



DCFS Family Support Programs: What They Mean for You

2018 Louisiana Labor Summit

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Louisiana Statistics

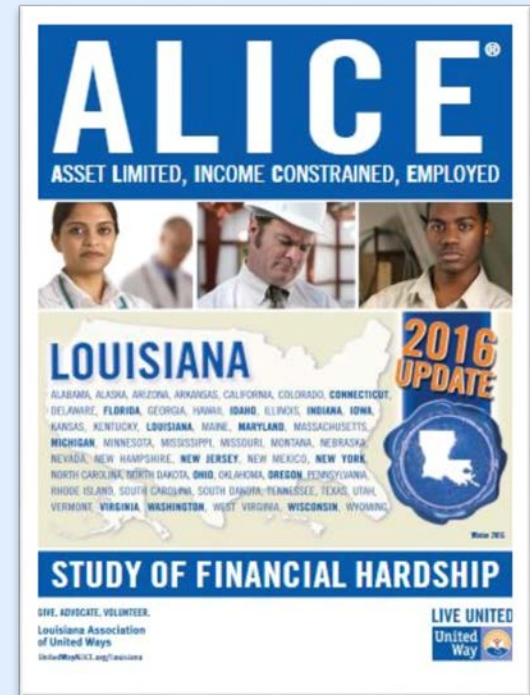


- 2nd highest poverty rate in nation.
- 3rd highest child poverty rate.
- 1 in 4 children in poverty.



Louisiana Families at Risk

- **A**sset **L**imited **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed
- 23% Louisiana residents are ALICE
- Another 19% live in poverty
 - **42% of all Louisiana households cannot afford basic expenses**
 - *One financial setback from disaster.*
 - *We've all been ALICE or know someone who is.*



Louisiana Association
of United Ways



Governor's Strategic Plan

The Moving Families from Poverty to Empowerment Strategic Plan

“To further increase opportunities for all children, we must find ways to lift families out of poverty.”

– Governor John Bel Edwards’
State of the State Address,
March 12, 2018



Family Support Programs

- Economic Stability
- Child Support Enforcement
- Disability Determination Services





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DCFS Economic Stability Programs

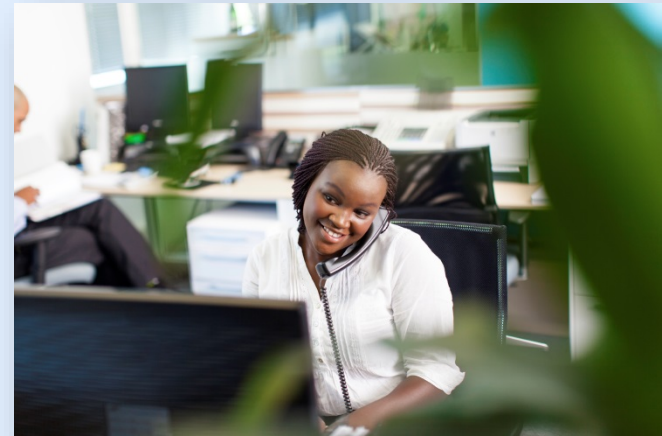
In Federal Fiscal Year 2017:

- 906,651 Louisiana residents received SNAP benefits monthly (on average).
- 9,564 residents received Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP) benefits monthly (on average).
- 3,654 children received Kinship Care Subsidy Program (KCSP) benefits monthly (average).



La. Job Employment & Training Program - LaJET

- Mandatory Program
- Contracted through Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC)
- Available in 4 parishes
 - Orleans
 - Rapides
 - Ouachita
 - Caddo
- Three components
 - Job Search
 - Independent Job Search
 - WIOA



SNAP Employment & Training

Current 50/50 Partners

- **Liberty's Kitchen**
 - Volunteer Program
 - NOLA youth 16-24
 - Not working or in school
 - 16-week on-the-job training program
- **Calcasieu Parish Police Jury**
 - Volunteer Program
 - Job search training
- **Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Louisiana**
 - Volunteer Program
 - Proprietary school
 - START – skills, tasks and results training
 - C-tech Communications Technology
 - Microsoft Office Technology
 - Medical Health Administration



SNAP Employment & Training Potential 50/50 Partners

- **CAFÉ Reconcile**

- Volunteer Program
- Young adults 16-24
- 8 week on-the-job training (OJT) program
- 39 employer partners

- **Covenant House**

- Volunteer Program
- 24/7 emergency crisis center
- Support services for homeless, runaway, at-risk youths 16-22
- 12-16 week OJT program & educational curriculum



Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs)

- What is an ABAWD?
 - Physically or mentally fit for employment
 - Ages 18-49
 - Not pregnant, and
 - Not living in a SNAP household with a child under age 18
- Executive Order signed by Governor John Bel Edwards, April 21, 2016
 - DCFS & LWC must partner to require ABAWDs who are not employed, attending school, or enrolled in a job training program, or currently exempt from the federal work participation program to participate in programs offered by LWC.



