

## Louisiana

When a family or individual is faced with a progressive condition such as DM1 or DM2 they are often presented with additional financial expenses as well as loss of a steady income. This section attempts to gather financial resources that are available on a state level for persons living in the United States. By no means is this section complete; we invite you to share with us any resources you've identified.

This is an on-going project. We will add more resources as we gather them; please send us resources you know of that are not currently listed.

Please be advised that each organization has its own eligibility and application requirements. None of these organizations are affiliated with the Myotonic Dystrophy Foundation. We hope you will share your experiences with us – let us know if you are successful in finding a good resource to help your family.

## Financial Resources

Early Steps: A program through the Louisiana Department of Health, EarlySteps provides services to families with infants and toddlers aged birth to three years who have a medical condition likely to result in a developmental delay, or who have developmental delays. EarlySteps services are designed to improve the family's capacity to enhance their child's development. <http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/139/n/139>

Exceptional Children's Assistance Center: ECAP is a private non-profit organization that is operated by and staffed primarily with parents of children with disabilities and special health care needs. They hold workshops, have a parent training and info center, medical and health resources, and offer further resources to parents of disabled children. <https://www.ecac-parentcenter.org/>

Exceptional Lives Louisiana: Exceptional Lives is the Louisiana directory of all disability resources. They can provide access to Louisiana resources for education, healthcare, autism-related needs, health insurance, finances, etc. They have parent and caregiver support, vocational and professional training, and more. <http://la.exceptionallives.org/>

## Autism Related

Autism Society of Greater New Orleans: The Autism Society focuses on improving the lives of those with autism, and their families. They offer resources to information, education, etc., as well as many events a year. These events include a festival, a national conference, buddies opportunities, game nights, and more. <http://www.asgno.org/>

## Miscellaneous

Advocacy Center of Louisiana: The Advocacy Center of Louisiana protects, empowers, and advocates for the human and legal rights of people with disabilities and seniors living in Louisiana, in order that they may live an integrated life in the community, free from abuse, neglect and exploitation. <http://advocacyla.org/>

Families Helping Families: They provide peer to peer support, information, referral, and training around disability issues in Jefferson Parish. In addition, they are the federally funded Parent Training and Information Center for the state of Louisiana and provide educational advocacy, training, and support throughout the entire state of Louisiana. <http://fhfjefferson.org/>

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: This is a non-profit organization dedicated to offering both support and information to grandparents and other kinship caregivers and their families. They provide referral sources that caregivers may find valuable, as well as access to expert advice on legal matters such as custody laws, the establishment of legal guardianship, and adoption. <http://www.lagrg.org/>

People First of Louisiana: People first is a self-advocacy group by people with disabilities, for people with disabilities. They aim to help people with disabilities to empower themselves in becoming effective decision makers, to gain more independence, and enjoy life as equal citizens of the United States of America. They also help provide community and connections. <http://www.peoplefirstla.org/>