Parish Resident Portal	Bienville Parish
Not available at this time	Bossier Parish
CaddoREADY (Everbridge Emergency Alert System)Shreveport Alert Center	Caddo Parish
 Outdoor Warning Sirens Grand Gulf Nuclear Station (GGNS) Emergency Planning Zone 	Claiborne Parish
 CodeRED Emergency Alerts DeSoto Parish Waterworks District No1 	DeSoto Parish
 Regroup (City of Natchitoches) mass notification systems Outdoor Warning Sirens 	Natchitoches Parish
Not available at this time	Red River Parish

Not available at this time	Sabine Parish
City of Webster "Notify Me"	Webster Parish



Region 8

Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Union, & West Carroll Parishes

Demographics:

- Approximately 134,840 households
- 34 % Black households
- 60% White households
- 3% Hispanic households
- 34,702 households have children living in the home
- 38,724 are age 65 and older
- 56% of households are living below ALICE

(www.Unitedforalice.org)

Disability Status and Type by Parish:

Parish	Ambulatory Difficulty of People 5 & Up	Cognitive Difficulty of People 5 & Up	Hearing Difficulty of All People	Independent Living Difficulty of Adults	People Living with Disability of All People	Vision Difficulty of All People
Caldwell	11.1%	6.2%	6.1%	8.2%	19.4%	3.6%
East Carroll	11.8%	11.5%	6%	10.1%	21.6%	4.6%
Franklin	10.6%	7.7%	5.4%	10.2%	18.5%	4%
Jackson	11%	7.2%	6.3%	8.5%	19.1%	5.9%
Lincoln	6.9%	6.1%	3.5%	3.9%	13.3%	2.4%
Madison	11.1%	12.1%	6.2%	14.2%	22.8%	6.7%
Morehouse	10.1%	6.1%	3.8%	7.3%	17.5%	4.2%
Ouachita	8.3%	5.4%	4.1%	7.1%	14.6%	3.1%
Richland	10.1%	6.2%	3.2%	8.2%	15.4%	2.7%
Tensas	13.2%	10.7%	4.9%	12.4%	20.1%	5.7%
Union	11.5%	5.2%	5.5%	8.4%	16.6%	3.7%
West Carroll	8.6%	6.5%	4.9%	9.4%	18.1%	3.5%

Region 8 | Louisiana State Health Assessment

Medicaid Enrollees in Region 8 (in 2023):

Parish	Enrollee Total
Caldwell	6,310
East Carroll	4,499
Franklin	13,464
Jackson	6,689
Lincoln	19,617
Madison	7,397
Morehouse	16,796
Ouachita	85,145
Richland	12,561
Tensas	2,741
Union	12,309
West Carroll	6,701
Total	194,229

(https://ldh.la.gov/assets/medicaid/AnnualReports/MedicaidAnnualReport2023.pdf)

Medicaid Waiver Participants:

• 2070 total participants utilizing at least one aging and adult (OAAS) waiver service as of 3/31/25.

(https://laddc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/DD-Council-Report-April-2025_ V001.pdf)

• 1027 participants utilizing at least one developmental disability (OCDD) waiver service as of 3/31/25.

(https://laddc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/OCDD-Quarterly-report_1st-quarter_2025_final.pdf)

Medicare recipients who have made a claim for Electricity Dependent Durable Medical Equipment (DME) (Indicative of a temporary or permanent access and functional need.):

Parish	Beneficiaries	At-Risk	% At-Risk
Caldwell	2,452	154	6.3%
East Carroll	2,718	163	6.0%

Franklin	4,415	321	7.3%
Jackson	3,330	210	5.9%
Lincoln	8,100	382	4.7%
Madison	1,871	112	6.0%
Morehouse	6,482	353	5.4%
Ouachita	30,682	1,803	5.9%
Richland	4,764	278	5.8%
Tensas	1,185	72	6.15
Union	5,713	331	5.8%
West Carroll	1,333	122	9.2%

(https://empowerprogram.hhs.gov/empowermap)

Geographic Features:

distinct halves.

Caldwell Parish:

- Ouachita River divides the parish into two
- East of the Ouachita River, landscape is flat farmlands.
- West of the Ouachita River, landscape shifts to rolling piney hills that are heavily timbered.

East Carroll Parish:

- Most defining geographic feature of West Carroll Parish is the Macon Ridge. This elevated landform runs generally north-south through the parish, forming a natural divide.
- Outside the ridge, the terrain is generally flat and often poorly drained, especially closer to the Boeuf River and Bayou Macon.

Franklin Parish:

- Majority of the parish is predominantly flat.
- Eastern part of the parish contains the Macon Ridge.

Jackson Parish:

• Characterized by rolling hills and moderate elevations.

