

Advocating for individualized
community supports for Louisiana
citizens who experience
developmental disabilities

What is LaCAN?

LaCAN (LaCAN (*Louisiana Citizens for Action Now*) is the statewide grassroots network of the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council, and consists of individuals, families and advocates who have worked together since 1988 advocating for a service system that supports individuals with disabilities to live in their own homes rather than having to be segregated from their communities in a facility to receive needed services.

LaCAN members are organized into regional teams and are contacted by email or phone when communication with state policy makers is necessary.

You can help your family
and others by joining LaCAN.

***"Never doubt that a small group
of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world;***

indeed, it is the only thing that ever does."

Margaret Mead

Do You, A Family Member, or a Friend ...

- Have a developmental disability?
- Believe it is unfair that thousands of citizens who need individualized community services are unable to get them?
- Receive individualized community-based services or continue to wait to receive these services?
- Feel frustrated when needed services and supports are not available?

LaCAN Accomplishments

Due to the tremendous success of LaCAN, thousands of individuals with developmental disabilities now have access to home and community-based services. LaCAN was successful in establishing a recurring source of funding for New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) slots.

Join LaCAN! Make a difference!

Louisiana citizens continue to wait...

As a result of LaCAN's efforts, thousands of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families receive waiver, cash subsidy, and other individual and family supports. But the work is far from over.

Currently, thousands of adults and children with developmental disabilities are waiting years for the waiver and other individual and family supports they need now.

...And Wait ...

Despite the tremendous number of people requesting individualized community services, Louisiana continues to be a state with a heavy reliance on institutional services, large and small, that segregate people.

...And Wait ...

Money spent on institutional care must be reallocated to individualized home and community-based supports that people prefer. The system must be rebalanced to meet the needs of all Louisiana citizens with disabilities and offer equitable opportunities for **everyone** to be integrated, contributing members of their communities.

“One person can make a difference.

Every person should try.”

John F. Kennedy

You Can Help!

(No dues, No fees)

You can help yourself, your family, or people you know who need services by joining LaCAN in your region and participating in advocacy efforts.

As a LaCAN member, you can make a difference by writing, calling, and visiting policymakers in the state to share your personal story.

How to Join

To join the LaCAN Team complete the membership form online at:

www.lacanadvocates.org

or call **1-800-450-8108**

No dues. No fees.

Benefits of Membership

1. Stay informed about legislative activities that affect your life and available support services.
2. Learn effective advocacy skills and strategies to better advocate for yourself, your child, or other people with disabilities needing services.
3. Become part of a grassroots network working to reform the long-term care system so people with disabilities are no longer segregated from their communities.
4. Be part of the movement to eliminate waiting lists.

**“The seemingly unattainable
is realized through
the resolve of many.”**

Henry Ford

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LaCAN

Louisiana Citizens for Action Now

**The statewide grassroots
advocacy network of the
Louisiana Developmental
Disabilities Council**

**Linking lawmakers, self-advocates
and family members together to
make a difference for individuals
with disabilities**

www.lacanadvocates.org