Strategies to Empower People (STEP) TANF Work Program

- Contracted through Louisiana Workforce Commission
- Work eligible adults under 60 or teen head of household
- Work Activities include:
 - Employment
 - Vocational education
 - Satisfactory attendance at a secondary school
 - Education directly related to employment
 - Job skills
 - Job search/job readiness
 - On-the-job training
 - Work Experience Program
 - Community services programs
 - Parenting skills
 - Provision of child care services to an individual who is participating in a community services program





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CSE Mission Statement

- The purpose and the mission of the Child Support Enforcement Program are derived from the title IV-D of the Social Security Act:
 - To enhance the well-being of children by assuring that assistance in obtaining support, including financial and medical, is available to children through locating parents, establishing paternity, establishing support obligations, and monitoring and enforcing those obligations.



Who Can Apply for Services?

- If the custodial parent is receiving state assistance, i.e., FITAP/TANF, Medicaid, then he/she automatically qualifies, and there is no charge.
- If not receiving state assistance, either the custodial parent or the non-custodial parent can apply for services and pay a one-time \$25 application fee.
- Effective October 2016, the IV-D program began imposing an annual fee of \$25 on cases in which an individual has never received assistance and a collection of over \$500 occurs. The custodial party is responsible for the fee. *Effective October 2018, that fee will increase to \$35.*



What Information will CSE Need?

Find an application and other
information online at
[www.dcfs.la.gov/childsupport.](http://www.dcfs.la.gov/childsupport)



STEP 1: Paternity Establishment

How is Paternity established?

- Marriage
- In-Hospital Acknowledgements (Birthing Hospitals)
- Genetic Testing (strongly recommended)
 - Buccal swabs
 - DNA
- Court Order



STEP 2: Child Support Order

- Income Shares Model – children are entitled to a share of the income of BOTH parents.
- Numerical Schedule of Support
- Includes Economic Estimates of Child Rearing, Tax Schedules, etc.
- Considers the needs of the children, i.e., child care costs, medical insurance, education.



How Much Child Support One is Expected to Pay

- Child Support is determined by the income of the parents.
- Mandatory Minimum. In Louisiana, unless a parent can prove he or she is disabled, the court is obligated to order at least \$100/month per judgement, regardless of the number of children.
- If the parent is not employed, some courts impute minimum wages. Some look at income earning potential (amount earned when employed).



Calculating Child Support

- Income information from both parents
 - If Mom earns \$2,000 per month, and Dad earns \$3,000 per month, their combined monthly income is \$5,000.
 - For one child, the guidelines specify a monthly child support obligation of \$826.
 - Dad's income represents 60% of the total income. His share of the child support is 60% of \$826 (\$495 per month).



Modification

- Either of the parents can ask Child Support Enforcement (CSE) to review their order for modification any time there has been a “material change in circumstances.”
 - CSE can help modify an order.
 - The review must show at least a 25% change in the amount of support when the guidelines are applied.



STEP 3: Enforcement Action When Payment not Received

Some enforcement methods taken are:

- Income Assignment
- Tax intercept
- Suspension of Licenses (driving, professional, hunting, fishing, etc.)
- Passport denials
- Consumer Reporting – credit bureaus
- Liens on Property, insurance claims
- Contempt of Court (Incarceration is possible)
- Freeze and Seize (funds in financial institutions)
- Lottery and Casino Winnings
- Referral to Federal Government for Criminal Charges (flight)



Child Support Collections for FFY 2017

- Income Assignment Orders/Wage Assignments (“Garnishments”) – 70% of our collections (\$294,963,967)
- Gulf States Claim (Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill). Collections since January 2011. As of September 2017 - \$11,682,406)
- Arrears Collections (\$1,806,209,819)
- Casino -- September 2011 to February 2018 (\$5,657,900)
- Seizures (bank acct., workman’s comp and insurance settlements) (\$10,569,169)
- Collections (\$419,793,628)





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Disability Determination Services

Disability Determinations Services (DDS) is the Louisiana State Agency responsible for the adjudication of disability claims for Social Security Administration (SSA) claimants filed under the Title II (Social Security Disability Insurance) and Title XVI (Supplemental Security Income) of the SSA Act.



Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

What is it?

- SSDI is a social insurance program under which workers earn coverage for benefits, by working and paying Social Security taxes on their earnings.

Who is it for?

- Disabled people younger than 65 who can't work because they have a medical condition that's expected to last at least one year or result in death and have earned a certain number of work credits.



Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

What is it?

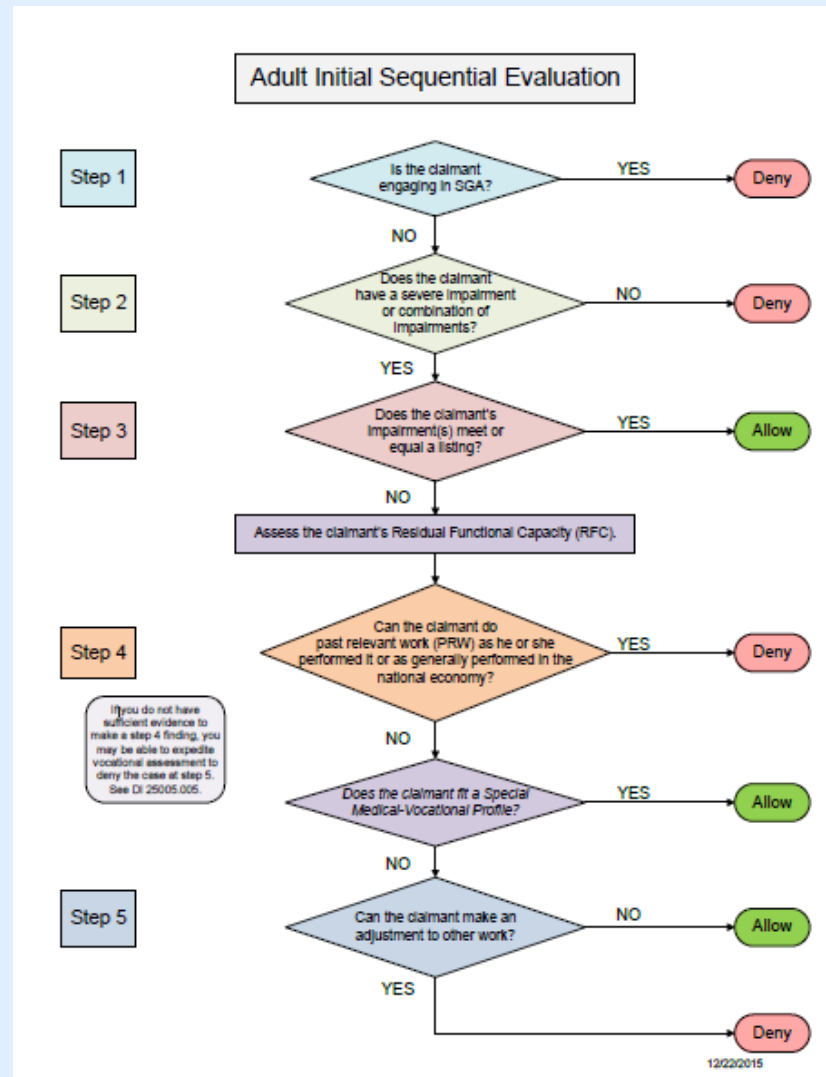
- SSI is a federal program that provides monthly payments to people who have limited income and few resources.

Who is it for?

- People who are 65 or older, as well as those of any age, including children, who are blind or who have disabilities.



Adult Initial Sequential Evaluation



Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA)

- The Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) amount for individuals with disabilities, other than blindness, increased from \$1,170 to \$1,180.
- The SGA amount for individuals who are blind increased from \$1,950 to \$1,970 for 2018.
- The monthly earnings amount that we use to determine if a month counts for the Trial Work Period month is \$850 per month in 2018.
- The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Federal Benefit Rate (FBR) is \$750 per month for an eligible individual and \$1,125 per month for an eligible couple.



A Guide to Work Incentives

- The Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs include a number of employment support provisions commonly referred to as work incentives.
- These provisions are designed to protect benefits while recipients develop and test their work capabilities.
- Ticket to Work program allows beneficiaries to seek employment services, vocational rehabilitation or other support services needed to obtain, regain or maintain employment and reduce their dependence on cash benefit programs.



