

Louisiana Early Steps – Katrina & Rita Information

Families and Providers displaced by the storm, please let us know where you are and how to contact you:

- ❖ To check in, contact Janie Martin, Executive Director, SICCC, at 225-219-7560 or Janie.martin@la.gov.

General Questions about Early Steps:

- ❖ Contact the Regional Coordinator in the area where you are (contact list attached), OR
- ❖ Contact Janie Martin, State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICCC), at 225-219-7560 or Janie.martin@la.gov

For Displaced Families:

❖ In Louisiana

- To continue services for your child/family, call the System Point of Entry (SPOE) in the area where you are currently living (SPOE contact list is attached). OR
- Contact the Regional Coordinator or Community Outreach Specialist in the area where you are currently living (contact list are attached)
- If you have moved back to an area and the SPOE or RC is not functional yet, call the nearest SPOE or RC [see attached list]

❖ Outside of Louisiana

- To continue services for your child/family, call the Part C – Early Intervention Program in the state where you are. Other States' Part C – Early Intervention Program contact information is attached – or you can call Janie Martin for this information 225-219-7560; janie.martin@la.gov
- The alternate SPOE or other States' Part C program can call Covansys at **1-866-305-4985-option #1** to get service information. The Parent/Guardian will need to sign a consent form, which can be faxed to the CFO, to authorize Covansys to release this data/information [see attached process and]. This form can be found on the LA EarlySteps web site (<http://www.oph.dhh.louisiana.gov/childrensspecial/earlyinterventionservices/earlystepsforms.html>, Intake #8) or can be provided via e-mail or fax by the CFO - Fax: 913.888.3824. Send fax to Attn: LA CFO

For Displaced Providers:

❖ In Louisiana

- Contact Covansys to complete a change of address & update your availability on the service matrix. Call 1-866-305-4985-ext.2 or login to www.eikids.com/la/matrix AND

- Contact the SPOE or Regional Coordinator in the area where you are currently located. SPOE and Regional Coordinator contact information is attached.
- If you have moved back to an area in Louisiana and the SPOE or RC is not functional yet, call the nearest SPOE or RC [see attached list]

❖ **Outside of Louisiana**

- EarlySteps is unable to pay providers for services delivered outside of Louisiana.
- Contact Covansys to complete a change of address if you want to receive any payments for past services at your new location. If you will no longer be providing services in Louisiana, contact the CFO to disenroll. Call 1-866-305-4985-ext.2 or login to www.eikids.com/la/matrix If you will be located outside of the state for a temporary period of time, update your status as inactive on the matrix and when you return to Louisiana, be sure to change your availability.
- Contact the Part C – Early Intervention Program in the state where you are to check about possible employment either temporary or permanent depending upon your situation and needs.
- Check with your professional organization about licensure & certification issues. Contact information can be found at <http://www.nectac.org/announce/katrina.asp>

Agency Specific Information & Messages

- ❖ Early Intervention Institute at LSU Health Sciences Center – Faculty and staff are trying to locate families that received support from interventionists with our Infant, Toddler, and Family Services Program in Orleans, Jefferson, and surrounding parishes to continue receiving early intervention services and supports. Please contact Gina at geaste@lsuhsc.edu and/or 225-791-2024. In addition, please let me know how we can assist children with special needs and their families in the Baton Rouge or Lafayette areas.
- ❖ Arc of Greater New Orleans – If any families have been receiving either Family Service Coordination or Early Intervention Services through The Arc of Greater New Orleans please contact Yvette Balser at The Arc of Baton Rouge at 225-927-0855 or email Yvette at arcchild@bellsouth.net.
- ❖ STARC - Please call the SPOE in your new area for assistance in moving your child’s file and arranging for new service providers. However, we would ask that you contact our office so that we are aware of your new location and know that you and your child are okay. We have been unable to locate many families and would love to hear that you are doing well and receiving services in your new location. If your child receives Early Steps services from any of the below listed STARC therapists/teachers please contact Allyson Bateman at ABatemanECD@aol.com or 985-624-8527: Allyson Bateman, Ellen Wilson, Bin Su, Gayle Pounds, Faith Rickert, Laurie Bridges, Lynne Schaeffer, Lynley Brown, Angela Binder, Carolyn Hale, Shari Turni, Virginia Payne, Tracy Diercks

Early Steps Policy/Regulation – Changes/Extensions

- ❖ OPH has waived the 60-day requirement on submitting claims - it has been extended to 120-days.

- ❖ Due to the recent events of Katrina and Rita, the deadline for new provider enrollment for EarlySteps has been extended to November 1, 2005. I am asking all providers to try their best to attend the mandatory enrollment meetings being rescheduled and held in regions that have functioning offices. Providers who have been displaced or who are located in regions that are not scheduling Provider Enrollment Meetings due to the disasters can contact any Regional Coordinator and attend any EarlySteps Provider Enrollment Meeting.

The EarlySteps staff is very appreciative of all the concern and support that we have received from everyone. Please continue to be patient with us as we try to re-establish our Central Offices after the disaster.

