

Controlling Costs for the Future Of the New Opportunities Waiver

Advocates appreciate the leadership of Legislators and Governor Jindal during the 2008 Legislative Session that will result in 2,025 people with developmental disabilities receiving New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) services this year. Advocates are also thankful that the intent of the NOW Trust Fund did not change. It will continue to solely fund additional NOW slots, leaving hope for the over 9,000 people still on the waiver waiting list.

The Costs of the NOW are Coming Down

- The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) has begun implementing a resource allocation model that allocates funding for services to NOW recipients based on an individual's assessed type and level of needs. The levels are identified through assessments using the Supports Intensity Scale/La. Plus (SIS/LA+).
- Implementation of this model began in the fall of 2008 for new NOW recipients and will be phased in with current NOW recipients over the next few years.
- The allocation of resources to recipients based on their individual needs will significantly reduce the cost of the NOW program. OCDD calculated an average cost of the 2,025 new NOW recipients using the resource allocation model and the number of recipients at each level of need. **The average cost of utilization is estimated to be \$44,208.** Current average cost is approximately \$70,000.

What Legislators Can Do in the 2009 Legislative Session

- Preserve the original intent of the NOW Trust Fund.
- Appropriate funds from the Trust Fund for an additional 2,000 NOW slots for people on the waiting list.