



Action Alert #12

House Appropriations Set to Vote on Budget

April 18, 2024



On Tuesday, April 23rd, House Appropriations is scheduled to vote on the proposed budget ([HB1](#)) for Fiscal Year 25 (FY25). LaCAN and the Council have been advocating for the following issues not currently included in the proposed budget:

- [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.
- [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.
- [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.

Now is the time to let the committee know how you feel about any of these issues above. Already reached out to committee members in another alert? That's okay. Contact them again! Let them know these issues are still important and you are counting on them for support!

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, April 23rd
 - Find your member(s) of the House Appropriations Committee at the end of this alert.
 - With your comments, please include your name, address, phone number, email address, bill number (HB1) and let them know the specific issues you are writing about.
2. **Email** h-app@legis.la.gov your public comments about the budget *before the committee* meets Tuesday, April 23rd
 - With your comments, please include your name, address, phone number, email address, bill number (HB1) and let them know the specific issues you are writing about.
3. **Attend Yellow Shirt Day**
 - Tuesday, April 23rd at 8:30 AM
 - Louisiana State Capitol – House Committee Room 5

If you need help with this alert or attending Yellow Shirt Day, 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.

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

website: www.lacanadvocates.org

facebook: www.facebook.com/LaDDCouncil

twitter: www.twitter.com/LaDDCouncil

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Find your member of the House Appropriations Committee!

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Committee Members are sorted by region. Find your region!

