

# LOUISIANA CITIZENS FOR ACTION NOW

*Advocating for Louisiana Citizens with Developmental Disabilities*

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Funding for the Medicaid private provider program has been reduced for FY2011

**And, Governor Vetoes Language Amendment**

**June 26, 2010**  
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- Funding for the Medicaid private provider program has been reduced for FY2011
- Contact DHH Secretary Alan Levine
- Confirm your Action
- Sample message - You are encouraged to personalize it.
- Background Information
- Any Questions?

**INFORMATION ALERT:** Governor Jindal issued his vetoes in HB1 last night. His vetoes include the language that would have delayed the transition of individuals out of developmental centers. So once again, **YOUR ACTIONS made a difference. Thanks to all of you that were able to respond to LaCAN's Action Alert and contacted the Governor about the importance of vetoing this language from the budget.** You can read the article about the vetoes at the link provided below to the Baton Rouge Advocate's website.

**ACTION ALERT TARGETING DHH SECRETARY LEVINE CONTINUES. Please take action today.**

1. Next year's state budget (HB1) reflects a 4.72 percent reduction in funds for the Medicaid private provider program. The Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) will decide how this reduction will be distributed. In the past two years reductions to the Medicaid program have resulted in rate cuts of over 13 percent to providers of Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) for people with developmental disabilities.
2. Contact DHH Secretary Alan Levine immediately and urge him to minimize the impact of the Medicaid funding cuts to HCBS providers and the services they provide.
3. A sample letter is included that you should personalize.
4. Confirm your action by replying to this email.

**Funding for the Medicaid private provider program has been reduced for FY2011**  
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- HCBS Private Provider rates have been cut three times in the past two years.

- The budget for FY2011 contains a 4.72 percent cut to the Medicaid private provider program.
- Further cuts to HCBS could push individuals with developmental disabilities from independent living to more costly institutional care.
- Many agencies would have to reduce services; some would go out of business completely.

[Article About Governor's Veto](#)

**Contact DHH Secretary Alan Levine**

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Alan Levine, 628 N. 4th Street, P.O. Box 629, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-0629,  
Phone: (225)342-9500, Fax: (225)342-5568, Email: [alan.levine@la.gov](mailto:alan.levine@la.gov)

**Confirm your Action**

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Reply to this email to let us know you took action.

**Sample message - You are encouraged to personalize it.**

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Dear Secretary Levine,

I urge you to minimize the impact of the Medicaid funding cuts to Home and Community-Based Service (HCBS) providers for individuals with developmental disabilities. Community based services are vital for individuals with developmental disabilities to live in their own homes and communities and the providers are a critical element of these services.

HCBS Provider agencies have already received three rounds of cuts in the past two years. Additional cuts will cause many providers to reduce services, eliminate programs, or cause some providers to close their doors altogether. These actions would force many individuals with developmental disabilities into more costly institutional care and reverse the progress Louisiana has been making towards home and community based services.

As you take on the difficult task of determining how this budget cut will be implemented I urge you to ensure there is adequate funding to support HCBS services for people with developmental disabilities.

Sincerely,

**Background Information**

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In the past two years, providers of HCBS for people with developmental disabilities have sustained rate cuts of over 13 percent. HB1 reduced funding for the Medicaid private provider program by 4.72 percent. DHH has discretion in how this reduction will be

distributed and/or mechanisms to make up these fund reductions for the budget year that starts on July 1, 2010.

**Any Questions?**

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If there are any questions about the information in this email contact LaCAN's Coordinator by replying to this email, or calling the toll free number listed below.

**Contact Information**

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Email: [kay.marcel@cox.net](mailto:kay.marcel@cox.net)  
Phone: 1-800-450-8108  
Web: <http://www.lacanadvocates.org>

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