

KNOW THE FACTS

- **Over 14,400 people with developmental disabilities (DD) are on the waiver waiting list. The wait is 12 years!**
- **Over 8,000 of those waiting received **NO** other DD service from the state in 2015.***
- **LA has 4 DD waivers:**
 - ⇒ **New Opportunities Waiver (NOW)**
 - ⇒ **Children's Choice**
 - ⇒ **Supports Waiver**
 - ⇒ **Residential Options Waiver (ROW)**
- **Almost 1,000 DD waiver slots were initially funded by the legislature but are now unfilled because their funding was lost to budget cuts.**

What Can Legislators Do?

Appropriate \$1.61 Million* in State General Funds to fill 627 existing, vacant home and community-based waiver slots for individuals with developmental disabilities on the waiting list.

Why Do This?

Waiver services (relative to institutionalization) are:

- **More cost effective** and
- **Result in better quality of life outcomes.**

Individuals with the most urgent need are at the greatest risk of out-of-home placement and would receive one of the waiver slots that is most appropriate to meet their needs.

Some individuals' needs can be met with one of the capped waivers while other individuals require more comprehensive services available through the NOW.

Without funding to fill these vacant waiver slots, the waiting list will continue to grow, forcing Louisiana to continue over-utilizing more costly 24-hour services in residential settings for people not needing that level of support!

With your help individuals on the waiting list would begin receiving the services they desperately need to live a full and meaningful life, with greater independence and continued connection to their families and communities.

* Data and budget figures provided by Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities.