

# LOUISIANA CITIZENS FOR ACTION NOW

*Advocating for Louisiana Citizens with Developmental Disabilities*

## **ACTION ALERT - Changes to Flexible Family Fund (formerly the Cash Subsidy Program)**

1. The Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) is proposing the following changes to the Flexible Family Fund (formerly called the Cash Subsidy Program):
  - o Only families with an annual net income of \$67,050 will be eligible for the Flexible Family Fund. (Families with a household larger than four must have an annual net income of 300% of the federal poverty level or less.)
  - o An individual will not be able to receive any DD waiver services and the Flexible Family Fund.
2. The proposed changes would go into effect on July 1, 2012 and apply to families currently receiving the funds and to new families applying.
3. LaCAN is opposed to these changes. **See reasons under Background Information.**
4. To express your opinion about these proposed changes, contact (DHH) Secretary Bruce Greenstein. Please share personal stories as well as your opposition.
5. Please contact your [LaCAN leader](#) if you would like to visit or call your legislator to let them know how these changes will impact you and your family.

### **Contact DHH Secretary Bruce Greenstein**

Bruce Greenstein  
P.O. Box 629  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821  
Email: [Bruce.greenstein@la.gov](mailto:Bruce.greenstein@la.gov)  
Fax: (225) 342-5568

**Express your opposition to the proposed changes to the Flexible Family Fund Program.**

### **Confirm Your Action**

Please reply to this email to let us know you took action.

### **Background Information**

The Flexible Family Fund Program (formerly Cash Subsidy) assists families with children with severe or profound developmental disabilities by offsetting the extraordinary costs of maintaining their child in their own home. The Flexible Family Fund Program provides a small monthly stipend (\$258) to these families based solely on their child's severe disability.

If the proposed changes go into effect, any family with a net income higher than \$67,050 or whose child receives waiver services will no longer be eligible for Flexible Family Funds. (Families with a household larger than four must have an annual net income of 300% of the federal poverty level or less.)

*Net income is defined as follows:*

*An individual's income after deductions, credits, and taxes are factored into gross income. Deductions and credits are subtracted from gross income to arrive at taxable income, which is used to calculate income tax. Net income is income tax subtracted from taxable income.*

LaCAN members have expressed the following reasons to oppose these proposed changes:

- The original intent of the program was to help families who do not qualify for other programs due to income.
- It is not fair to place limits across the board without considering extenuating circumstances.
- There are already programs that exist (ex: Social Security Disability, Medicaid) aimed towards families with lower incomes
- The proposed changes do not take into consideration the widely varying circumstances (i.e., insurance/no insurance) or expenses of families with children with disabilities.
- The changes would place additional burdens on families to produce financial data and considerable additional administrative expense to verify that the data is accurate.
- The administrative cost for obtaining and verifying this information for all recipients/applicants would take valuable resources away from the program.
- Waiver services do not cover all expenses a child with severe disabilities needs.

**Consider using the reasons above that apply to you in expressing your opinion to DHH.**

### **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 LaCAN**

Email: [laCANadvocates44@yahoo.com](mailto:laCANadvocates44@yahoo.com)

Phone: 1-800-450-8108

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

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