



Information Alert #2: 2023 Legislative Session Begins April 10th

April 6, 2023

Louisiana Lawmakers will convene **Monday, April 10th**, at noon to begin the 2023 Regular Legislative Session. The Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council (Council) and LaCAN members will be advocating for multiple issues impacting people with developmental disabilities including:

- [Recurring Funding for Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers](#) - During the last two legislative sessions, an additional \$500,000 was added to the Council's budget specifically for FHF Centers. The Council's request to include this additional funding in its Fiscal Year 2024 budget was denied leaving these Center's in an unfortunate situation;
- [Fund New & Existing Postsecondary Inclusive Education Programs for Students with I/DD](#) - During the last legislative session, the Inclusive Postsecondary Inclusive Education Fund was established. This year, we're advocating for an additional \$3 million to be added to this fund; and
- [Amend Open Meeting Law to Allow for Virtual Representation & Participation in Public Meetings](#) - In Louisiana, we need to have a declared emergency of some kind to allow for any sort of electronic participation in public meetings. Unfortunately, for many people with disabilities, a virtual accommodation to participate in public meetings is needed regardless of a state of emergency. Our state needs to adapt so our meetings can be more inclusive and transparent for all Louisianans including those with disabilities. [SB201](#) by Senator Sharon Hewitt has been filed to help address this issue.

More information about the issues the Council and LaCAN will be following this session can be found [here](#) and on the [Council's website](#).

If any of these issues are important to you, we encourage you to advocate this legislative session by participating in action alerts, Yellow Shirt Days and Public Testimony. More information about upcoming activities will be sent via email and shared on the Council and LaCAN's social media page. You can also reach out to your regional [LaCAN Leader](#) for more information about advocacy opportunities.

Save the Date

Tentative* Upcoming Yellow Shirt Day

WHEN: Tuesday, April 18th*
WHERE: House Appropriations Committee
Louisiana State Capitol – Baton Rouge

*This is a date being considered for public testimony on the FY2024 budget ([HB1](#)).

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:

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