

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### EARLYSTEPS

- **Who is responsible for the change in eligibility criteria for EarlySteps that led to 900 children no longer being eligible?** The EarlySteps budget was reduced in the Governor's budget proposal for 2012-13. This was approved by the legislature. Due to federal budgeting requirements, narrowing eligibility to reduce the number of children served was one of the few allowable options for lowering overall costs in the state budget. Family cost participation was also initiated in October 2013 in an effort to help sustain the program at its current level.
- **How much of the Early Steps money is federal and how much is state general funds?** There is no match funding for this program. Instead, the federal government has dedicated \$435 Million for Part C and uses a census formula to divide it among the states. Louisiana has received between \$6.2-6.5 Million for each of the last 5 or 6 years. The budget for this year is as follows:

Federal	\$6,538,122
SGF	\$8,700,000
Family Fees	\$ 350,000 Estimated*

\*The budget line item allows for collection of fees up to \$1.2 Million, but this amount is expected to be much lower
- **How many children are served in EarlySteps?** The program serves approximately 4,000 children at any point in time and serves approximately 9,000 children each year.
- If legislators have **additional questions regarding EarlySteps**, they are welcome to contact the EarlySteps Program Manager, Brenda Sharp, at 225.342.0095 or [brenda.sharp@la.gov](mailto:brenda.sharp@la.gov)

### WAIVERS

- **How many waiver slots are currently filled?** Over 12,500 waiver slots are funded and 11,200 are currently filled. OCDD is making offers to fill the remaining slots.
- **How many waiver slots have been offered, linked, and certified since July 1, 2014?**

Waiver Type	Offered	Linked	Certified	
New Opportunities Waiver (NOW)	738	371	204	
Children's Choice Waiver (CC)	588	282	159	
Supports Waiver	885	171	49	
Totals*	2211	824	412	* As reported to the DD Council on 1/22/2015

*(Linked refers to the point a waiver offer is accepted and the individual is linked with a support coordination agency. Certified refers to the point the individual begins receiving services.)*

- **Are people on the waiting list receiving other services to meet their current needs while they wait?** Of the 13,000 individuals on the waiting list, approximately 8,000 are receiving no other developmental disability services. The 5,000 who do receive services are getting one or more of the following: limited supports through the state-funded individual and family support program, the flexible family fund, personal care services through Medicaid, or services in an institutional setting, but want to move out into their own home.
- **How does the average cost of waiver services compare to that of out-of-home placements?**

New NOW Waiver slots	\$45,000 (does not include acute care costs)
Existing NOW Waiver slots	\$57,000 (does not include acute care costs)

ICFs/DD \$47,000 - 72,000 (depending on the size of facility and level of need)  
 Pinecrest \$200,000

**WAIVER PROVIDER RATES**

- **What were the amounts of the four cuts to waiver provider rates since 2009?** Various waiver service rates have been cut. In the NOW, the greatest decrease has been in direct support provided during waking hours (IFS-Day) which has been reduced a total of \$1.56 (9.75%).

Date of Rate Cut	Hourly Rate of IFS-Day Prior to Cut	Hourly Rate After Cut	Difference in Dollars	Difference in Percentage
02/01/09	\$ 16.00	\$ 15.44	\$ 0.56	3.50%
08/04/09	\$ 15.44	\$ 14.96	\$ 0.48	3.11%
08/01/10	\$ 14.96	\$ 14.68	\$ 0.28	1.87%
07/01/12	\$ 14.68	\$ 14.44	\$ 0.24	1.63%

