



Action Alert #19 Tell Congress to Invest in Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Services

October 7, 2021

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families have voiced their concerns for years that the Medicaid system they rely on to meet their needs is insufficient. Nationwide, the IDD population has been plagued by long waiting lists for services and a dwindling, underpaid direct support workforce. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has only made matters worse and showed just how much of an overhaul is needed to the infrastructure of care designed to support the IDD community.

As part of the current administration's Build Back Better plan, the [Better Care Better Jobs Act](#) (BCBJA) was introduced to Congress. BCBJA would be a historic investment in Medicaid home- and community-based services (HCBS). HCBS services provide the IDD community with the supports and services needed to live in their own homes or with their families and fully participate and be included in their communities. Originally, it was believed this plan would include approximately \$400 billion in funding for Medicaid HCBS, but as Congress negotiates its reconciliation package that amount has been reduced significantly.

For more information about how the Better Care Better Jobs Act would impact Louisiana, check out

- [U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging Fact Sheet](#)
- [The Arc of the US Fact Sheet](#)

It is important to let your members of Congress know the full \$400 billion is needed to make transformative changes to the HCBS system.

How to Take Action

Share your personal story and explain how the fully funded Better Care Better Jobs Act will make a difference in our state, your community and within your family. You can use the fact sheets above to help with talking points.

There are two ways you can take action:

1. **Email or call** your Members of Congress TODAY!
 - Not sure who to contact? Click [here](#) and enter your home address. The third person listed will be your U.S. Representative and the last two listed will be your U. S. Senators.
 - You can also reach out via the Capitol's switchboard at 202-224-3121.
2. Contact your Members of Congress using [The Arc of the US's action alert](#)

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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