



February 19, 2016

Massive Cuts Included in Executive Budget -- The Time to Advocate is Now!

Much attention has been paid to the cuts that will occur in the current fiscal year if additional revenue is not identified, but the proposed cuts in the Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 (beginning July 1st) would be equally devastating to many people with disabilities. Governor John Bel Edwards released this proposed budget on February 14th. According to state law he cannot propose a budget with expenditures that exceed expected revenue. As a result, if the legislature does not identify additional revenue during the special session to make up the \$940 Million budget shortfall for the current budget year AND the \$2 Billion shortfall for the year beginning July 1st, people with disabilities will be severely impacted.

The FY17 proposed budget includes:

- Elimination of the Children's Choice Waiver impacting 1,227 children with developmental disabilities
- Elimination of the Supports Waiver impacting 1,739 adults with developmental disabilities
- Elimination of the Residential Options Waiver impacting 26 children and adults with developmental disabilities
- Elimination of the Long Term Personal Care Services program impacting 17,300 individuals with disabilities
- A 63% cut to LA Rehabilitation Services which would result in NO new applicants being served and the loss of other vital programs/services
- Over \$26 Million in cuts to the Human Services Districts/Authorities resulting in hundreds of families losing Individual and Family Support, Flexible Family Fund, and other vital services.
- A 50% cut to the Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers.
- Cuts to the EarlySteps program, OCDD Resource Centers, and more...

If these cuts are not restored, the home and community-based service system that has been built over the last twenty-five years will be destroyed or damaged beyond repair. People will be forced out of their own homes and communities and into more costly institutional care.

Now is the time to take action! If you care about any of these services, contact your legislators and let your voice be heard. Click [here](#) to view the latest LaCAN action alert

If you are not already a member of LaCAN, click [here](#) to join and receive updates straight to your inbox.

Click [here](#) to download a fact sheet on the impact of these proposed cuts to use as a guide in your discussions with legislators.