Lincoln Parish:

- Characterized by rolling hills and upland forests.
- Higher average elevation with an average of approximately 200 feet above sea level. The parish highpoint is around 425 feet.

Madison Parish:

- Entire eastern border is formed by the Mississippi River.
- Majority of the parish is flat and level.
- Generally very low-lying, with elevations typically ranging from about 60 to 100 feet above sea level. This low elevation, combined with the presence of major rivers, makes the parish susceptible to flooding without extensive levee systems. The highest point in the parish is around 102 feet.

Morehouse Parish:

- Land is largely flat and low-lying.
- There are also significant areas of bottomland hardwood forests and other woodlands.

Ouachita Parish:

- Ouachita River flows south through the center of the parish.
- Areas adjacent to the Ouachita River, lie within the alluvial floodplain which are generally flat.
- Due to its location within a floodplain, parts
 of the parish are susceptible to flooding
 during periods of heavy rainfall or
 prolonged high river stages. The parish has
 active floodplain management efforts,
 including levees and drainage projects, to
 mitigate this risk.
- Eastern & western margins gradually rise into slightly higher, rolling upland areas.)

Richland Parish:

- A significant portion of eastern Richland Parish is situated on the Macon Ridge.
- Majority of the parish, especially the western half is predominantly flat.

Tensas Parish:

- Land is remarkably flat but also very low-lying, with elevations typically ranging from about 50 to 80 feet above sea level. This low elevation makes it susceptible to flooding if not for extensive levee systems.
- Eastern boundary is entirely formed by the Mississippi River.

Union Parish:

- Characterized by pine covered rolling hills.
- Eastern border is the Ouachita River.

West Carroll Parish:

 Most prominent terrain feature of West Carroll Parish is the Macon Ridge. This elevated landform runs north-south through the parish and extends for approximately 100 miles from eastern Arkansas southward into Louisiana.

<u>Transportation</u>:

Lincoln Parish: Lincoln Parish Public Transit is a non-emergency, handicap access service to the residents of Lincoln Parish. Transportation services are provided to the general public, within Lincoln Parish to any destination in the parish and some surrounding parishes. Destinations include doctor's offices, work, grocery stores, social service agencies, drug stores, and any other service agencies.

https://www.lincolnparish.org/help/page/transportation-department

 LaDOTD Transit Resource Guide: Licensed transportation providers with their respective transportation assets. Details availability of accessible vehicles.

http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictransportation/transitresources/

Caldwell Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=11	East Carroll Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=18
Franklin Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=21	Jackson Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=25
Lincoln Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=31	Madison Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=33
Morehouse Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=34	Ouachita Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=37
http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P	http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P

^{*} Union, Morehouse, West Carroll, East Carroll, Richland, Franklin, and Tensas Parish have no transportation providers listed. This factor significantly impacts the capacity for individuals with disabilities to help themselves.

Emergency Communication Systems:

Service	Availability By Parish
 Traditional media: local new channels and social media (parish government specific) 	
 Emergency Alert System (EAS) (multiple languages) 	
 Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) 	
Alert FM	All Parishes in Region 8
MyStateUSA Emergency Alerts	
 NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) 	
FirstNet	
Everbridge Emergency Alert System	
Caldwell Parish Alerts via AlertSense	Caldwell Parish

Not available at this time	East Carroll Parish
Not available at this time	Franklin Parish
Jackson Parish Alerts via AlertSense	Jackson Parish
LincAlerts by Rave Mobile Safety	Lincoln Parish
Madison Parish Sheriff's Office/E911 Office Alerts	Madison Parish
Not available at this time	Morehouse Parish
Not available at this time	Ouachita Parish
Not available at this time	Richland Parish
Grand Gulf Nuclear Station Emergency Siren System	Tensas Parish
Rave Alert Notification (Union Parish Communication District)	Union Parish
Not available at this time	West Carroll Parish

Regional Note of Interest:

Grand Gulf Nuclear Station:

- Although not located in Louisiana, the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station Emergency Planning Zone does extend its emergency siren systems into Tensas Parish due to its 10-mile "plume exposure pathway."
- Public Information: Residents within the Tensas Parish portion of the EPZ receive annual public information materials about emergency procedures, including:
 - What to do if sirens are heard.
 - Instructions for sheltering-in-place.
 - Evacuation routes specific to their area.
 - Information on reception centers.
 - Details on the distribution of potassium iodide (KI) tablets.
- Alert and Notification System: Tensas Parish is part of the warning system for the GGNS EPZ, which typically includes:
 - Siren system: Sirens are tested regularly (usually the first Wednesday of each month). Hearing a siren means to tune into local radio or television for instructions, not necessarily to evacuate immediately.
 - Tone-alert receivers/NOAA Weather Radios: These devices can provide direct alerts.
 - Emergency broadcasts on local radio and television.

