



December 11, 2015

Council's 2016 Legislative/Advocacy Agenda

The Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council has adopted its 2016 legislative/advocacy agenda, with input from its grassroots advocacy networks (LaCAN and LaTEACH) and Families Helping Families. Fact sheets for each agenda item have been developed and are available on the Council's website as indicated below.

Individual and Family Supports and Services (LaCAN)

The Council will continue to advocate for increased availability of various individual and family supports/home and community-based services including waiver slots, the Individual and Family Support (IFS) program, and the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program.

- [Fund New Slots to End the Wait](#)
- [Fund Individual and Family Support](#)
- Put Louisianans with Disabilities to Work
- Ensure Statewide Consistency in the Level and Quality of Developmental Disability Services¹
- Support Funding for Direct Support Professional (DSP) Overtime Pay²

Education (LaTEACH)

The Council will continue to advocate for the implementation of education policies and practices that are inclusive and reflective of the needs of each student through informed stakeholder input and the collection of data relative to students with disabilities.

- [Effective Policy Requires Stakeholder Input and Transparency](#)

Get Involved

Individuals with disabilities, family members, and advocates are encouraged to participate in the Council's advocacy efforts, including upcoming legislative visits and roundtables. Roundtables have been scheduled in January and February throughout the state and provide participants with more information about the issues on the advocacy agenda and an opportunity to connect with legislators.

- [Click here](#) for the 2016 Legislative Roundtable schedule.

Those interested in visiting legislators in their district office or those needing more information should contact the [LaCAN Leader](#) and/or [LaTEACH Leader](#) for their region.

"One person can make a difference and every person should try."

John F. Kennedy

¹ The Council advocates for this outcome through its Act 378 Sub-Committee and other administrative activities.

² The Council will not take the lead on this initiative but will support others' efforts.