- ❖ A memo was sent out from Ben Bearden on September 9, 2005. This memo contained some policy/procedure changes for support coordination agencies. There are four of these requirements, which directly affect the earlySteps support coordinators. They are as follows:

#7 - Maximum support coordination supervisory ratio of 1:8 is waived statewide.

#8 - Supervisory requirement of weekly face-to-face meetings with support coordinators and the 10% caseload review is waived statewide.

#12 - In home, face-to-face visits and observation of the provision of direct services will be waived (statewide) until December 31, 2005. Monthly phone contacts are still required.

#13 - Restrictions on the region in which an agency may provide services/support coordination will be waived.

All of these waived requirements are being supported by EarlySteps; however, all FSC agencies must continue to follow their corrective action plans. If your corrective action plan includes file reviews, then your agency must continue to do the file reviews to ensure that all areas of concern are being addressed. If an agency needs to request that they delay the implementation of their corrective action plan due to a greatly increased workload, then they must do so in writing to their regional coordinator and include the number of EarlySteps children they were serving prior to Hurricane Katrina and the current number of children they are servicing. These requests will be reviewed by the regional coordinator and then sent to EarlySteps Central Office staff for approval. Also, please note that IFSP team meetings for initial IFSP's, 6-month reviews, annual reviews and revisions must still occur. Only the quarterly visits have been waived. Thank you for all of your hard work providing services to children enrolled in the EarlySteps system. If you have any questions, please contact one of the regional coordinators for their assistance.

Other Resources and Links:

<http://www.katrina-la.net/>

<http://www.fhfla.org/fhfcenters/fhfcenters.php>

<http://www.nectac.org/announce/katrina.asp>

EARLY STEPS CONTACT LIST

REGION	SPOE	REGIONAL COORDINATOR	COMMUNITY OUTREACH SPECIALIST
REGION 1 – Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard	Call the SPOE in Region 2, 3 (after 10/10/05), or 9	Call the RC in Region 2, 3, or 9	Call the COS in Region 2 or 9
REGION 2 – Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, East Feliciana, Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana,	Southeast Area Health Education Center Brian Jakes 225-925-2426 phone 1-888-295-4270 toll free 225-925-1370 fax ahecbpj@I-55.com	Suzanne Vincent 225-925-7232 phone 225-925-7245 fax svincent@dhh.la.gov	Roslyn Coleman 225-925-6572 phone 225-925-7245 fax rcoleman2@dhh.la.gov
REGION 3 – Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John, St. Mary, Terrebonne	Opening October 10 Southeast Area Health Education Center Brian Jakes 1-866-897-9044 toll free ahecbpj@I-55.com	Peggy Arceneaux 985-447-0916, ext 365 985-447-0920 fax parcenea@dhh.la.gov	Vacant
REGION 4 – Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, Vermillion	First Steps Referral & Consulting Mary Hockless 337-359-8748 phone 1-866-494-8900 toll free 337-358-8747 fax teamfsrc@bellsouth.net	Monica Dowden 337-262.5237 phone 337-262-5237 fax mdowden@dhh.la.gov	Sonia Theriot 337-262-5323 phone 337-262-5237 fax stheriot@dhh.la.gov
REGION 5 – Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis	First Steps Referral & Consulting Mary Hockless 337-359-8748 phone 1-866-494-8900 toll free 337-358-8747 fax teamfsrc@bellsouth.net	Call Region 4 Monica Dowden 337-262.5237 phone 337-262-5237 fax mdowden@dhh.la.gov	Call Region 4 Sonia Theriot 337-262-5323 phone 337-262-5237 fax stheriot@dhh.la.gov
REGION 6 – Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, La Salle, Rapides, Vernon, Winn	Families Helping Families at the Crossroads Teresa Harmon 318-640-7078 phone 318-640-5799 fax tjharmon891@hotmail.com	Mary Holmes 318-487-5264 phone 318-487-5338 fax mholmes@dhh.la.gov	Cathy Dove 318-487-5183 phone 318-487-5338 fax cdove@dhh.la.gov
REGION 7 – Beinville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, De Soto, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine, Webster	Families Helping Families at the Crossroads Jennifer Boyll 318-226-8038 phone 1-866-676-1695 toll free 318-425-8295 fax jennifer@spoe.ntcmail.net	Mandy Perdue 318-676-5247 phone 318-676-7783 fax mperdue@dhh.la.gov	Vera Dyess 318-676-5245 phone

EARLY STEPS CONTACT LIST

REGION	SPOE	REGIONAL COORDINATOR	COMMUNITY OUTREACH SPECIALIST
REGION 8 – Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Union, West Carroll	Easter Seals of Louisiana Shellie Hubbard 318-322-4788 phone 318-322-1549 fax shubbard@bayou.com	Kathy Waxman 318-361-7209 phone 318-362-3163 fax kwaxman@dhh.la.gov	Stacey Burke 318-361-7269 phone 318-361-7269 fax sburke@dhh.la.gov
REGION 9 – Livingston, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington	Southeast Area Health Education Center Brian Jakes 985-429-1252 phone 1-866-640-0238 toll free 985-429-1613 fax ahecbpj@I-55.com	Wanda Stroud 985-871-1344 phone 985-871-1334 fax wstroud@dhh.la.gov	Cindy Hemingway 985-871-1399 phone 985-871-1334 fax chemingw@dhh.la.gov
Early Steps State Parent Consultant			Tedra Landreaux 337-262-5323 phone tozenne@dhh.la.gov

Early Steps State Contacts

Early Steps State Parent Consultant	Tedra Landreaux 337-262-5323 phone tozenne@dhh.la.gov
State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) Primary contact for Early Steps Central Office questions	Janie Martin 225-219-7560 phone 225-219-7561 fax Janie.martin@la.gov

Louisiana EarlySteps – Information Sharing Process

Child/Family Record Sharing with other IDEA Part C Early Intervention programs, hospitals, and physicians.