• Exercises and Drills: Full-scale exercises are conducted biennially by FEMA and the NRC to evaluate the readiness of all response agencies, including those in Tensas Parish, to ensure that emergency responders are prepared for a nuclear power plant incident.

The Louisiana Center for the Blind: Located in Ruston and is a residential training program for individuals who are blind.



Region 9

Livingston, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, & Washington Parishes

Demographics:

- Approximately 239,893 households
- 15% Black households
- 73% White households
- 5% Hispanic households
- 68,209 households have children living in the home
- 66,322 are age 65 and older
- 46% of households are living below ALICE

(www.Unitedforalice.org)

Disability Status and Type by Parish:

Parish	Ambulatory Difficulty of People 5 & Up	Cognitive Difficulty of People 5 & Up	Hearing Difficulty of All People	Independent Living Difficulty of Adults	People Living with Disability of All People	Vision Difficulty of All People
Livingston	7.1%	6.6%	3.8%	5.1%	14%	3.1%
Tangipahoa	9.6%	10.4%	5.4%	7.6%	20.5%	4.1%
St. Helena	17.6%	14.5%	8.5%	8.1%	29%	2.9%
St. Tammany	8.3%	6.9%	5.2%	6.1%	16.9%	4.2%
Washington	13.6%	11.3%	7.4%	11.3%	23.5%	5.4%

Region 9 | Louisiana State Health Assessment

Medicaid Enrollees in Region 9 (in 2023):

Parish	Enrollee Total
Livingston	60,542
Tangipahoa	76,589
St. Helena	4,244
St. Tammany	94,306
Washington	28,446

264,127

(https://ldh.la.gov/assets/medicaid/AnnualReports/MedicaidAnnualReport2023.pdf)

Medicaid Waiver Participants:

• 1217 total participants utilizing at least one aging and adult (OAAS) waiver service as of 3/31/25.

(https://laddc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/DD-Council-Report-April-2025_ V001.pdf)

 1654 participants utilizing at least one developmental disability (OCDD) waiver service as of 3/31/25.

(https://laddc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/OCDD-Quarterly-report_1st-quarterly-report_1st-quarterly-report_2025 final.pdf)

Medicare recipients who have made a claim for Electricity Dependent Durable Medical Equipment (DME) (Indicative of a temporary or permanent access and functional need.):

Parish	Beneficiaries	At-Risk	% At-Risk
Livingston	24,196	1,285	5.3%
Tangipahoa	28,056	1,455	5.2%
St. Helena	1,509	70	4.6%
St. Tammany	60,397	2,587	4.3%
Washington	10,918	629	5.8%

(https://empowerprogram.hhs.gov/empowermap)

Geographic Features:

Livingston Parish:

- One of the "Florida Parishes" in the southeastern part of the state with landscape that transitions from rolling uplands to coastal wetlands.
- Northern part features rolling terrain and upland forests.
- Southern part landscape gradually becomes flatter, transitioning into lower-lying areas, flatwoods, and ultimately, wetlands.

Tangipahoa Parish:

- One of "Florida Parishes" that transitions from rolling uplands in the north to extensive coastal swamps and marshes in the south, reflecting its long north-south orientation and proximity to Lake Pontchartrain.
- Northern part features rolling hills and upland piney forests.
- Southern part becomes progressively flatter and lower in elevation. This area consists of Holocene coastal swamp and marsh.
- Lake Pontchartrain forms the southeastern border while extensive cypress-tupelo swamps and freshwater marshes extend

	inward.
 St. Helena Parish: One of Louisiana's "Florida Parishes" located in the southeastern part of the state, showcases a transition zone between the state's flatter coastal plains and the more undulating uplands. Northern portion is characterized by rolling hills and piney woods. Southern portion gradually transitions into flatter woods and coastal plains. 	St. Tammany Parish: Located on the Northshore of Lake Pontchartrain in Southeastern Louisiana. Northern and central parts feature gently rolling hills and elevated terraces. Southern parts near Lake Pontchartrain (which forms a portion of the southern boundary) flatten out significantly, transitioning into recent lowlands and extensive wetlands.
	 Parish receives abundant rainfall throughout the year which contributes to potential flooding issues in low-lying areas.

Washington Parish:

- One of the state's "Florida Parishes." Its geography is characterized by rolling terrain, extensive forests, and a network of rivers and creeks.
- Defined by rolling, forested "piney woods" hills.
- Narrow floodplains and associated wetlands exist along the major rivers and larger creeks.

