



LaCAN

Louisiana Citizens for Action Now

ACTION ALERT #12 - Contact House Appropriations Committee to Restore Cuts to Disability Services

Governor Edwards presented his revised budget to the House Appropriations Committee on April 12th which included the revenue raised during the Special Legislative Session. However, the budget is still short \$747 million of what is needed to fund critical priorities in state government. The following cuts are still included in the revised budget:

- Elimination of the State Personal Assistance Services (SPAS) program in the Office of Aging and Adult Services. \$476,000 in State General Fund is needed to save this program.
- Cuts to the Human Services Districts/Authorities (in addition to the cuts they received this fiscal year) impacting Individual and Family Support, Flexible Family Fund, and other vital services to both people with developmental disabilities and those with behavioral health needs.
- 34% cut to the Families Helping Families Centers (this funding is in the DD Council's budget). \$170,000 is needed to restore the cuts.
- 22% cut to LA Rehabilitation Services (LRS)

If these services and programs are important to you, contact the Chairman and members of the Appropriations Committee in your region by Wednesday (4/20/16) and ask them to restore the cuts to these programs.

UPDATE ON PUBLIC TESTIMONY / YELLOW SHIRT DAY

The House Appropriations Committee will be hearing public testimony on the proposed FY 17 State Budget (HB1) at **10 a.m.** on Monday April 18th and not 9 a.m. as noted in the previous alert. Click [here](#) to view the previous alert for additional information.

Contact the Chairman and Committee Members from Your Region

Not sure of your region? Click [here](#) for a map.

All Regions

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Region 1/10

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What to Say

Start by sharing your story:

- Has your child or someone you know benefited from programs such as Individual and Family Support, Flexible Family Fund, or LRS?
- Do you think the SPAS program is cost effective and keeps people living in their own homes and communities?
- Has your family benefited from the services provided by Families Helping Families?
- What negative impacts would cuts to these programs and services have on your child, family, or someone you know?

Finish by telling your Representatives what he/she can do to help:

- Restore the cuts to ALL of these programs serving people with disabilities!

If you need additional assistance on what to say, your LaCAN Leader will be glad to help.

Click [here](#) for LaCAN Leader contact information.

Additional Information

State Personal Assistance Services (SPAS)

The SPAS program provides supports and services to 46 adults who have significant physical disabilities. SPAS enables these adults to live in their own homes, work, and fully participate in their communities. Supports provided assist individuals in getting out of bed, eating, bathing, getting dressed, and other activities of daily living. The elimination of this program will result in the immediate institutionalization of at least half of the program participants.

Human Services Districts/Authorities

Cuts will result in individuals and families losing access to Individual and Family Support, Flexible Family Fund, and other vital services. These services help families

"get by" as they endure the 11 plus year wait for waiver services. These cuts place more individuals at risk for out-of-home placement.

Families Helping Families (FHF) Regional Resource Centers

A 34% cut in funding to the Centers will drastically reduce their ability to serve people with disabilities and their families and put some Centers in jeopardy of closure.

The Governor plans to call another Special Session to raise additional revenue to address these and other critical needs in state government.



Confirm Your Action

Don't forget to let us know that you took action!

[Reply](#) to this email or notify your [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.

Contact Us

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.

Email: info@lacanadvocates.org

Phone: 1-800-450-8108

Web: www.lacanadvocates.org

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COMING OCTOBER 2016

LaCAN & LaTEACH unite into one powerful advocacy network!



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