

# RESOURCES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES



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Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusion for individuals with disabilities is of utmost importance, and comprehensive resources and services play a crucial role in achieving this. We are committed to providing individuals with the necessary support and resources to help them succeed and thrive. In this spirit of compassion and inclusivity, we welcome all those searching for resources and services for individuals with disabilities.

We firmly believe that every person, irrespective of their background or abilities, deserves access to support and empowerment. Whether you've recently developed a disability, a caregiver offering unwavering support, or simply looking for information and resources to create a more inclusive world, this guide is here. Our mission is to provide a comprehensive roadmap that acknowledges the diversity of experiences and challenges faced by individuals with disabilities. From assistive technology and advocacy to accessibility information and support networks, we're committed to celebrating the uniqueness of each person's journey and offering the kindness and understanding everyone deserves on their path to full inclusion and empowerment.

We invite you to explore the resources in this guide at your own pace, seeking the support and knowledge that resonate with you. If you have any questions or concerns about an agency listed in this guide, please do not hesitate to contact our offices at 225-342-1570 for more information.

Health & Happiness,



## ABUSED DEAF WOMEN'S ADVOCACY SERVICES (ADWAS)

[Click here for website](#) Phone(V/VP): 206-922-7088

Email: [adwas@adwas.org](mailto:adwas@adwas.org)

Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services empowers Deaf and DeafBlind survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and harassment to transform their lives, while striving to change the beliefs and behaviors that foster and perpetuate violence. We provide comprehensive services to individuals and families, community education, and advocacy on systems and policy issues.

## AUTISM SERVICES OF SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA (ASSL)

[Click here for website](#) Phone: 337-436-5001

Autism Services of Southwest Louisiana is a nonprofit organization founded by family members touched by autism. We provide housing and support for adults and operate six houses in which men and women live and thrive in our local community. Adults with autism need a safe, comfortable environment in which to live, with twenty-four-hour care. Since there were no homes specifically designed for persons with autism in Louisiana, family members organized ASSL to provide such services.

## DEAF ABUSED WOMEN'S NETWORK

[Click here for website](#) Videophone: 202-559-5366

Emergency Hotline Email: [Hotline@deafdawn.org](mailto:Hotline@deafdawn.org)

DAWN is a trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and transformative justice-based agency to provide multi-faced services to the survivors and the community to understand and address power-based violence by providing direct services and education. As DAWN's mission is to promote healthy relationships and reduce abuse in the Deaf community of the Washington DC area, we emphasize that all forms of violence are intersectional. We work with survivors who have many identities and these varieties of identities decrease their right to their own safety and autonomy.

## DEAF COUNSELING

[Click here for website](#) Videophone: 240-380-2577

Deaf Counseling Center is a Deaf-owned and operated therapy, counseling, coaching, assessments and psychiatric and consulting practice staffed by Deaf licensed professional therapists. It is always Deaf Counseling Center's goal to offer national Deaf therapy services. We specialize in working with Deaf people and their families and are committed to: Providing safe, confidential, and nonjudgmental therapy services; Creating a culturally sensitive counseling/therapy and Deaf-friendly environment for Deaf clients and their families; Ensuring effective communication through American Sign Language; Enhancing lives through empowerment and positive change; and Offering national Deaf therapy services to all states in United States

## AUTISM SOCIETY GNO

[Click here for website](#) Phone: 504-603-6548

The Autism Society of Greater New Orleans (ASGNO) is here to provide information and referrals, advocacy and support for individuals with Autism and their families. We create connections, empowering everyone in the Autism community with the resources needed to live fully. 55 years and counting, the Autism Society of America, including our nationwide network of affiliates, connects people to the resources they need through education, advocacy, support, information and referral, and community programming.

## CENTER FOR PARENT INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

[Click here for website](#)

Your central "Hub" of information and products created for the network of Parent Centers serving families of children with disabilities. All the materials found on the CPIR Hub have been created and archived for Parent Centers around the country to help them provide support and services to the families they serve. The CPIR employs a user-centered process, gathering the perspectives of our experienced audience—Parent Center staff members and other experts—every step of the way, to create products and services that increase Parent Centers' knowledge and capacity in specific domains.

## DEAF ACTION CENTER

[Click here for website](#) Phone: 318-425-7781

The Center promotes the independence of the deaf, the hard of hearing and the multi-handicapped deaf in Louisiana. The Center has made a tremendous effort to provide services, support, and advocacy for this population by providing education to the general public, instructing and directing individuals interested in the field of deafness and encouraging leadership among members of the Deaf Community. It is to this end that the Center works to eliminate any and all barriers and, in fact, serves as a beacon and source of unity for all persons affected and touched by hearing loss.

