



**ACTION ALERT - Contact the Finance Committee to Support Home and Community-Based Services**



**ACT NOW to Support Home and Community-Based Services**

The Senate Finance Committee is now reviewing the state budget (HB1). There are many issues related to the funding of home and community-based services that need our advocacy. LaCAN's message to committee members is to:

- Support funding for 200 additional NOW slots
- Support restoration of funding for Children's Special Health Services
- Support adequate funding to Human Services Districts and Authorities for home and community-based services
- Support funding for Individual and Family Support Services in Florida Parishes Human Services Authority and Capital Area Human Services District
- Keep funding for Families Helping Families Centers.

**Contact Chairman Donahue and your regional members of the Senate Finance Committee now, but no later than **May 24<sup>th</sup>** to let them know the importance of these vital services.**

**Contact the Senate Finance Committee**

**Committee Chairman**

Sen. Jack Donahue [donahuej@legis.la.gov](mailto:donahuej@legis.la.gov) (985) 727-7949

**Region 1 - New Orleans Area**

Sen. Edwin R. Murray [murraye@legis.la.gov](mailto:murraye@legis.la.gov) (504) 945-0042

**Region 2 - Baton Rouge Area**

Sen. Dan Claitor [claitord@legis.la.gov](mailto:claitord@legis.la.gov) (225) 765-0206  
 Sen. Mack "Bodi" White [whitem@legis.la.gov](mailto:whitem@legis.la.gov) (225) 272-1324

**Region 3 - Houma/Thibodaux Area**

Sen. R.L. "Bret" Allain, II [allainb@legis.la.gov](mailto:allainb@legis.la.gov) (337) 828-9107  
 Sen. "Norby" Chabert (Vice-Chair) [chabern@legis.la.gov](mailto:chabern@legis.la.gov) (985) 858-2927

**Region 4 - Lafayette Area**

Sen. R.L. "Bret" Allain, II [allainb@legis.la.gov](mailto:allainb@legis.la.gov) (337) 828-9107  
 Sen. Eric LaFleur [lafleure@legis.la.gov](mailto:lafleure@legis.la.gov) (337) 363-5019  
 Sen. Fred H. Mills, Jr. [millsf@legis.la.gov](mailto:millsf@legis.la.gov) (337) 365-8484

**Region 5 - Lake Charles Area**

Sen. Ronnie Johns [johnsr@legis.la.gov](mailto:johnsr@legis.la.gov) (337) 491-2016  
Sen. Eric LaFleur [lafleure@legis.la.gov](mailto:lafleure@legis.la.gov) (337) 363-5019

**Region 6 - Alexandria Area**

Sen. Eric LaFleur [lafleure@legis.la.gov](mailto:lafleure@legis.la.gov) (337) 363-5019

**Region 7 - Shreveport Area**

Sen. Sherri Smith Buffington [smithbuffington@legis.la.gov](mailto:smithbuffington@legis.la.gov) (318) 687-4820  
Sen. Gregory Tarver [tarverg@legis.la.gov](mailto:tarverg@legis.la.gov) (318) 227-1499

**Region 8 - Monroe Area**

Chairman Only

**Region 9 - Hammond/Northshore Area**

Sen. Jack Donahue (Chairman) [donahuej@legis.la.gov](mailto:donahuej@legis.la.gov) (985) 727-7949  
Sen. Mack "Bodi" White [whitem@legis.la.gov](mailto:whitem@legis.la.gov) (225) 272-1324

**Region 10 - Jefferson Parish**

Chairman Only

Don't know your region? Click [here](#) to find out.

**Help Writing Your Email****Begin by sharing your current situation:**

For example, "My child has been on the NOW waiting list for 4 years" OR "I receive waiver services but I know many others who have been waiting for many years." You can also include how receiving waiver services would benefit you or others who have been waiting.

OR "The care my child receives at Children's Special Health Services has been excellent and/or is not available anywhere else in my community" OR "Children's Special Health Services has saved the lives of children I know."

**End by telling your legislator how he/she can help:**

"Please fund 200 NOW slots and restore funding to protect other vital services to individuals with disabilities and their families, such as, Children's Special Health Services, the Individual and Family Support Program, and the other community services provided through the Human Services Districts and Authorities. Please keep the funding restored in the House for Families Helping Families."

For more information for your letter, see background information below. For additional help in writing your letter, contact your [Regional LaCAN Leader](#).

**Confirm Your Action****Don't forget to let us know you took action!**

[Reply](#) to this email or notify your Regional LaCAN Leader to confirm your action.

**Why confirm your action?**

This helps us to know how effective we are in reaching you with this information and engaging members across our state in advocacy for systems change.

**Background Information**

The State Budget ([HB1](#)) continues to make its way through the legislative process. It is now being considered and can be amended by the Senate Finance Committee.

The current version of the budget includes:

- funding for 75 additional NOW slots\*
- restoration of \$55,000 to the DD Council for the funding of Families Helping Families Centers.

*\* Note: LaCAN State Leadership was misinformed about the passage of Rep. Harrison's amendment for an additional 150 NOW slots. Although we confirmed the amendment's adoption with the House staff before sending out the latest info alert, the amendment is now listed as "Rejected" on the legislative website and the 150 slots are not contained in the HB1.*

***It is up to Senate Finance to add slots to bring us to our target number of 200 additional NOW slots.***

In summary, LaCAN is advocating for:

- funding for 200 NOW slots (75 are already included; we need an additional 125)
- the restoration of \$794,000 in funding to Children's Special Health Services (these cuts were made in the Governor's Budget and will result in the closure of 10 CSHS clinics) [See fact sheet.](#)
- adequate funding for regional Human Services Districts and Authorities that provide various home and community-based services. The Districts and Authorities will be hit hard by cuts made by the House to DHH and these will be very detrimental to people with disabilities.
- increased funding for Individual and Family Support Services in Florida Parishes Human Services Authority and Capital Area Human Services District. (These two areas have the lowest per capita state general fund appropriation, resulting in families in these areas having the least access to Individual and Family Support Services in the state.)
- funding Families Helping Families at current levels.

**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: [laicanadvocates44@yahoo.com](mailto:laicanadvocates44@yahoo.com)

Phone: 1-800-450-8108

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



LaCAN is an initiative of the [Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council](#).