

Reinstate Funding for People First of Louisiana

Background Information:

In 1997, the Louisiana Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities provided funding to promote self-advocacy for people with disabilities. “People First” chapters, composed solely of people with disabilities, were established across Louisiana. People First of Louisiana has at least one chapter in every region of the state and is committed to the self-advocacy movement in Louisiana. It is the oldest and largest statewide self-advocacy organization in Louisiana. It has been the vehicle for providing people with disabilities with a statewide presence, enabling them to serve on boards, workgroups, and committees that represent their interests. Funding for this program ended abruptly in FY 2024— 2025.

In 2024, we met with the legislature, and they fully funded our request for People First. However, this year we learned that funding for People First was not annualized in this upcoming budget.

What Can Legislators Do?

Appropriation of \$62,000 in SGF to funds in LDH’s budget to support People First of Louisiana at \$108,000.

Why Do This?

People First of Louisiana is part of a national coalition of organizations for people with disabilities. As a statewide organization, it supports people with disabilities in empowering themselves to become effective decision-makers, gain independence, enjoy life as equal citizens, and actively support one another in participating in and contributing to their local communities.



**People with disabilities - moving forward
for change in Louisiana.**