



UPDATE Action Alert #5 Continued Contact with Legislators Needed

January 29, 2018

On January 22nd, Governor Edwards appeared before the Joint Legislative Budget Committee to unveil his "doomsday" budget to address the looming \$1 billion fiscal cliff. Under this proposal, the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) would be cut over \$650 million in state general funds (\$2.4 billion including federal matching funds) if an agreement between the legislature and the governor on how to address the budget shortfall is not reached. **The massive cuts would reduce or eliminate numerous programs and services currently funded in LDH's budget.**

How This Affects You:

The following proposed cuts would most impact people with developmental disabilities:

- Elimination of Children's Choice and Supports Waivers
- Elimination of Long Term Personal Care Services
- Elimination of Pediatric Day Health Care Centers
- Elimination of Supported Independent Living in the New Opportunities Waiver
- Stricter financial eligibility criteria for Medicaid long term care services (impacting 57% of current home and community based waiver recipients and ICF/DD residents)
- Significant reduction to behavioral health and addictive disorder services

Take Action Before Friday, February 9th:

If you haven't contacted your legislators yet, **NOW** is the time to act! If you have already contacted your legislators, contact them again! Let your legislators know that **sufficient revenue is needed to avoid cuts to vital services for you, your family member, other people with disabilities, and all vulnerable populations.**

Don't know who your legislator is? Click [here](#) and enter your home address. The first person listed will be your State Representative. The second person will be your State Senator. Click on the legislator's name to view their contact information.

Confirm Your Action

Don't forget to let us know you took action! Reply to this email or notify your

[LaCAN Leader](#) to confirm your action.

Why confirm your action? This helps the Council know how effective we are in reaching you with this important information and engaging members across our state in advocacy for systems change.

Legislative Roundtable Schedule

The 2018 Legislative Roundtables have been occurring throughout the state and provide the opportunity for individuals to get more information about the issues on the Council and LaCAN's advocacy agenda and connect with policymakers.

Click [here](#) for the 2018 Legislative Roundtable schedule.

Those interested in visiting legislators, attending roundtables or participating in other advocacy events should contact their regional [LaCAN Leader](#).

Contact Us

LaCAN is an initiative of the LA Developmental Disabilities Council. If there are any questions about the information in this email, contact the Council by replying to this email, or calling the toll free number listed below:

phone: 1-800-450-8108

email: info@laddc.org

website: www.lacanadvocates.org

facebook: www.facebook.com/lacanadvocates

twitter: www.twitter.com/LaDDCouncil



Louisiana Developmental
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