

# It's Time for Louisiana to Consolidate and Close Additional Developmental Centers

**What Legislators Can Do:** Ensure the FY2010 OCDD and Medicaid budgets reflect:

1. The closure of OCDD Group Homes in Leesville and Columbia occupying former developmental center facilities by 12/09.
2. The sale of the Metropolitan Developmental Center by 12/09 and Leesville and Columbia facilities by 6/10.
3. The closure of developmental centers in Thibodaux (Bayou) and Ruston (Northeast) by 6/10.
4. The utilization of cost savings generated from downsizing and closure of facilities for the continuation of waiver services.
5. Funding of \$13 million out of the NOW Trust Fund to phase in an additional 2,000 New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) slots (an annual average cost of \$44,208).

## Facts about Louisiana's Developmental Disabilities System

- There are 9,561 people on the NOW waiting list.
- It has been proven that people with the most severe disabilities can and do live successfully in their own homes in the community with waiver supports, have a better quality of life and cost less than those in institutional settings. It was done successfully with Metropolitan Developmental Center (MDC) in Greater New Orleans and should be done with others.
- Louisiana spends \$191 Million per year for 1,112 people with developmental disabilities to live away from their communities in six developmental centers.
- The average annual cost of an individual with developmental disabilities:
  - Living in a group home on the Leesville or Columbia campus..... \$274,000.
  - Living in a developmental center is..... \$171,000.
  - Using an existing NOW slot is ..... \$ 70,000.
  - Receiving a SFY 09 NOW slot is anticipated to be ..... \$ 44,208.
- Per capita, Louisiana serves more than twice as many people in developmental centers as the national average, and ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation in the number of residents in developmental centers.
- Nine states (AK, HI, ME, NH, NM, RI, VT, WV, IN) and the District of Columbia have closed ALL of their developmental centers. Sixteen other states have reduced the number of developmental centers by 50% or more.
- Over 55% of the Metropolitan Developmental Center population, which was closed, chose to live in the community with NOW services or in a community home. The remainder moved to another developmental center.
- It is estimated that approximately 200 residents of developmental centers will be determined to be at the three lowest levels of need when OCDD conducts assessments on all center residents.