



Louisiana Autism Resources and Support

A guide for autistic families



State & Regional Services

Navigating services for autistic family members can be overwhelming. Here's a breakdown of key resources in Louisiana to help you get started.

Florida Parishes Human Services Authority (FPHSA)

- **Services:** Mental health, substance use, and developmental disability services.
- **Who They Serve:** Individuals and families in the Florida Parishes region (Tangipahoa, St. Tammany, Washington, Livingston, and St. Helena).
- **Contact:**
 - **Phone:** (844) 855-6001
 - **Website:** <https://www.fphsa.org/>
- **Hours:** Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD)

- **Services:** Oversees services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities.
- **Waivers:** Manages various Medicaid waivers providing access to crucial services.
- **Contact:**
 - **Phone:** 1-888-272-2326
 - **Website:** <https://ldh.la.gov/ocdd>

EarlySteps (Ages 0-3)

- **Description:** Louisiana's Early Intervention System, providing services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.
- **Access Info:** Referrals can be made by parents, doctors, or other healthcare providers.
- **Contact:**
 - **Phone:** 1-800-437-2430
 - **Website:** <https://ldh.la.gov/page/122>

Child Search/School System (Ages 3+)

- **Description:** Each school system has a Child Search program to identify children with disabilities who may need special education services.
- **Why It Matters:** Ensures children receive appropriate educational support and accommodations.
- **Contact:** Contact your local school district's special education department.
 - A list of districts can be found on the Louisiana Department of Education's website.

Tip: For intake and initial assessment, consider starting with either FPHSA (if you are in their region) or OCDD. They can help guide you through the process.

Louisiana Waivers & Medicaid Services

These waivers can provide funding and access to various services. Eligibility requirements vary.

- **Children's Choice Waiver:**
 - **Eligibility:** Children with disabilities who require a nursing home level of care but can be served at home.
 - **Age:** Birth to 21.
 - **Example Services:** Respite care, specialized medical equipment, environmental modifications.

- **Supports Waiver:**
 - **Eligibility:** Individuals with developmental disabilities who need supports to live in the community.
 - **Age:** 3+.
 - **Example Services:** Community living supports, supported employment, and personal care.
- **Residential Options Waiver:**
 - **Eligibility:** Individuals with developmental disabilities who need residential supports.
 - **Age:** 3+.
 - **Example Services:** Group home living, supervised apartment living.
- **New Opportunities Waiver:**
 - **Eligibility:** Individuals with developmental disabilities who need supports to live as independently as possible.
 - **Age:** 3+.
 - **Example Services:** Day habilitation, pre-vocational services, supported living.
- **Long-Term Personal Care Services (LT-PCS):**
 - **Eligibility:** Medicaid recipients who need assistance with activities of daily living.
 - **Age:** All ages.
 - **Example Services:** Bathing, dressing, feeding, toileting.

Helpful Links

- **Louisiana Medicaid Waivers:** <https://ldh.la.gov/page/245>
- **Louisiana Medicaid Information:** <https://ldh.la.gov/medicaid> - *Includes a chart of all Medicaid Services and programs.*
- **Florida Parishes Human Services Authority (FPHSA):** <https://www.fphsa.org/>
- **Northshore Families Helping Families:** <https://www.fhfnorthshore.org/>

Important Tip: Many waivers have waitlists. It's advisable to apply as early as possible, even if you don't need the services immediately. Contact the OCDD for more information on waiver enrollment.

AVERI SPEAKS, INC.

Awareness • Voice • Education • Resources • Inclusion

This resource is provided by Averi Speaks to support families, caregivers, and communities impacted by autism.

 www.averispeaks.org |  info@averispeaks.org

Together, we can create a more inclusive world.