



Action Alert #1

Share the Importance of Disability Funding with the House Appropriations Committee!

April 9, 2021



Let House Appropriations know why funding home- and community-based services and resources for individuals with developmental disabilities is important to you!

Tuesday, April 13th House Appropriations meets at 9 AM to discuss the Louisiana Department of Health's (LDH's) Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) budget, which begins July 1st

Wednesday, April 21st House Appropriations tentatively scheduled to hear public testimony on the budget

Currently, the main budget bill ([HB1](#)) *does not* include the following items:

1. [Additional funding for the Families Helping Families \(FHF\) Regional Resource Centers](#)
2. [Funding to increase home and community-based service rates for those services provided by Direct Support Workers \(DSW\) and a minimum starting pay requirement of at least \\$8.65 per hour for DSWs](#)

If these issues are important to you or someone you know, **NOW** is the time to take action!

How to Take Action

Share your personal story and explain how the issues above would affect you, your family or someone you know.

1. **Email or call** the Chair and members of the House Appropriations Committee by Tuesday, April 20th! Find your member of the House Appropriations Committee at the end of this alert.
2. **Email** h-app@legis.la.gov your public comments about the budget:
 - For April 13th, submit comments no later than Monday, April 12th, by 11:59 AM
 - For April 21st, submit comments no later than Tuesday, April 20th, by 11:59 AM

As the Council and LaCAN continue to practice mitigation efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19, we will not hold official Yellow Shirt Days in-person at this time and encourage everyone to advocate safely.

Get Involved Virtually

- Watch committee meetings live from the [legislature's website](#). When the meeting is in progress, click the camera icon to access the broadcast.
- Host committee watch parties on social media and/or post a video sharing your personal story
 - Tag your friends, representatives, senators, and policymakers
 - Use hashtags #LaDDC, #lalege, #LaCAN
- Email, tweet, message, etc. members of the committee before and during the committee meeting and share how the issues above will impact you/your loved ones

Tips & Tools for Advocacy

Looking for tips and tools to help you in your advocacy? Check out the Council's [Advocacy 101](#) page. You can also find tips for:

- [Writing/emailing your legislators](#)
- [Calling your legislators](#)
- [Writing your story](#)

Confirm Your Action

- Email your [LaCAN Leader](#) after you take action
- Why confirm your action? This helps the Council know how effective we are reaching you with important information and engaging members across our state in advocacy for systems change.

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/LaDDCouncil

twitter: www.twitter.com/LaDDCouncil

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Louisiana Developmental
Disabilities Council

Find your member of the House Appropriations Committee!

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Committee Members are sorted by region. Find your region!

Louisiana Regions

