

# LOUISIANA CITIZENS FOR ACTION NOW

*Advocating for Louisiana Citizens with Developmental Disabilities*

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Stop Cuts to NOW  
**September 30, 2009**  
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## **ACTION ALERT!!!**

1. Contact DHH Secretary Alan Levine and Governor Jindal to express your concern about potential cuts to the NOW program.
2. Urge them to eliminate all non-essential state spending to solve midyear budget shortfalls instead of cutting services to NOW recipients.
3. Ask them to close expensive developmental centers to save money for budget deficits in future years.
4. A sample letter is included below.

## **Contacting Governor Jindal**

- Email: Click on link below. Go to "Topic" line then select "Medicaid" from the drop down menu
- Fax: 1-225-342-7099
- Mail: P.O. Box 94004, Baton Rouge, LA 70804- 9004

[Email Governor Jindal](#)

## **Contacting Secretary Levine**

- Email: [alan.levine@la.gov](mailto:alan.levine@la.gov)
- Fax: 1- 225-342-5568
- Mail: P.O. Box 629, Baton Rouge, LA 70821- 0629

## **Confirm your Action**

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

## **Sample Letter**

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I urge you not to make additional cuts to the NOW program to address the projected midyear shortfall in the state Medicaid budget. If the NOW program is cut, it is likely that some recipients will be forced to seek more costly institutional services raising the question of what savings will really be gained. Please make sure all non-essential state spending is eliminated to solve the midyear budget deficit instead of making cuts to the NOW. Louisiana advocates across the state are asking our Congressional delegation to intervene and address the crisis facing the Louisiana Medicaid program. I also encourage you to begin closing

developmental centers now to save money for the looming Medicaid budget crisis. Clearly, the NOW is the more cost effective model and provides a higher quality of life. I request that my tax dollars be used to support the waiver program and reduce the state's reliance on more costly and unnecessary developmental centers.

**Background Information**

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In a Senate Finance Committee meeting on September 21, Department of Health and Hospitals Secretary Alan Levine projected a significant deficit in the Medicaid budget and mid-year cuts would have to be made. Secretary Levine blamed the shortfall partly on delays in implementing cost-cutting measures to the NOW program.

**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**

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