

Governor's Proposed Changes are Good for People with Developmental Disabilities and Louisiana

Proposed Changes that reflect Best Practices:

- Consolidation of Northeast and Northwest Supports and Services Centers
- Transition of individuals with low support needs in remaining centers to appropriate community-based services
- 150 additional New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) slots for people on the waiting list

Benefits to People with Developmental Disabilities and Louisiana:

- These measures would allow people with developmental disabilities to enjoy a healthier, higher quality of life at less cost to the state.
- Downsizing/consolidation of these supports and services centers will allow savings to be realized now and in years to come.
- Re-investing the savings into community services will help address the needs of individuals on the waiting list for home and community based services.
- The 150 additional NOW slots will provide much needed services to people living in their own homes who have been waiting over nine years for services.

Why these Changes are Necessary:

- Louisiana ranks 8th in the nation in fiscal effort related to individuals with developmental disabilities, however the state is not spending these dollars in the most efficient or the least restrictive manner.¹ Despite this fiscal effort, Louisiana has one of the longest waiting lists for home and community based services per capita in the country.
- Louisiana ranks 1st in fiscal effort directed towards institutions – spending 38 percent of its expenditures on institutionalization of individuals with developmental disabilities compared to the national average of 19 percent.¹
- The state spends double the national average on institutions for two reasons. First, Louisiana has more individuals in ICFs/DD per capita than any other state – almost 4 times the national average.² And, Louisiana ranks 3rd highest in the number of people per capita in large ICFs/DD although the compelling literature shows that outcomes are better in community settings.²
- Research has proven that individuals grow and thrive as members of their community and have a better quality of life than in congregate settings.³
- There are over 9,000 people on the NOW waiting list.
- The average annual cost to serve an individual with developmental disabilities:⁴
 - In a supports and services (developmental) center - \$173,313
 - With an existing NOW slot - \$66,000
 - With a NOW slot after Resource Allocation is fully implemented - \$48,000 (projected cost)

¹ State of the State in Developmental Disabilities – University of Colorado, 2008

² University of Minnesota Institute on Community Inclusion

³ American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Kozma, et. al., 2009

⁴ La. Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities 2/12/10