Transportation:

St. Tammany Parish: STAR Transit is a demand response transit system that operates within the boundaries of St. Tammany Parish (service area map). This system is open to all residents within the Parish. The program operates two types of services: rural transportation and urban transportation. It is designed to transport passengers to and between essential services and destinations. This service is non-emergency and provides curb-to-curb service on a call-in, first come first served basis. (https://www.stpgov.org/transportation/index.php)

 LaDOTD Transit Resource Guide: Licensed transportation providers with their respective transportation assets. Details availability of accessible vehicles.

http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictransportation/transitresources/

Livingston Parish: http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=32	Tangipahoa Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=53
St. Helena Parish: http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=46	St. Tammany Parish: http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictr ansportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?P arish=52

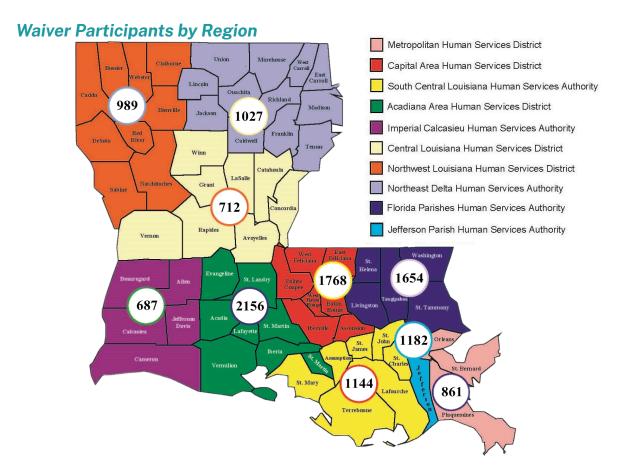
Washington Parish:

http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/multimodal/publictransportation/transitresources/Providers.aspx?Parish=59

Emergency Communication Systems:

Service	Availability By Parish
 Traditional media: local new channels and social media (parish government specific) Emergency Alert System (EAS) (multiple languages) Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) Alert FM MyStateUSA Emergency Alerts NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) FirstNet Everbridge Emergency Alert System 	All Parishes in Region 9
Smart911	Livingston Parish
TANGIAlertSmart911	Tangipahoa Parish
Smart911	St. Helena Parish
St. Tammany Alert Telecommunications (STAT)Smart911	St. Tammany Parish
Smart911	Washington Parish

APPENDIX



WAIVERS - LOUISIANA OFFICE FOR CITIZENS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (OCDD):

Children's Choice Waiver (CCW): offers supplemental support to children with developmental disabilities who live at home with families through 20 years of age.

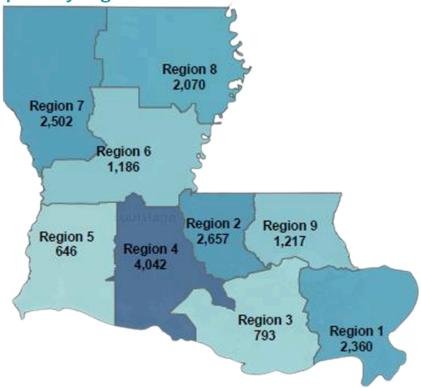
Residential Options Waiver (ROW): provides support and services in the home and in the community to individuals of all ages who are eligible to receive OCDD waiver services.

New Opportunities Waiver (NOW): provides services to assist people who qualify to receive OCDD waiver services to live as independently as possible.

Supports Waiver: provides services in the home and community to individuals 18 and older who qualify to receive OCDD waiver services as a way to provide options and opportunities through vocational and community inclusion.

Children's Medicaid Option (TEFRA): approximately 2,432 participants are enrolled in TEFRA (Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act) also known as Children's Medicaid Option which is a program that provides medicaid eligibility to children under age 19 who have disabilities and meet institutional level of care requirements regardless of parental income and resources (numbers are approximate per Louisiana Department of Health - Bureau of Services Financing).

Waiver Participants by Region



WAIVERS - LOUISIANA OFFICE OF ADULT AND AGING SERVICES (OAAS):

Adult Day Health Care: program that offers a range of medical and health-related services that are provided a center where participants will go for part of the day. This program offers structured activities and socialization opportunities to promote mental stimulation, social-engagement and overall well-being. These activities include cognitive exercises, arts and crafts, games and group discussions. Nutritious meals and snacks are also provided to participants when they are at the ADHC center.

Community Choices Waiver: home and community-based service that serves older adults and persons with adult onset disabilities. CCW contains a wide array of services, including support coordination, nursing and skilled therapy assessments and services, in-home monitoring systems, home modifications and assistive technologies, personal care, home-delivered meals, monitored in-home caregiving, and caregiver respite.

Long Term Personal Care Services: provides help with activities of daily living for people who qualify for assistance under the program guidelines. Activities of daily

living are activities related to personal care, such as bathing/showering, dressing, getting in and out of bed or a chair, walking, eating and using the restroom.

Total Program Participants, May 1, 2025 report for LADDC

(https://laddc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/DD-Council-Report-April-2025_V001.pdf)