



## Council's 2017 Legislative/Advocacy Agenda

January 10, 2017

The Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council has adopted its 2017 Legislative/Advocacy Agenda, with input from its grassroots advocacy network (LaCAN) and the Families Helping Families Centers. Fact sheets for each issue on the agenda have been developed and are linked below.

### Home and Community-Based Services

The Council will continue to advocate for the increased availability of and equal access to home and community-based supports and services including waiver services and state-funded programs through the human services districts and authorities.

- [Fill Vacant Slots to End the Wait](#)
- [Equitably Fund Districts/Authorities: Provide Equal Access to Services](#)

The Council also fully supports the Louisiana Department of Health's budget request for an enhanced waiver rate to support people with complex needs and other necessary waiver budget adjustments such as overtime pay for Direct Support Workers and the addition of Individual and Family Support hours to the Supports Waiver.

### Education

The Council will also continue to advocate for equitable funding across all school systems, based on the needs of the students they serve, by mandating the weighted formula be used on the local share of the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP).

- [Fund Schools Equitably](#)

### Employment

Finally, the Council will educate legislators and other stakeholders on the need for additional state match to draw down 100% of the state's federal Vocational Rehabilitation allotment.

- [Put Louisianans with Disabilities to Work](#)

### Get Involved

Individuals with disabilities, family members, and advocates are encouraged to participate in the Council's advocacy efforts, including legislative visits, legislative roundtables, and Disability Rights Day. Roundtables have been scheduled in January and February throughout the state and provide the opportunity for individuals to get more information about the issues on the legislative/advocacy agenda and connect with legislators. Disability Rights Day raises awareness among legislators of the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families through legislative visits and a rally on the Capitol steps.

- Click [here](#) for the 2017 Legislative Roundtable schedule.
- Mark your calendar and attend Disability Rights Day on Wednesday, April 26, 2017.

Those interested in visiting legislators, attending roundtables and Disability Rights Day, or participating in other advocacy events should contact their regional [LaCAN Leader](#).

### **On a Final Note**

The Council will also be educating Louisiana's Congressional delegation on the benefits of making home and community based waiver services available to all people with disabilities who are eligible. This would remove the institutional bias in Medicaid. The [Disability Integration Act of 2015](#) would achieve this.

### **Contact Us**

LaDDC News is the electronic newsletter for the LA Developmental Disabilities Council. If there are any questions about the information above, contact the Council by replying to this email, or calling the toll free number listed below:

phone: 1-800-450-8108

email: [info@laddc.org](mailto:info@laddc.org)

website: [www.laddc.org](http://www.laddc.org)

facebook: [www.facebook.com/LaDDCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/LaDDCouncil)

Click [HERE](#) to view all recent LaDDC News articles