

Louisiana



Self-Advocacy in Louisiana

☐ People First of Louisiana

- Educate and advocate
- Conduct *Ask Me!* interviews
- Provide data to assist policy decisions

☐ National Youth Leadership Network

- Assist youth to find leadership opportunities

Resources for Self-Advocacy in Louisiana

Name of self- advocacy organization	Who provides the resource(s)?	What resource(s) is provided?
People First of LA	Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities	Funding
People First of LA	Developmental Disabilities Council	Funding
People First of LA	Centers for Independent Living	In-kind support - Practice consumer driven services
People First of LA	Various providers	In-kind support - Meeting space, copies, advisors

What has worked for self-advocacy organizations in Louisiana?

- Educating legislators and policymakers
- Presentations and interactive discussions
- Participation in groups and panels
- Participation on boards and commissions
- Boycott, petition and position statements
- Rallies

Challenges or struggles that self-advocacy organizations have faced in Louisiana

- Funding
- Maintaining membership
- Outreach
- Lack of knowledge
- Communication
- Social vs advocacy

What are you most proud of in regards to self-advocacy currently in Louisiana?

- Active and publicly involved
- Asked for input on policy in Louisiana
- Received awards and recognition
- Organizational structure
- Developed a legislative and policy agenda
- Working on becoming a separate organization

Louisiana's goals or dreams for self-advocacy

- Fully funded
- Separate dedicated funding
- Pure self-advocacy
- Agenda to be heard
- Strengthen self-advocacy network
- Voices of self-advocacy will be heard

Louisiana's Self-Advocacy Team

- Maria T. Blanco Human Development Center
- Laura Brackin Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities
- Elizabeth Carubba The Life Club and self-advocate
- Rocky Fuselier LA Developmental Disabilities Council
- Kristopher Hebert Self-advocate
- Sharon Hennessey People First of Louisiana
- Wallace Leo Johnson People First of Louisiana and self-advocate
- Jeff Rowe Advocacy Center
- Ashley Volion National Youth Leadership Network and self-advocate