



Press Release

CONTACT:

Sandee Winchell, Executive Director
Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
225-342-6804
sandee.winchell@la.gov

For Immediate Release

March 5, 2014

Disability advocates rally for adequate funding for services

BATON ROUGE, LA – Hundreds of individuals with disabilities, their families, and advocates from across the state will convene in Baton Rouge at the State Capitol on March 19, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. in an effort to urge lawmakers to keep funding for waiver slots in the budget and to restore funding for other programs that help people with developmental disabilities live in their own homes.

While funding for approximately 1,200 Medicaid Home and Community-Based waiver slots for people with developmental disabilities has been included in the Governor's Executive Budget; this funding is subject to legislative approval. Furthermore, state-funded programs that provide some relief to families on the waiver waiting list have been cut drastically over the last few years, creating a situation where there is not equal access to these programs across the state.

Additionally, advocates are urging lawmakers to support the protection of funding for services and programs for people with disabilities, seniors and other vulnerable populations when future budget cuts are made.

Speakers at the event include Kay Marcel, Chairperson of the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council, Senator Fred Mills, and Representative Patricia Haynes Smith. Individuals interested in attending should contact their regional [LaCAN Leader](#) or the [Families Helping Families Resource Center](#) in their region. Transportation to the Capitol will be provided from most regions of the state. For additional information on the Rally, visit <http://www.laddc.org/disabilityrightsrally>.

Louisiana Citizens for Action Now (LaCAN) is a statewide grassroots network of individuals, families and advocates who have worked together since 1988 advocating for a service system that supports individuals with disabilities to live in their own homes rather than having to be segregated from their





Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council



Post Office Box 3455, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-3455
1-800-450-8108 (225) 342-6804 Fax (225) 342-1970

communities in a facility to receive support. LaCAN is an initiative of the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council

The 2014 Disability Rights Rally is organized and supported through the collaborative efforts of the [Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council](#), [LaCAN](#), [Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers](#), [People First of Louisiana](#), [The Arc of Louisiana](#), [Advocacy Center](#), and [Deaf Focus](#).

###

