



February 4, 2014

Fiscal Year 2015 Executive Budget

Governor Bobby Jindal released the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Executive Budget to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget on Friday, January 24th. The following are a few budget highlights as related to the Council's 2015 Legislative/Advocacy Agenda:

- Ten million dollars in state funds is included to fill vacancies in several waivers (including the New Opportunities, Children's Choice, Supports, Community Choices and Adult Day Health Care waivers) and to fund an additional 200 NOW slots.
- The regional Human Services Districts/Authorities received slight increases in State General Funds from the current fiscal year, with the exception of Acadiana which was reduced by \$1.4 million. Districts/Authorities have autonomy in establishing their budgets and dedicating funds to specific programs such as Individual and Family Support (IFS) and Consumer Care Resources (CCR). The level of funding available in FY15 for the IFS and CCR programs is unknown at this time.
- The DD Council's State General Fund was increased by \$75 resulting in near level funding for Families Helping Families Centers across the state. The Centers have lost 35% of their funding from the Council since FY09 due to state budget cuts.

Another point of interest is a cut of \$762,462 in State General Fund to Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS). This will amount to a reduction of almost \$3.6 Million when federal matching funds are included.

The full Executive Budget and supporting documents can be found [here](#).

The 2014 Legislative Session begins on March 10th. Individuals with disabilities and their families are encouraged to join the Council's grassroots advocacy networks [LaCAN](#) and [LaTEACH](#). Members receive updates on important issues being decided during the session and are provided assistance with advocating for individual and family supports and on educational issues.

