



ACTION ALERT - Attend Appropriations Committee Meeting to Support NOW Slots

ACT NOW to Support Funding for 200 NOW Slots

The House Appropriations Committee will be meeting on **Tuesday, March 26th, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 5**, to hear the presentation of the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) budget as contained in House Bill 1 (HB1).

Many of you have already written committee members asking for their support of funding for additional New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) slots within this budget. Now is your opportunity to **show up in yellow and represent those in need of these waiver services**.

Background Information

Funding for additional New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) slots was not included in the Governor's Executive Budget. The budget (HB1) must now go through the [legislative process](#) before being finalized. The good news is that there are many opportunities to advocate along the way. The first step is the House Appropriations Committee where legislators have the opportunity to add funding for NOW slots.

Click [here](#) for our fact sheet on the New Opportunities Waiver and how your legislator can help us End the Wait!

What to Expect on Committee Days

General Information:

- Be sure to wear your yellow LaCAN t-shirt! Committee members will then recognize you as a member of LaCAN and a supporter of home and community-based services. If you need a LaCAN shirt, please contact your [Regional LaCAN Leader](#) who will have one available for you when you arrive.
- Committee days offer an opportunity to meet and share your story with your legislators. We encourage you to send your legislator a note in the committee room to let him/her know you are there and ask to speak to them briefly. Your Regional LaCAN Leader can assist you with this should you be interested in doing so.
- Do not expect committee meetings to begin on time, but get there early in order to get a seat.
- Expect to sit through many other issues before the committee gets to the issue you are there to hear. People often bring something to read or work on while waiting.
- Committee meetings may go through the lunch hour without a break. However, a cafeteria and snack shop are located on the ground floor of the Capitol for your convenience.
- Be sure to not bring food or drink in the committee rooms. Also, make sure that your cell phones, pagers, and other electronic communication devices are silenced or turned off.

- Capitol visits can be very rewarding. It is important to remain polite at all times. Showing any kind of disrespect can ruin any future chances of making a positive impact on a legislator down the road.

Transportation & Parking:

- Click [here](#) for directions to the State Capitol. Room 5 is located on the House (right) side of the Capitol in the sub-basement.
- If you are interested in carpooling or need assistance with transportation, please contact your [Regional LaCAN Leader](#) immediately.
- Allow enough time to find parking. Parking spaces, including wheelchair accessible spots, are limited around the Capitol.

Any Questions?

If there are any questions about the information in this email, contact LaCAN by replying to this email, or calling the toll free number listed below.

Contact LaCAN

Email: lacanadvocates44@yahoo.com

Phone: 1-800-450-8108

Web: <http://www.lacanadvocates.org>

Like us on Facebook 

Louisiana Citizens for Action Now is an initiative of the [Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council](#).