



Action Alert #15 Your State Senator Needs to Hear Why Disability Funding is Important!

May 26, 2021



The state's budget for Fiscal Year 22 (FY22) is being heard on the Senate Floor, and your State Senator Needs to hear from you!

Thursday, May 27th Senate meets to vote on the state's Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) budget, which begins July 1st ([agenda](#)). [HB1](#) is listed as Special Order Number 1.

The Senate Finance Committee met on Monday, May 24th, and passed an amended version of the state's main budget bill ([HB1](#)). The great news is, in its current form, the budget *does* include the following items which benefit the disability community:

1. [Additional funding for the Families Helping Families \(FHF\) Regional Resource Centers](#)
2. Approximately \$16.3 million in state general fund (SGF) to increase home- and community-based (HCBS) rates
3. Implementation costs of dental coverage for individuals with developmental disabilities should [HB172](#) be enacted into law
4. 500 additional Community Choices Waiver slots for seniors and those with adult onset disabilities

Unfortunately, the version of the budget that passed *does not* include all the funding requested to increase HCBS rates and language for DSW starting pay:

1. [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, contact your State Senator **TODAY!**

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** your State Senator by Thursday, May 27th!
 - Click [here](#) for State Senator's full contact information.
 - Don't know your State Senator? Click [here](#) and enter your home address. The second person listed will be your State Senator.

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

Sign up to receive LaCAN Alerts [HERE](#).

View all recent LaCAN Alerts [HERE](#).



Louisiana Developmental
Disabilities Council