



# LaCAN

## Louisiana Citizens for Action Now

### **ACTION ALERT #13 - Contact Appropriations to Support DD Services**

Louisiana's budget shortfall for Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) is now estimated at \$600 Million -- 20 percent lower than previously thought. The House Appropriations Committee has yet to pass the State Budget for FY17 and will have the opportunity to decide where to restore this additional \$150 Million before moving it on to the Full House.

The current version of the proposed FY17 State Budget still includes:

- 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 people with developmental disabilities and those with behavioral health needs.
- A 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.
- A 20% cut to Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS).
- No funds to cover the cost of overtime for Direct Support Workers.
- No funds to fill vacant Children's Choice and Supports Waiver slots.

**Although many of you have already contacted committee members, this newly identified funding creates a new opportunity to advocate. If you would like to see some of this funding used to restore the cuts mentioned above, now is the time to take action!**

Contact the Chairman and Committee members in your region by **Monday, May 9th**, and let them know that funding DD services should be a top priority when deciding where to restore this \$150 Million.

### **Contact the Chairman and Committee Members from Your Region**

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

#### **All Regions**

Cameron Henry

#### **Region 1/10**

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Robert Billiot

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 Mark Abraham

**Region 6**

Steve Pylant  
 Jack McFarland  
 James Armes  
 Lance Harris

**Region 7**

Lawrence Bagley  
 Jack McFarland

**Region 8**

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**Region 9**

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**What to Say****Start by sharing your story:**

- Have you (or your family) benefited from programs such as Individual and Family Support, Flexible Family Fund, or LRS?
- Have you (or your family) benefited from services provided by Families Helping Families?
- Are you or your child on the waiting list for the Children's Choice or Supports Waiver?
- Are you (or your family) having difficulty finding direct support workers due to the inability of your provider paying overtime costs?
- What negative impacts would cuts to these programs and services have on you, your family, or someone you know?

**Finish by telling your Representatives what they can do to help:**

- Please allocate the newly identified \$150 Million to LRS and DHH to restore ALL cuts to healthcare including the Human Service Districts/Authorities, Families Helping Families, and Medicaid to cover overtime costs and fill vacant waiver slots.

**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****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.

### **Louisiana Rehabilitation Services**

This program assists individuals with disabilities in obtaining and maintaining employment. A 20% cut may result in the inability to serve new individuals, cuts to existing services, and a reduction in staff.

### **Overtime for Direct Support Workers**

The elimination of funding for overtime costs for Direct Support Workers makes it difficult for many waiver recipients to have enough workers to cover their needed hours of service and continues to place providers in jeopardy of closing their businesses.

### **Vacant Waiver Slots**

The elimination of funding to fill vacant Children's Choice and Supports Waiver slots will increase the wait for services of individuals already at risk of institutionalization.

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



### **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](mailto:info@lacanadvocates.org)

Phone: 1-800-450-8108

Web: [www.lacanadvocates.org](http://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](#).