DDS Highlights

- Number of individuals receiving disability benefits at end of quarter 09/2017
 - SSDI – 192,447
 - SSI – 164,622
- Total Disability Payments as of quarter ending 09/2017
 - T-2 Disability - \$188,885,000 (Disabled workers, their spouses and dependent children)
 - T-16 SSI Disability - \$89,647,000 (Disabled adults, their spouses and dependent children)
- Claims pending in DDS as of 03/16/2018 -
 - New Initial claims pending in individual caseloads – 12,941
 - Continuing Disability Reviews pending in individual caseloads - 4,541
 - Backlogged/unassigned (due to insufficient staffing) – 6,796



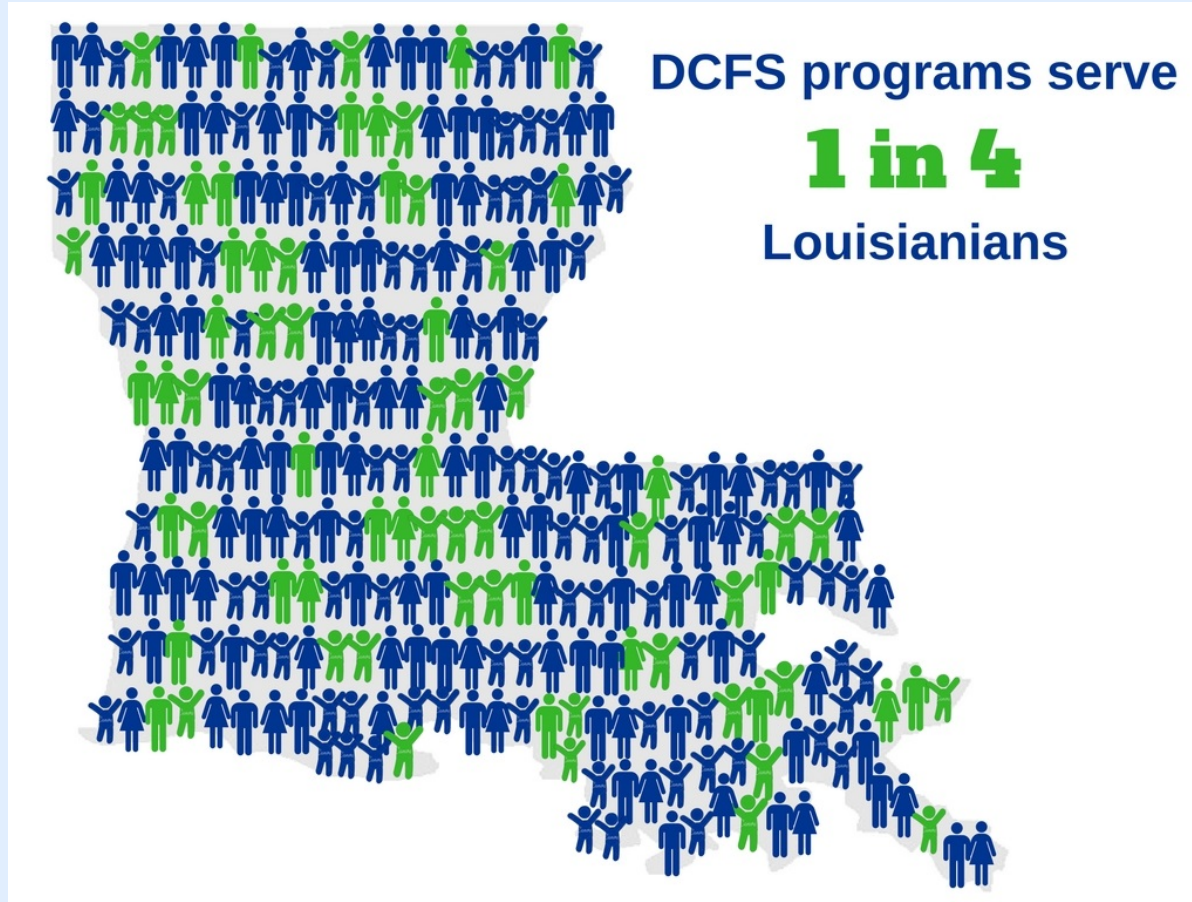
Disability Determination Services

In Federal Fiscal Year 2017:

- DDS adjudicated disability claims for 74,310 workers and 10,103 children in Louisiana.



Department of Children and Family Services



Download presentation:

<http://www.dcfs.louisiana.gov/LaborSummit2018>

www.dcfs.louisiana.gov

