



Louisiana Citizens for Action Now

Stop the Freeze Fund New Slots End the Wait!

KNOW THE FACTS

- **Almost 13,000 people with developmental disabilities are on the waiver waiting list.**
- **Over 8,000 of those waiting receive NO other service from the state.**
- **There was a net increase of 2,000 people on the waiting list during the last year.**
- **The next person in line to receive a waiver has been waiting 10 years!**
- **Frozen waiver slots prevent people from receiving the services they desperately need now.**

What Can Legislators Do?

Appropriate funds to fill all vacant home and community-based waiver slots for people with developmental disabilities frozen in the FY16 Executive Budget and to add 500 new waiver slots.

\$7.7 Million* in State General Fund is needed to fund 500 new slots for FY16. An additional \$3.38 Million* is needed to fill the frozen slots.

Why Do This?

Without the availability of waiver services, families reaching the end of their rope emotionally, financially and/or physically have no choice but to seek out-of-home placement.

Waiver services are **more cost effective** than institutional settings and afford individuals with developmental disabilities a **better quality of life** in their own homes or with their families.

Without funding for additional waiver slots, the waiting list will continue to grow, forcing Louisiana to continue over-utilizing more costly 24-hour services in residential settings for people not needing that level of support!

The Legislature appropriated funding to fill 1,000 vacant waiver slots and create 200 additional New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) slots during the 2014 Legislative Session. However, 772 of the slots were not yet filled when the latest order to freeze was issued by the administration.

*Figures provided by the Department of Health and Hospitals