

LOUISIANA CITIZENS FOR ACTION NOW

Advocating for Louisiana Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

Action Alert - Drastic Cuts to Community Services

- Drastic Cuts to Home & Community Services - Action Needed to Restore these Funds
- Contact members of the House in your area **before May 25th**
- Sample letter - you are encouraged to personalize
- Confirm your Action

Act now to Restore Funds to Home and Community Based Services

The House Appropriations Committee cut nearly 30 Million dollars from the Dept. of Health and Hospitals' budget in House Bill (HB) 1. The effect of these cuts will include:

- Elimination of the Cash Subsidy Program for children with severe disabilities in most regions of the state.
- Loss of Individual and Family Support Services for over 400 families of individuals with developmental disabilities throughout the state.
- Elimination of contract funding for
 - Families Helping Families
 - the Supported Living Program for individuals with Adult-onset disabilities
 - Children's Hospital Diabetes Clinic
 - Tulane University Hospital-Cystic Fibrosis Clinic
 - LSU Shreveport NICU Follow-up Clinic
 - LSU Earl K. Long Pediatric Clinic.
- Services to nearly 5,000 children with special health care needs will be drastically reduced as a result of cuts to Children's Special Health Care Services.
- Elimination of vital community services for 200 people who have successfully transitioned out of psychiatric hospitals.
- Loss of psychiatric medications for non-Medicaid eligible (indigent) persons diagnosed with serious mental illness and/or addictive disorders.
- Reduction or elimination of the State Personal Care Assistance Program.
- Cuts to Adult Protective Services for people with disabilities.
- Cuts to Single Point of Entry delaying access to Long Term Personal Care Services and the Elderly Waivers.
- Elimination of plan to expand self direction in DD and elderly waivers statewide.

If restoring these programs/services is important to you, **contact members of the House in your area and ask them to restore ALL of the funds cut from DHH's budget.**

Contact members of the House in your area immediately.

[Click here](#) for contact information for Members of the House of Representatives

[Click here](#) to find your personal Representative.

The House will consider HB 1 on May 25th.

Sample letter - you are encouraged to personalize - begin your letter with a personal statement about yourself and/or your child and family and include how these cuts will affect you or people you know

Dear Representative _____

I am writing to urge you to restore the nearly \$30 million in funding that was cut from the Dept. of Health and Hospitals' budget. These funds needed in HB1 support vital programs that serve people with disabilities and are necessary to keep them in their own homes and out of more expensive institutions. The cuts made by the Appropriations Committee will result in cuts for programs that support families of adults and children with the most severe disabilities, adults with disabilities who have successfully moved out of nursing homes, individuals with severe mental illness who have moved out of psychiatric hospitals into their own apartments, and specialized health care and support to nearly 5,000 children with special health care needs. The support these individuals and families receive is their lifeline to maintain their independence in the community - at less cost to the state. Please protect Louisiana's most vulnerable citizens and restore ALL of the cuts to DHH's budget.

Sincerely,

Confirm your Action

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

Background Information

The House Appropriations Committee on Tuesday, May 17th passed House Bill 1, cutting nearly \$30 Million from the Dept. of Health and Hospitals' (DHH) budget. HB1 now heads to the full House of Representatives for debate and vote. **Members of the House have the ability to restore this funding.**

Read about the cuts in a DHH press release:

<http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/newsroom/detail/1748>.

Any Questions?

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

Contact Information

Email: lacanadvocates44@yahoo.com

Phone: 1-800-450-8108

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