



# Action Alert #2 House Appropriations Discusses LDH Budget Wednesday

March 11, 2022

Thank you to all the advocates who reached out to Senate Finance earlier this week to share the importance of funding home- and community-based services and resources for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Now, it's time to let House Appropriations hear what you have to say!



**Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>** House Appropriations meets at 9:30 AM to discuss the Louisiana Department of Health’s (LDH) budget as proposed in the Fiscal Year 2023 budget bill ([HB1](#)). Click [here](#) for agenda.

**What’s Included in the Budget**

[Funding for Comprehensive Dental Coverage for Adults with I/DD](#)

- [Act 450 of 2021](#) by Representative Butler ensures Medicaid coverage for comprehensive dental care be provided to all adults enrolled in any Medicaid waiver program for persons with I/DD.
- However, funding is needed (\$5.3 million in state general fund) to ensure these services are provided to those that need it most!
- For more information, check out the [Formal Report by the Louisiana Dental Task Force for Adults with I/DD](#) and their [Adults with I/DD Dental Graphic](#).

**What’s Not Included in the Budget**

Additional Funding for Families Helping Families Centers

- Last year, the legislature appropriated an additional \$500,000 in state general fund to the DD Council’s budget for the sole purpose of doubling the funding for the nine FHF Centers the Council contracts with. ([2021 Fact Sheet](#))
- Unfortunately, despite the Council’s request, this additional funding was not included in the proposed FY23 budget.

## 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 *before* the committee meets Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>! Find your committee member(s) at the end of this alert.
2. **Email** [h-app@legis.la.gov](mailto:h-app@legis.la.gov) your public comments about the budget:
  - Only statements emailed to the address above and *received by noon on Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>*, will be included in the meeting record.
  - With your comments, please ensure to include your name, address, phone number and email address.

## Get Involved Virtually

As the Council and LaCAN continue to practice COVID-19 mitigation efforts, we will not hold official Yellow Shirt Days in-person at this time. We encourage everyone to advocate safely and based on your comfort level. Here are a few tips on how to 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 or just respond to this email.
- 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](mailto:info@laddc.org)

website: [www.lacanadvocates.org](http://www.lacanadvocates.org)

facebook: [www.facebook.com/LaDDCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/LaDDCouncil)

twitter: [www.twitter.com/LaDDCouncil](http://www.twitter.com/LaDDCouncil)

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Louisiana Developmental  
Disabilities Council

Find your member of the House Appropriations Committee!

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