



Action Alert #9
Contact Appropriations Committee and Attend Public Testimony Day for Funding of DD Services

April 2, 2018



The House Appropriations Committee needs to hear from you on the importance of funding services for individuals with developmental disabilities and restoring massive cuts to the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH). The Appropriations Committee will meet on Tuesday, April 10th, to hear public testimony on the proposed Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) State Budget ([HB1](#)). Several LaCAN members will represent our group by testifying before the committee.

If you believe funding should be added for additional waiver slots, to enhance the waiver rate to serve people with complex and challenging needs, to implement TEFRA, and to restore ALL the cuts to LDH included in HB1, **NOW** is the time to take action!!

How To Take Action

Contact the Chairperson of the Appropriations Committee and Members from your region before April 10th.

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What to Say?

Start by sharing your story:

- Are you or someone you know one of the 1,300 individuals on the waiver waiting list identified by OCDD as having the most emergent and urgent needs? If you don't have urgent needs today, do you want waivers available for when your needs change?
- Do you have a waiver but find it difficult to locate a provider with the ability to serve people with complex medical and/or behavioral health needs?

- Are you facing financial hardship covering the costs of your child's care because you don't meet the financial eligibility criteria for Medicaid?
- Will you or a loved one be impacted by the proposed cuts to and elimination of programs and services for people with disabilities in LDH's budget? (See list of cuts below under background information.)

Finish by telling committee members how they can help:

- Restore ALL cuts to LDH to save services for people with disabilities!
- Appropriate \$4.15 million for 800 waiver slots for people with developmental disabilities in the most urgent need.
- Appropriate \$2.66 million to enhance waiver rates to serve people with complex and challenging needs.
- Appropriate \$11.7 million to implement the TEFRA Medicaid State Plan Option.

Also, don't forget to let your legislators know **it is important the regular legislative session ends early so another special session to address the state's fiscal cliff can be called.**

ATTEND YELLOW SHIRT DAY FOR PUBLIC TESTIMONY

When: Tuesday, April 10th at 9:00 AM* (Arrive by 8:30 AM)

***An update will be sent if time changes.**

Where: House Committee Room 5
Louisiana State Capitol - Baton Rouge, LA

If you plan to attend, need a yellow shirt or want to find out about carpooling options, contact your [LaCAN Leader](#). **Arrive at least 30 minutes early to ensure you get a seat!**

Background Information

The proposed FY19 budget, to begin July 1st, cuts LDH over \$650 million (\$2.4 billion including federal matching funds) which will result in the reduction or elimination of numerous programs and services for people with developmental disabilities currently funded in LDH's budget:

- 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 (NOW)
- Stricter financial eligibility criteria for Medicaid long term care services (impacting 57% of current home and community based adult waiver recipients and ICF/DD adult residents)
- Significant reduction to behavioral health and addictive disorder services
- Reduction to Support Coordination in the NOW

The proposed budget also does not adequately address the ongoing needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Funding for the following is NOT included in the proposed budget:

- 800 additional waiver slots for those individuals in the most urgent need
- Enhanced waiver rate for people with complex medical and/or behavioral support needs

- Implementation of the TEFRA Medicaid State Plan Option

Advocacy Update

Forty-three (43) LaCAN members attended the House Appropriations Committee meeting on Monday, March 26th, as LDH's budget was discussed, and your presence made an impact. The first question asked by the committee was related to waiver slots! Thanks to all who traveled to the Capitol in their yellow to show support for disability services!

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

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Louisiana Developmental
Disabilities Council

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