



Information Alert - 2013 Legislative Session: Advocacy Works!!

Despite beginning the Legislative Session with a \$1.3 Million shortfall for Fiscal Year 2013-2014, the 2013 Session was a huge victory for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. LaCAN's advocacy efforts resulted in the restoration and addition of funding for a significant number of services and programs. Most notably:



- Funding of 200 additional NOW slots
- Restoration of \$794,000 for Children's Special Health Services Clinics
- Funding of \$950,000 for the Individual and Family Support Program in the Human Services Districts and Authorities
- Protection of funding for the Flexible Family Fund
- Restoration of \$54,732 for Families Helping Families Resource Centers

Note: *The budget does instruct the Division of Administration to reduce expenditures by \$20 Million. The Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) has not yet received its share of this reduction. The DHH reductions may impact Families Helping Families and other services provided by the Districts/Authorities.*

To achieve the accomplishments listed above is no easy task. Advocates kicked off the legislative season last October and have worked tirelessly ever since. This year LaCAN:

- Held eleven Roundtables statewide attended by 269 self-advocates, family members and professionals and 40 legislators and legislative aides
- Coordinated over 65 Legislative Visits
- Held three Yellow Shirt Days attended by 96 advocates
- Held a statewide Disability Rights Rally attended by over 400 advocates
- Initiated nine Action Alerts with 1875 confirmed actions by members

You spoke loudly and clearly this session and legislators heard your voices!! Advocacy Works!! Thank you for your advocacy. Please contact your legislators to thank them for their support.

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 Information

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