



Action Alert #15 FY25 Budget Headed to Senate Finance

May 10, 2024



An amended budget ([HB1](#)) for Fiscal Year 25 (FY25) has made its way through the House. Now it's time to share your public comments with Senate Finance as they prepare to hear public testimony Friday, May 17th!

HB1, in its current form, does not include funding for two important issues the Council and LaCAN have been advocating for this session:

1. [Eliminate the Flexible Family Fund Waitlist](#)
2. [Increase the Waiver Rate for Night Services](#)

While not included in HB1, the [additional \\$500,000 in SGF for Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers](#) is included in the amended supplemental budget ([HB782](#)) which has also passed the House. Thank you to our Representatives for prioritizing this one of a kind resource. HB782 supplemental budget will be heard in Senate Finance at a later date.

If any of the issues above are important to you, contact Senate Finance today!

How to Take Action

Share your personal story with the Senate Finance Committee and explain how you or someone you know has been impacted by any of the issues above. More information about each issue can be found in the Additional Information section below.

Email or call the Chair and members of the Senate Finance Committee before they hear Public Testimony on Friday, May 17th

- Find the contact information for the Chair and your member(s) of Senate Finance 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 issue(s) you are writing about.

- Don't forget to thank the Chair and members for considering the needs of the disability community.

Email sfnce@legis.la.gov your public comments about the budget by Thursday, May 16th

- With your comments, please include your name, address, phone number, email address, bill number (HB1) and let them know the specific issue(s) you are writing about.
- Don't forget to thank the committee for considering the needs of the disability community.

Attend Yellow Shirt Day

- Friday, May 17th at 9 AM ([Agenda](#))
- Louisiana State Capitol – Senate Committee Room A-B
- Be sure to arrive early so you can get a seat in the committee room

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 committee meeting(s) live from the [legislature's website](#). When the meeting is in progress, click the camera icon to access the broadcast.

Additional Information

[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 state general fund (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.

[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. This increased the Council's SGF to \$1,007,517. Every dollar of state funds the Council receives supports the work of FHF Centers across the state. Initially, the Council's request to annualize the full budget was denied, essentially cutting funding to Centers by half. Fortunately, House Appropriations restored the \$500,000 via an amendment to HB782.

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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Louisiana Developmental
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Committee Members are sorted by region. Find your region!



Louisiana Regions