

Eliminate the Flexible Family Fund Wait List

KNOW THE FACTS

- **Families raising children with the most severe disabilities incur extraordinary expenses.**
- **Families report that raising a child with severe disabilities negatively impacts their ability to work and/or increase their income.**
- **The Flexible Family Fund program provided support to 1,796 families with I/DD and 336 with behavioral health needs in the first quarter of FY24.**
- **Unfortunately, 2,167 children with I/DD and 91 with behavioral health needs were on the Flexible Family Fund waiting list.**
- **This program is on a first come, first served basis. So, depending on where you live, the wait may be 1—4 years long, if not longer!**

What Can Legislators Do?

Appropriate an additional \$9.4 million in State General Funds (SGF) to eliminate the Flexible Family Fund waiting list for children with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) and behavioral health needs.

A breakdown of the funding needed in each region is on the back of this fact sheet.

Why Do This?

The Flexible Family Fund program is administered through each human services district and authority, or LGE, throughout the state. This program provides families of children with the most severe I/DD and behavioral health needs resources to help cover the excessive costs associated with supporting their child in their own home, regardless of their income.

This program keeps families together and children at home. All children, including those with severe disabilities, need families and enduring relationships with adults in a nurturing home environment to develop to their fullest potential.

Many families who may not be eligible for other assistance benefit from this critical program.

Family members with limited ability to work and/or advance their careers due to caring for a child with a severe disability, are better able to manage their family's extensive needs with the help of the Flexible Family Fund.

Together, we can help families in need End the Wait!

Total State General Fund (SGF) Needed to Eliminate the Flexible Family Fund Wait List

Human Services District/ Authority	I/DD Served	Waiting List	BH Served	Waiting List	Additional SGF Needed
Metropolitan (MHSD)	129	190	47	18	\$823,600
Capital Area (CAHSD)	305	321	49	12	\$1,260,876
South Central LA (SCLHSA)	143	83	31	4	\$891,953
Acadiana Area (AAHSD)	205	266	38	2	\$1,213,805
Imperial Calcasieu (IMCAL)	92	148	21	5	\$501,661
Central LA (CLHSD)	102	71	27	6	\$319,369
Northwest LA (NLHSD)	172	116	23	17	\$500,960
Northeast Delta (NEDHSA)	151	176	28	0	\$532,576
Florida Parishes (FPHSA)	218	344	25	11	\$1,244,897
Jefferson Parish (JPHSA)	279	452	47	16	\$2,111,426
Total	1,796	2,167	336	91	\$9,401,123

* Number served and on waiting list reported by the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities and the Office of Behavioral Health at the Council's Act 378 Subcommittee meeting in October 2023. SGF needed provided by the local human services districts/authorities who administer the program.