



Action Alert #6

Appropriations to Vote on FY23 Budget

April 13, 2022



House Appropriations Monday, April 18th

House Appropriations is scheduled to meet this Monday at 9:00 AM to vote on the proposed Fiscal Year 2023 budget ([HB1](#)) which will begin July 1st. Click [here](#) for the tentative agenda.

What's Included in the Budget	What's Not Included in the Budget
<p>Funding for Comprehensive Dental Coverage for Adults with I/DD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>Additional Funding for Families Helping Families Centers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last year, the legislature appropriated an <i>additional</i> \$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. • Unfortunately, despite the Council's request, this additional funding was not included in the proposed FY23 budget. <p>Funding for Cameras in Special Education Classrooms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governing authorities of public and charter schools are required to adopt policies relative to the installation and operation of cameras in self-contained special education classrooms upon request (Act 456 of 2021). • Unfortunately, many districts have sighted a lack of funding for their failure to develop and implement any such policy despite the law requiring them to do so.

Members of the committee have expressed interest in amending the budget to include additional funding for Families Helping Families Centers and funding for the installation of cameras in self-contained special education classrooms. Advocates must rally around committee members and work together to ensure these amendments happen!

How to Take Action

Share your personal story and explain how the three 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 Monday, April 18th! Find your committee member(s) at the end of this alert.
 - Already reached out to committee members in another alert? That's okay. Contact them again! Let them know these issues are still important and you are counting on them for support!
2. **Email** h-app@legis.la.gov your public comments and testimony:
 - Only statements emailed to the address above and *received before 12 PM Friday, April 15th*, will be distributed to all committee members prior to the committee meeting.
 - With your comments, please ensure to include your name, address, phone number, email address, and bill number (HB1).
 - Don't forget to thank the committee for prioritizing individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in the budget.
3. **Attend Yellow Shirt Day!**
 - WHEN: Monday, April 18th, at 9:00 AM
 - WHERE: Louisiana State Capitol - House Committee Room 5

It is important for LaCAN to fill the room with yellow shirts to show the importance of these issues! Don't forget to arrive early to ensure you get a seat in the committee room. If you plan to attend, need a yellow shirt or want to find out about carpooling options, contact your [LaCAN Leader](#).

Get Involved Virtually!

If you can't make it to Yellow Shirt Day, that's okay! There are other ways to get involved!

- 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

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

