



## Action Alert #12

### House of Representatives to Debate Amended FY24 Budget

May 1, 2023



**Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 AM**, the House of Representatives is scheduled to debate the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 budget ([HB1](#)) which will begin July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The proposed budget has been amended by the House Appropriations Committee when they met on Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Unfortunately, the two items LaCAN has been advocating for this session were not included in the amendments:

1. [Recurring Funding for Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers](#)
  - During the last two legislative sessions, an additional \$500,000 in state general fund (SGF) was added to the Council's budget specifically for FHF Centers. The Council's request to include this additional funding in its FY24 budget was denied leaving these Center's in an unfortunate situation. Total SGF needed is \$1,007,517.
2. [Fund New & Existing Postsecondary Inclusive Education Programs for Students with I/DD](#)
  - \$3 million SGF to be added to the Postsecondary Inclusive Education Fund to continue efforts to increase and expand postsecondary inclusive education opportunities in Louisiana for individuals with I/DD.

Now is the time to reach out to your State Representative and let your voice be heard!

### How to Take Action

Share your personal story and explain how you or someone you know have been impacted by any of the issues above.

1. **Email or call** your State Representative before they meet on Thursday, May 4<sup>th</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 include your name, address, phone number, email address and bill number (HB1). Let them know you are writing about funding for FHF Centers and the Postsecondary Inclusive Education Fund.
  - Don't forget to thank your State Representative for prioritizing individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in the budget.
2. **Attend Yellow Shirt Day!**
- WHEN: Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM
  - WHERE: Louisiana State Capitol - House Chamber

It's important for LaCAN to fill the House Chamber and rotunda with yellow shirts to show the importance of these issues! Don't forget to arrive early and try to speak with your Representative before they take the floor. If you plan to attend, need a yellow shirt or want to find out about carpooling options, contact your [LaCAN Leader](#).

If you would like to watch the House of Representatives meeting, you can do so via the [legislature's website](#). When the meeting is in progress, click the TV icon to access the broadcast.

## Confirm Your Action

- Email your [LaCAN Leader](#) after you take action
- 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.

## 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](#)

## 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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