The following steps outline the process for obtaining information on children and families within the Louisiana EarlySteps program that have been displaced by the recent disaster.

1. Call the Louisiana EarlySteps (IDEA Part C) Program Central Finance Office (CFO) at:

Toll Free: **866.305.4985 Option #1**

Fax: 913.888.3824 Send fax to Attn: LA CFO

2. Identify yourself and your association/affiliation (state, agency, etc.).
3. Provide as much information as possible to positively identify the child/family. Please have the Child's first name, last name, Date of Birth, LA EarlySteps Child ID, SSN, etc. if possible.
4. The CFO will acknowledge if the child is in the LA EarlySteps program and, if so, provide the current status; i.e. referral, intake, active IFSP, or terminated (no longer in the system).
5. Upon confirmation that the child is in the EarlySteps program, the caller will need to provide a Consent to Release and Share Information form signed by the child's parent/guardian. This form can be found on the LA EarlySteps web site (<http://www.oph.dhh.louisiana.gov/childrensspecial/earlyinterventionservices/earllystepsforms.html>, Intake #8) or can be provided via e-mail or fax by the CFO.

The form must be faxed to the LA EarlySteps CFO at the fax number listed above. Please send fax to Attn: LA CFO and include on the fax cover page the contact organization name, contact name, phone #, fax #, e-mail (optional), and any specific child/family information requested.

6. The CFO will provide as much information as possible in print form and fax the information back.

States' Web sites for Katrina-related information

- Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services - Hurricane Katrina Information
<http://www.rehab.state.al.us/Home/default.aspx?url=/Home/Main>
- Alabama Department of Education - Hurricane Katrina Student Assistance
<http://www.alsde.edu/HTML/HurricaneKatrina.asp>
- Arkansas Department of Education - News Related to Hurricane Katrina -
http://arkedu.state.ar.us/news/hurricane_info.html
- Arkansas Katrina Assistance Relief Effort - <http://www.kare.arkansas.gov/>
- Florida Department of Health - <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/>
Includes important information about hurricanes and a Hurricane Katrina healthcare professional registry.
- Florida Department of Education - <http://www.fldoe.org/Default.asp?bhcp=1>
Includes information about Hurricane Katrina relief efforts and special information for displaced educators at <http://www.firn.edu/doe/hurricane/>. Florida's Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services is available at <http://www.firn.edu/doe/commhome/index.html>
- Florida's Early Intervention System - Early Steps, Children's Medical Services - <http://www.cms-kids.com/EarlyStepsHome.htm>
- Georgia - Department of Human Resources - <http://dhr.georgia.gov/portal/site>
Includes [information for Hurricane Katrina evacuees](#).
- Georgia - Information for Educators Displaced by Hurricane Katrina -
http://www.gapsc.com/katrina_educators.asp
- Georgia - Dept. of Education Website for Katrina Relief Efforts - <http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/>
- Louisiana Emergency News - <http://www.dhhemergencynews.com>
- Louisiana Department of Education - <http://www.doe.state.la.us/lde/index.html>
Includes FAQs, information for displaced Louisiana teachers, information for displaced Louisiana students, and other resources.
- Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals - Hurricane Information Site -
<http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/>
Includes FAQs from families and providers about medical services.
- Louisiana State Nurses Association - <http://www.lсна.org/>
Includes resources related to credentialing for LA nurses and nurses coming to LA to help with disaster relief.
- Mississippi Department of Education - Hurricane Recovery and Assistance News -
<http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/Katrina/>
- Mississippi Department of Health - Hurricane Recovery News & Information -
http://www.msdh.state.ms.us/msdhsite/_static/44_0_122_269.html
- Tennessee Resources For Persons Affected By Hurricane Katrina -
<http://kc.vanderbilt.edu/kennedy/pathfinder/hurricane.html>
- Texas Department of State Health Services - Hurricane Katrina Information and Resources -
<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/dshstoday/katrina.shtm>
Includes information on emergency licensure verification and expedited licensure for health care professionals at http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/katrina/kat_professionals.shtm
- Texas Early Childhood Intervention Program - <http://www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis/index.shtml>
- Texas Education Agency - <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/>
Includes important information about efforts the agency is making to assist school districts and charter schools in serving students who may have relocated from Louisiana and Mississippi to Texas following Hurricane Katrina.

Links on this site are verified monthly. This page content was last updated on 09/15/2005.