

LOUISIANA CITIZENS FOR ACTION NOW

Advocating for Louisiana Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

~~~~~  
Medicaid Crisis

**October 23, 2009**  
~~~~~

- Action Alert
- Sample Letter
- Contact Louisiana's Congressional Delegation
- Reply to this email to confirm your action
- Any Questions?

If you have not yet contacted Senators Landrieu and Vitter and your Congressman, there is still time. Please do so today and confirm your action by replying to this email.

Action Alert

~~~~~

1. Contact Louisiana's Congressional delegation to tell them Louisiana needs Congress to pass legislation that adjusts the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) calculation for states following natural disasters to avoid extreme increases in state contributions for Medicaid services.
2. Without Congressional action, DHH Secretary Alan Levine has said services for Louisianians with disabilities are at risk of being eliminated completely! Tell Senators Landrieu, Vitter, and your Congressman what the loss of waiver services, prescription drugs, Long Term Personal Care Services and other optional Medicaid services would mean to you and your family.
3. Contact information and a sample letter are included below.
4. **REPLY TO THIS EMAIL** to confirm your Action.

## **Sample Letter**

~~~~~

Dear Senator _____

Your leadership is needed to avert a crisis in Louisiana of immense proportions. Louisiana is facing a \$450 - \$550 million reduction in federal funds for Medicaid services due to the projected decrease in the FMAP from 80% to 63% in January 2011. This reduction will grow to \$1 billion the following year. A reduction of this magnitude would be devastating for approximately 420,000 Louisiana citizens in danger of losing Medicaid benefits and services. DHH Secretary Alan Levine has made it clear that this level of reduction in federal assistance would result in the elimination of entire "optional" Medicaid programs. The "optional" programs considered for elimination include things like Home and Community Based Waiver Services for individuals with disabilities! Please pass legislation that

adjusts the FMAP calculation so it disregards any extraordinary revenues resulting from the recovery of presidentially declared disasters when the state's per capita personal income growth is above an established percentage level. Your action could protect Louisiana citizens from facing a Medicaid crisis next year and prevent citizens of other states from experiencing similar situations in the future.

Sincerely,

Contact Louisiana's Congressional Delegation

~~~~~  
Everyone should contact both Senator Landrieu and Senator Vitter and the Congressman who represents your district. If you don't know who your Congressman is, [click here](#).

Senator Mary Landrieu  
328 Hart Senate Office Bldg  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-5824 Fax: (202) 224-9735  
E-mail Senator Landrieu's office at:  
[Click here](#) to email Senator Landrieu

Senator David Vitter  
516 Hart Senate Office Bldg  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-4623 Fax: (202) 228-5061  
[Click here](#) to email Senator Vitter

Congressman Rodney Alexander  
United States House of Representatives  
316 Cannon House Office  
Building Washington, D.C. 20515 Phone: (202) 225-8490 Fax: (202) 225-5639  
[Click here](#) to email Congressman Alexander

Congressman Charles Boustany, Jr.  
United States House of Representatives  
1117 Longworth House Office Bldg  
Washington, DC 20515-1807  
Phone: (202) 225-2031 Fax: (202) 225-5724  
[Click here](#) to email Congressman Boustany

Congressman Joseph Cao  
United States House of Representatives  
2113 Rayburn HOB

Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-6636 Fax: (202) 225-1988  
[Click here](#) to email Congressman Cao  
Congressman Bill Cassidy  
United States House of Representatives  
506 Cannon HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-3901 Fax: (202) 225-7313  
[Click here](#) to email Congressman Cassidy

Congressman John Fleming  
United States House of Representatives  
1023 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-2777 Fax: (202) 225-8039  
[Click here](#) to email Congressman Fleming

Congressman Charlie Melancon  
United States House of Representatives  
404 Cannon House Office Bldg  
Washington, DC 20515-1807  
Phone: (202) 225-4031 Fax: (202) 226-3944  
[Click here](#) to email Congressman Melancon

Congressman Steve Scalise  
United States House of Representatives  
429 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-3015 Fax: (202) 226-0386  
[Click here](#) to email Congressman Scalise

### **Background Information**

Louisiana is facing a reduction of approximately \$450 - \$550 million next state fiscal year that will grow to a \$1 billion reduction of federal funds the following year for Medicaid services. The reduction is anticipated due to Louisiana's projected decrease in the FMAP. FMAP is the percentage of federal funds provided to match state dollars to cover Medicaid payments. Louisiana faces this dramatic reduction in FMAP rates due to recovery and insurance dollars that followed the hurricanes of 2005. Louisiana DHH Secretary Alan Levine has indicated that this level of funding reduction would require the elimination of entire "optional" Medicaid programs. Medicaid considers programs like Home and Community Based Waivers, prescription drugs, support coordination and many others as "optional".

- [Click Here](#) to learn more about the Louisiana Medicaid Crisis.

**Any Questions?**

~~~~~

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

~~~~~

Email: [kevin.hill@la.gov](mailto:kevin.hill@la.gov)

Phone: 1-800-450-8108

Web: <http://www.lacanadvocates.org>

~~~~~