

# LaDDC News

## Changes to the Flexible Family Fund

May 9, 2019

Important changes to the Family Flexible Fund program went into effect on May 1, 2019 that will benefit children with developmental disabilities and their families. In response to parents' concerns nearly two years ago, the Council established a workgroup of parents, self-advocates and other stakeholders to review the Flexible Family Fund program's policies and practices. In October 2017, the Council submitted recommendations to the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) designed to increase access to the program and help ensure consistent policy implementation statewide. A new Flexible Family Fund manual has been approved and OCDD Central Office is currently training staff from the Regional Human Services Districts/Authorities on the changes. All of the Districts/Authorities began implementing the program's updated policies on May 1<sup>st</sup>. More information about the changes can be found in the April 2019 issue of the [Louisiana Register](#) starting on page 558.

### Key Changes

- Addition of two qualifying exceptionalities: (1) Intellectual Disability Moderate with a behavior intervention or individual healthcare plan, and (2) Intellectual Disability Mild with a behavior intervention or individual healthcare plan (children with these exceptionalities must also meet other eligibility criteria);
- Additional ways to submit an application including in person, by mail and by email;
- Removal of financial eligibility criteria for children participating in a home and community-based waiver;
- Allowing a licensed professional evaluation as appropriate documentation for all qualifying exceptionalities;
- Removal of the requirement that families prove their child is actively attending an approved education setting; and
- Continuation of monthly stipend during the appeals process.

The Flexible Family Fund program provides families of eligible children with severe disabilities a monthly stipend to help keep their child at home and in the community. For more information about the program or to apply, [contact](#) your regional Human Services District or Authority.

### Contact Us

LaDDC News is the electronic newsletter for the LA Developmental Disabilities Council. If there are any questions about the information above, contact the Council by replying to this email or calling the toll free number listed below:

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