



## Action Alert #7

### House Appropriations to Discuss LDH Budget

March 8, 2024

Louisiana's Regular Legislative Session kicks off this coming Monday, and legislators are hitting the ground running! On Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30 AM, the Louisiana Department of Health's (LDH) proposed budget for Fiscal Year 25 (beginning July 1) will be presented to House Appropriations. ([Agenda](#)). LaCAN and the Council will be advocating for the following issues to be funded this session:

1. [Recurring Funding for Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers](#)
  - During the last three 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 FY25 budget was denied leaving these Center's in an unfortunate situation. Total SGF needed is \$1,007,517. This would ensure a standstill budget for the Centers.
2. [Eliminate the Flexible Family Fund Waitlist](#)
  - The Flexible Family Fund program is administered through the local human services districts/authorities and provides families of children with the most severe intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and/or behavioral health needs a monthly stipend to help cover the excessive costs associated with their care. In the link above, you will find the amount of SGF each district/authority needs to serve all eligible children on the FFF waitlist, which totals approximately \$9.4 million.
3. [Increase the Waiver Rate for Night Services](#)
  - Funding is needed to increase the rate for night services to match the current day rate within home- and community-based waivers for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Currently, the night rate is \$5 less than the day rate (\$13.52 vs \$18.52). This disparity is impacting the availability of Direct Support Workers willing to work nights leaving individuals and families in desperate situations. Approximately \$10.1 million in State General Fund is needed to fix this issue.

At this time, none of the funding listed above is included in the proposed LDH budget. If you feel any of these issues are important and should be considered in the budget, let the committee members know!

### How to Take Action

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

1. **Email or call** the Chair and members of the House Appropriations Committee *before the committee* meets Tuesday, March 12th!
  - Find your member(s) of the House Appropriations Committee at the end of this alert.

2. **Email** [h-app@legis.la.gov](mailto:h-app@legis.la.gov) your public comments about the budget:
  - With your comments, please include your name, address, phone number, email address and let them know the specific issues you are writing about.
3. **Attend Yellow Shirt Day**
  - Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM
  - Louisiana State Capitol – House Committee Room 5

If you plan to attend Yellow Shirt Day, want to meet with your legislator(s), need help preparing your testimony, need a yellow shirt or want to find out about carpooling options, contact your [LaCAN Leader](#).

Can't make it for yellow shirt day? You can watch the budget presentation to see what impacts, if any, the proposed budget may have on the issues above and other disability related services. You can watch the committee meeting live from the [legislature's website](#). When the meeting is in progress, click the camera icon to access the broadcast.

## Save the Date

Public Testimony on the proposed FY25 budget will be held in the House Appropriations committee on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in providing testimony before the committee on one of the issues above, please reach out to your LaCAN Leader. An additional alert will be sent with more information at a later date.

## 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)

twitter: [www.twitter.com/LaDDCouncil](http://www.twitter.com/LaDDCouncil)

Sign up to receive LaCAN Alerts [HERE](#).

View all recent LaCAN Alerts [HERE](#).



Louisiana Developmental  
Disabilities Council

Find your member of the House Appropriations Committee!

