



Action Alert #13
Senate Finance to Vote on FY22 Budget
Let Them Know the Importance of Disability Funding!

May 21, 2021



Let Senate Finance know why funding home- and community-based services (HCBS) and resources for individuals with developmental disabilities is important to you!

Monday, May 24th Senate Finance meets at 2 PM to vote on the state's Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) budget, which begins July 1st ([agenda](#))

The House passed an amended budget bill ([HB1](#)) on May 6th. The good news is, in its current form, the budget *does* include the following:

1. Approximately \$16.3 million in state general fund (SGF) to increase HCBS rates
2. Implementation costs of dental coverage for individuals with developmental disabilities should [HB172](#) be enacted into law
3. 500 additional Community Choices Waiver slots for seniors and those with adult onset disabilities

Unfortunately, HB1 *does not* include the following:

1. [Additional \\$500,000 in SGF for the Families Helping Families \(FHF\) Regional Resource Centers](#)
2. [Additional funding needed to increase HCBS rates and a minimum starting pay requirement of at least \\$8.65 per hour for Direct Support Workers \(DSW\)](#)

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 Senate Finance Committee before the committee meets Monday, May 24th! Find your member of the Senate Finance Committee at the end of this alert.
2. **Email** sfnce@legis.la.gov your public comments about the budget:
 - Only statements emailed to the address above and received at least 3 hours prior to the meeting will be included in the meeting record.
 - With your comments, please ensure to include your name, address, phone number, email address, and bill number (HB1).

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 Senate Finance Committee!

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Region 9	Hammond/Northshore Area	
Chairman Only (see top of list)		
Region 10	Jefferson/New Orleans Area	
Cameron Henry	henryc@legis.la.gov	(504) 838-5433

Committee Members are sorted by region. Find your region!