## DEAF FOCUS

[Click here for website](#) Phone: 225-319-5586

Videophone: 225-341-6337

Deaf focus, a nonprofit agency operated by the Louisiana association of the deaf, Inc., serves with a mission in making a difference for the deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing (DDBHH) community. We take pride in providing services with high standards in interpreting, advocacy, expert consulting, and resources. Our staff aspires to meet the needs of the community through case management and personal service. We strive to work with community partners to continue the journey of progress in creating better opportunities for all.

## THE DEAF HOTLINE

[Click here for website](#) Phone (V/VP): 855-812-1001

Email: [hotline@adwas.org](mailto:hotline@adwas.org)

The Deaf Hotline is a 24/7 hotline that is ASL accessible for people experiencing abuse. With the Deaf Hotline, you can consult with a culturally-adept and trained advocate in ASL. Whether you're in need of safety planning, crisis intervention, emotional support or have some questions, we are here for you.

## EASTERSEALS

[Click here for website](#) Phone: 504-523-7325

Easterseals is leading the way to full equity, inclusion, and access through life-changing disability and community services. Through our national network of affiliates, Easterseals provides essential services and on-the-ground supports to more than 1.5 million people each year — from early childhood programs for the critical first five years, to autism services, to medical rehabilitation and employment programs, to veterans' services, and more. Our public education, policy, and advocacy initiatives positively shape perceptions and address the urgent and evolving needs of the one in four Americans living with disabilities today. Together, we're empowering people with disabilities, families and communities to be full and equal participants in society.

## GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF DISABILITY AFFAIRS (GODA)

[Click here for website](#) Phone: 225-219-7550

The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs (GODA) strives to serve as an informational resource for people with disabilities, their families and the agencies that serve them. GODA was established and designed by the Governor's Office to adequately educate, address and resolve issues relative to the disability community. It is our goal to promote, encourage and support citizens with disabilities so they may have an equal opportunity to actively participate in all aspects of life. There are numerous state and community organizations across Louisiana that work in partnership with GODA. It is their collaboration and partnership that enable us to facilitate positive progress for Louisiana citizens with disabilities.

## LIGHTHOUSE LOUISIANA

[Click here for website](#) Toll-Free: 1-888-792-0163

Baton Rouge Phone: 225-275-1200

New Orleans Phone: 504-899-4501

At Lighthouse Louisiana our mission is to empower people with disabilities through services, employment, and advocacy. Our state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities in New Orleans and Baton Rouge create jobs for people who are blind. Proceeds from the sales of high-quality, commercially competitive products help fund services for people who are blind, Deaf, and who have other disabilities. We help people get jobs, regain their independence, and challenge expectations of the capabilities of people with disabilities. Even as a century-old nonprofit, we're constantly evolving to better serve our community.

## DISABILITY RIGHTS LOUISIANA

[Click here for website](#) Phone: 1-800-960-7705

Disability Rights Louisiana (DRLA) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that protects and advocates for the human and legal rights of people with disabilities of all ages across our state. We work to empower the disability community to live an integrated life, free from abuse, neglect and exploitation. DRLA pursues our mission by providing free legal services, advocating for clients through the work done in our programs, changing systems through our legislative advocacy, and by providing training and other helpful information to help people advocate for themselves.

## FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES

[Click here to find the affiliate chapter in your region](#)

The Mission of Families Helping Families is to educate and connect children and adults with disabilities, and their families to resources, services, and supports to attend school, work, and thrive in their communities. Families Helping Families is unique to Louisiana, and now has ten resource centers serving families across the state. FHF staff members either have a disability themselves or have a close family member with a disability or special healthcare need. We provide information and referral, training and education, and peer-to-peer support on issues related to disability. There is a Families Helping Families office in each region of Louisiana.

## THE INITIATIVE

[Click here for website](#) HelpLine: 303-839-5510

The Initiative advocates for persons with disabilities who are victims of abuse. Through our direct services and our outreach program, The Initiative strives to create an abuse-free culture for all. Our services include victim advocacy, domestic violence counseling, and more. We do not have a shelter, but we can connect you with shelters in your area. The Initiative's outreach program is focused on making state resources accessible to victims of abuse who are persons with disabilities.

## LOUISIANA ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACCESS NETWORK (LATAN)

[Click here for website](#) Toll-Free: 800-270-6185

Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network (LATAN) is the federal Assistive Technology ACT program for Louisiana. Working throughout all of Louisiana, LATAN assists residents of all ages with disabilities or functional limitations in gaining independence at home, at work, and at school through the use of assistive technology.

