



LaCAN

Louisiana Citizens for Action Now

ACTION ALERT - Contact Joint Budget Committee About Unfilled Waiver Slots

Inform Legislators of Unfilled Waiver Slots Due to Inadequate Funding

CONTACT MEMBERS OF THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET by THURSDAY if you want to express your concern about waiver slots that have been allocated by the legislature, but are currently unfilled.

Message:

It is very important to personalize your note. Begin with one or two sentences about your personal situation. Include the following points in your message:

- Are you aware that 993 waiver slots that were allocated by the legislature are currently unfilled?
- The Department of Health and Hospitals has not been filling existing slots due to insufficient funding in the overall Medicaid budget.
- Please ensure that DHH has sufficient funding to fill all existing waiver slots for people with developmental disabilities.

Contact the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB)

Contact Chairman Donahue and members of the JLCB in your region by **Thursday, November 21st**. The committee meets on Friday morning.

Chairman - All Regions

Sen. Jack Donahue, Chairman (985) 727-7949 donahuej@legis.la.gov

Region 1

Rep. Jared Brossett (504) 286-1033 brossettj@legis.la.gov
Rep. Walt Leger III (504) 556-9970 legerw@legis.la.gov
Rep. Helena Moreno (504) 568-2740 morenoh@legis.la.gov
Sen. Edwin Murray (504) 945-0042 murraye@legis.la.gov
Sen. John Alario, Jr. (504) 340-2221 alarioj@legis.la.gov
Rep. Nick Lorusso (504) 483-4711 larep094@legis.la.gov

Region 2

Rep. John Berthelot (225) 647-5646 berthelotj@legis.la.gov
Sen. Sharon Weston Broome (225) 359-9352 lasen15@legis.la.gov
Rep. Franklin Foil (225) 342-6777 foilf@legis.la.gov
Rep. Ted James II (225) 925-4859 james.ted@legis.la.gov
Rep. Patricia Haynes Smith (225) 342-7106 smithp@legis.la.gov
Sen. Mack "Bodi" White (225) 272-1324 whitem@legis.la.gov
Sen. Dan Claitor (225) 765-0206 claitord@legis.la.gov

Region 3

Sen. Norby Chabert (985) 858-2927 chabertn@legis.la.gov
Sen. Bret Allain, II (337) 828-9107 allainb@legis.la.gov

Region 4

Rep. Simone Champagne (337) 937-8827 champags@legis.la.gov
Sen. Fred Mills, Jr (337) 845-4240 millsf@legis.la.gov
Rep. Jack Montoucet (337) 783-2999 montoucj@legis.la.gov
Rep. Joel Robideaux (337) 984-1091 larep045@legis.la.gov
Rep. Ledricka Johnson Thierry (337) 948-0369 thierryl@legis.la.gov

Sen. Eric LaFleur (337) 363-5019 lafleure@legis.la.gov
 Rep. Bob Hensgens (337) 893-5035 hensgensb@legis.la.gov

Region 5

Rep. Brett Geymann (337) 491-2315 larep035@legis.la.gov
 Sen. Blade Morrish (337) 824-3979 morrishd@legis.la.gov
 Rep. James Armes III (337) 238-7004 armesj@legis.la.gov
 Sen. Ronnie Johns (337) 491-2016 johnsr@legis.la.gov
 Rep. Bob Hensgens (337) 893-5035 hensgensb@legis.la.gov

Region 6

Sen. Gerald Long (318) 628-5799 longg@legis.la.gov
 Sen. Francis Thompson (318) 878-9408 thompsf@legis.la.gov

Region 7

Rep. Henry Burns (318) 949-2463 burnsh@legis.la.gov
 Rep. Roy Burrell (318) 676-7137 larep002@legis.la.gov
 Rep. Jim Morris (318) 995-6852 larep001@legis.la.gov
 Rep. Alan Seabaugh (318) 676-7990 seabaugh@legis.la.gov
 Sen. Gregory Tarver, Sr. (318) 227-1499 tarverg@legis.la.gov
 Sen. Sheri Smith Buffington (318) 687-4820 smithbuffington@legis.la.gov
 Sen. Gerald Long (318) 628-5799 longg@legis.la.gov

Region 8

Rep. Bubba Chaney (318) 728-5875 chaneyb@legis.la.gov
 Rep. Jim Fannin (318) 259-6620 larep013@legis.la.gov
 Sen. Michael Walsworth (318) 340-6453 walsworthm@legis.la.gov
 Sen. Francis Thompson (318) 878-9408 thompsf@legis.la.gov

Region 9

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 Rep. J. Rogers Pope (225) 667-3588 poper@legis.la.gov
 Rep. John Schroder, Sr. (985) 893-6262 schrodej@legis.la.gov

Region 10

Rep. Bryan Adams (504) 361-6013 adamsb@legis.la.gov
 Rep. Robert Billiot (504) 436-8929 billiotr@legis.la.gov
 Rep. Patrick Connick (504) 371-0240 connickp@legis.la.gov
 Sen. Daniel Martiny (504) 834-7676 martinyd@legis.la.gov
 Rep. Nick Lorusso (504) 483-4711 larep094@legis.la.gov

Background Information

Louisiana has four waivers for individuals with developmental disabilities - New Opportunities Waiver (NOW), Children's Choice Waiver, Residential Options Waiver (ROW) and Supports Waiver.

Annually the legislature appropriates funding for the Medicaid budget, which includes funding for existing waiver slots. As waiver recipients move out-of-state, pass away, no longer need the service, or age-out of the children's waiver, slots are vacated. Unfortunately, the Department of Health and Hospitals has not been re-filling these slots due to insufficient funding in the overall Medicaid budget. Below is the Fiscal Year 2014 waiver slot data:

	New Opportunities Waiver	Children's Choice Waiver	Supports Waiver	Total
# of Slots Allocated*	8,832	1,475	2,050	12,357
# of Recipients*	8,499	1,218	1,647	11,364
# of Unfilled Slots*	333	257	403	993

*Data provided by DHH, Bureau of Health Services Financing (Medicaid) as of 8/25/2013

According to Department of Health and Hospitals officials, the department is appropriated a total amount for Medicaid and there is no line-item or specific dollar amount allocated for waivers. When mandated Medicaid services are underfunded and/or unplanned expenses occur, existing Medicaid "optional" services, such as waiver slots, are cut. A recent example of an unplanned mandated expense is Applied

Behavioral Analysis (ABA) for Medicaid-eligible individuals under the age of 21 who are on the waiting list for the NOW waiver.

The Medicaid budget is not adequately funded to ensure that waiver services authorized by the legislature are available for people with developmental disabilities. More importantly, legislators may not be aware of this.

It's time to bring this issue to their attention!

Confirm Your Action

Don't forget to let us know that 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.

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

Phone: 1-800-450-8108

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

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