



# Action Alert #8

## House of Representatives to Vote on Amended FY23 Budget

April 19, 2022



### House of Representatives Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>

House Appropriations passed an amended version of the state’s Fiscal Year 2023 budget ([HB1](#)) on Monday. Now the budget heads to the House Floor for debate and passage.

What’s Included in the Budget	What’s Not Included in the Budget
<p><a href="#">Funding for Comprehensive Dental Coverage for Adults with I/DD</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Act 450 of 2021</a> 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.</li> <li>• \$5.3 million in state general fund is currently included in the proposed FY23 budget to ensure these services are provided to those that need it most!</li> <li>• For more information, check out the <a href="#">Formal Report by the Louisiana Dental Task Force for Adults with I/DD</a> and their <a href="#">Adults with I/DD Dental Graphic</a>.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Additional Funding for Families Helping Families Centers</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last year, the legislature appropriated an <i>additional</i> \$500,000 in state general fund to</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Funding for Cameras in Special Education Classrooms</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 (<a href="#">Act 456 of 2021</a>).</li> <li>• Unfortunately, many school districts have cited a “lack of funding” for their failure to develop and implement any such policy despite the law requiring them to do so.</li> <li>• In House Appropriations, Chairman Zeringue stated the committee did not include the \$8 million needed to fund the installation of cameras in special education classrooms in its amendments because the committee felt the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) <i>should</i> be able to identify the funding needed in its current budget. However, no language was added to the budget to instruct LDOE to identify necessary funds.</li> </ul>

the DD Council's budget for the sole purpose of doubling the funding for the nine FHF Centers the Council contracts with.

- Fortunately, this additional funding was amended into the proposed FY23 budget by House Appropriations.

- During this same committee meeting, a concept amendment was passed that would appropriate \$8 million to fund cameras in special education classrooms *should* the Louisiana Department of Health return funds to the state treasury as a result of increased federal funds from the Enhanced FMAP. Unfortunately, this is not a guaranteed source of funding.

## 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** your State Representative before they meet on Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>!
  - Click [here](#) for State Representative's full contact information.
  - Don't know your State Representative? Click [here](#) and enter your home address. The first person listed will be your State Representative.
  - With your comments, please ensure to include your name, address, phone number, email address, and bill number (HB1).
  - Don't forget to thank your State Representative for prioritizing individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in the budget.

If you need more information or would like help contacting your State Representative, reach out to your [LaCAN Leader](#) today!

## 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)

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