## LOUISIANA COUNCIL'S ADVOCACY NETWORK (LACAN)

[Click here for website](#)

LaCAN furthers the Development Disabilities Council's mission by advocating for policies and systems that support inclusion everywhere people learn, work, live, and play. LaCAN advocates for service systems that support children and adults with disabilities to live in their own homes and be fully-included and participating members of their local schools and communities. LaCAN provides information and support to individuals wishing to effectively advocate for systems change in the areas of home and community-based services, education, and employment.

## NATIONAL DISABILITY INSTITUTE

[Click here for website](#)

National Disability Institute influences thinking and behavior through pioneering research, advocacy, policy development, training and technical assistance. We collaborate with hundreds of organizations throughout the country—from financial institutions and employers to government and community organizations—to empower people with disabilities and their families to build a better financial future.

## PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

[Click here for website](#) Phone: 504-619-4380

Paralyzed Veterans of America, a congressionally chartered veterans service organization founded in 1946, has developed a unique expertise on a wide variety of issues involving the special needs of our members – veterans of the armed forces who have experienced spinal cord injury or dysfunction. PVA will use that expertise to be the leading advocate for: Quality health care for our members, Research and education addressing spinal cord injury and dysfunction, Benefits available as a result of our members' military service, and Civil rights and opportunities that maximize the independence of our members. To enable Paralyzed Veterans to continue to honor this commitment, we must recruit and retain members who have the experience, energy, dedication, and passion necessary to manage the organization and ensure adequate resources to sustain the programs essential for Paralyzed Veterans of America to achieve its mission.

## RESOURCES FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING, INC (NORIL)

[Click here for website](#) Toll-Free: 877-505-2260

Baton Rouge Center: 225-753-4772

New Orleans Center: 504-522-1955

Here at Noril, we're committed to investing our expertise and resources in order to further the independent living movement. Since 1988, we've been supporting our community members in a variety of ways and measuring our success by more qualitative measurements such as the scale and effectiveness of our efforts. Resources for Independent Living is an organization driven to advocate for a fully accessible and integrated community. We look to enhance personal choice and economic opportunities.

Provides information and referral services, advocacy, peer support, skills training, and transitional services.

## NATIONAL DEAF THERAPY (NDT)

[Click here for website](#)

National Deaf Therapy is a mental health guide and service to the deaf and signing community. Our goal is to decrease the mental health stigma that currently serves as a barrier in achieving optimal well-being. By promoting healthy and open dialogue about Mental Health, NDT creates access to resources that assist individual and community in coping with Mental Health challenges. We engage in holistic strategies such as community orientated projects that foster an authentic desire to provide support to those experiencing mental health issues. From initial contact to intensive ASL therapy sessions, our team is here to center mental health care in every part of the human experience by offering full-service support. We are here to partner with you on your healing journey. We take care of the hassles, so you can focus on yourself.

## OFFICE FOR CITIZENS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

[Click here for website](#) Toll-Free: 1-866-783-5533

The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) serves as the Single Point of Entry (SPOE) into the developmental disabilities services system and oversees public and private residential services and other services for people with developmental disabilities. The mission of the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities is to provide programmatic leadership necessary in the design and development of services to afford people with developmental disabilities and their families a seamless services system that is responsive to both individual needs and desires.

## PEOPLE FIRST OF LOUISIANA

[Click here for website](#) Phone: 225-383-1033

People First of Louisiana is a self-advocacy group run by people with disabilities, for people with disabilities. Where people learn to speak up for themselves about decisions they make. Members can connect with others in their community, across the nation and around the world. People First of Louisiana supports people with disabilities to empower themselves in becoming effective decision makers, to gain more independence, and enjoy life as equal citizens of the United States of America. People First of Louisiana has chapters in every region of the state and is committed to the self-advocacy movement in Louisiana. There are at least 400 self-advocates who are actively participating.

## SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA INDEPENDENCE CENTER

[Click here for website](#) Toll-Free: 1-833-600-5766

Lafayette Office: 337-269-0027

Lake Charles Office: 337-477-7194

Southwest Louisiana Independence Center, Inc. is a non-residential agency of action, advocacy and coalition where persons with disabilities and the elderly can become empowered to develop the skills necessary to make effective lifestyle choices. We strive to support those with disabilities and our elderly by connecting them with resources needed to live independently. We offer services for their support in becoming or remaining active participants in their communities.