<b>All Regions</b>	<b>Committee Chairman</b>	
Jack McFarland	<a href="mailto:mcfarlandj@legis.la.gov">mcfarlandj@legis.la.gov</a>	(318) 259-4275
<b>Region 1</b>	<b>New Orleans Area</b>	
Aimee Adatto Freeman	<a href="mailto:hse098@legis.la.gov">hse098@legis.la.gov</a>	(504) 861-1614
Jason Hughes (Vice Chair)	<a href="mailto:hse100@legis.la.gov">hse100@legis.la.gov</a>	(504) 246-9707
<b>Region 2</b>	<b>Baton Rouge/Capital Area</b>	
Roy Daryl Adams	<a href="mailto:hse062@legis.la.gov">hse062@legis.la.gov</a>	(225) 634-7470
Barbara Carpenter	<a href="mailto:carpenterb@legis.la.gov">carpenterb@legis.la.gov</a>	(225) 771-5674
Barbara Reich Freiberg	<a href="mailto:hse070@legis.la.gov">hse070@legis.la.gov</a>	(225) 763-3500
Vanessa LaFleur	<a href="mailto:hse101@legis.la.gov">hse101@legis.la.gov</a>	(225) 925-6880
Denise Marcelle	<a href="mailto:marcelled@legis.la.gov">marcelled@legis.la.gov</a>	(225) 359-9362
<b>Region 3</b>	<b>Houma/Thibodaux Area</b>	
Beryl Amedee	<a href="mailto:amedeeb@legis.la.gov">amedeeb@legis.la.gov</a>	(985) 858-2967
Jerome Zeringue	<a href="mailto:zeringuej@legis.la.gov">zeringuej@legis.la.gov</a>	(985) 876-8823
<b>Region 4</b>	<b>Lafayette/Acadiana Area</b>	
Rhonda Butler	<a href="mailto:hse038@legis.la.gov">hse038@legis.la.gov</a>	(337) 363-3900
<b>Region 5</b>	<b>Lake Charles/Southwest LA Area</b>	
Dewith Carrier	<a href="mailto:hse032@legis.la.gov">hse032@legis.la.gov</a>	(318) 355-0206
Charles "Chuck" Owen	<a href="mailto:hse030@legis.la.gov">hse030@legis.la.gov</a>	(337) 460-8726
Troy D. Romero	<a href="mailto:hse037@legis.la.gov">hse037@legis.la.gov</a>	(337) 824-0376
<b>Region 6</b>	<b>Alexandria/Central LA Area</b>	
Rhonda Butler	<a href="mailto:hse038@legis.la.gov">hse038@legis.la.gov</a>	(337) 363-3900
Jason Dewitt	<a href="mailto:hse025@legis.la.gov">hse025@legis.la.gov</a>	(318) 277-7475
Jack McFarland (Chair)	<a href="mailto:mcfarlandj@legis.la.gov">mcfarlandj@legis.la.gov</a>	(318) 259-4275
Charles "Chuck" Owen	<a href="mailto:hse030@legis.la.gov">hse030@legis.la.gov</a>	(337) 460-8726
<b>Region 7</b>	<b>Shreveport/Northwest LA Area</b>	
Lawrence Bagley	<a href="mailto:bagleyl@legis.la.gov">bagleyl@legis.la.gov</a>	(318) 925-9588
Dodie Horton	<a href="mailto:hortond@legis.la.gov">hortond@legis.la.gov</a>	(318) 949-2463
Jack McFarland (Chair)	<a href="mailto:mcfarlandj@legis.la.gov">mcfarlandj@legis.la.gov</a>	(318) 259-4275
<b>Region 8</b>	<b>Monroe/Northeast LA Area</b>	
Adrian Fisher	<a href="mailto:hse016@legis.la.gov">hse016@legis.la.gov</a>	(318) 556-7001
Jack McFarland (Chair)	<a href="mailto:mcfarlandj@legis.la.gov">mcfarlandj@legis.la.gov</a>	(318) 259-4275
Francis Thompson	<a href="mailto:thompsf@legis.la.gov">thompsf@legis.la.gov</a>	(318) 878-9408
<b>Region 9</b>	<b>Hammond/Northshore Area</b>	
Stephanie Hunter Berault	<a href="mailto:hse076@legis.la.gov">hse076@legis.la.gov</a>	(985) 640-9795
Kimberly Landry Coates	<a href="mailto:hse073@legis.la.gov">hse073@legis.la.gov</a>	(985) 551-1424
Shane Mack	<a href="mailto:hse095@legis.la.gov">hse095@legis.la.gov</a>	(225) 286-7500
<b>Region 10</b>	<b>Jefferson/New Orleans Area</b>	
John Illg, Jr.	<a href="mailto:hse078@legis.la.gov">hse078@legis.la.gov</a>	(504) 737-0315
Timothy Kerner	<a href="mailto:hse084@legis.la.gov">hse084@legis.la.gov</a>	(504) 689-7725
Rodney Lyons	<a href="mailto:lyonsr@legis.la.gov">lyonsr@legis.la.gov</a>	(504) 510-5417

Committee Members are sorted by region. Find your region!

# Louisiana Regions

