



Action Alert #18

FY25 Budgets to be Debated on the Senate Floor

May 28, 2024



The Fiscal Year 25 (FY25) budget ([HB1](#)) and the supplemental budget ([HB782](#)) passed out of Senate Finance last week and will be debated on the Senate Floor Wednesday, May 29th, at 1:30 PM. Both budgets have been amended throughout the process to include funding for two of the three issues on the Council and LaCAN's advocacy agenda:

1. [Increase the Waiver Rate for Night Services](#) – Included in HB1
2. [Funding for Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers](#) – Included in HB782

Unfortunately, neither budget in its current form includes the funding needed to [Eliminate the Flexible Family Fund Waitlist](#).

If any of the issues mentioned above impact you or someone you know, Act Now! More information about each issue can be found in the Additional Information section below.

How to Take Action

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

1. **Email or call** your State Senator *before* they meet on the Senate Floor Wednesday, May 29th.
 - [State Senator](#) full contact information
 - Don't know your State Senator? Click [here](#) and enter your home address. The second person listed will be your State Senator.
 - With your comments, please include your name, address, phone number, email address, bill number (HB1 and/or HB782) and let them know the specific issue(s) you are writing about.

If you need help with this alert, contact your [LaCAN Leader](#) for assistance. You can also watch the budget debate live from the [legislature's website](#).

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. Fortunately, Senate Finance appropriated the \$10.1 million in State General Fund needed when they amended HB1 last week.

[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

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