



Action Alert #4

Contact LDOE and BESE to Support Funding for Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers

May 3, 2020

Do you think the Louisiana Department of Education's (LDOE) should make drastic changes to how parents of children with significant disabilities get information and support from Families Helping Families Centers?

Do you think it is in the best interest of the state and students with disabilities and their families for LDOE to **stop funding** Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers (FHF)?

Do you think LDOE asking FHF Centers to write a Request for Proposals to try and keep their funding while still trying to help people with disabilities cope with an international pandemic is in the best interest of the state?

Let LDOE and BESE know how you feel about their plan to stop funding FHF Centers.

TAKE ACTION!

Email or call Beth Scioneaux and your BESE Members by **May 29th**!

See contact information below.

Let them know why funding Families Helping Families Centers is important to you!

Share your personal story of your interactions with your Families Helping Family Center.

Explain how the loss of funding to the FHF Center will impact you, your family or someone you know.

As acting Superintendent of Education Ms. Scioneaux can authorize LDOE to fund FHF Centers without issuing a Request for Proposals.

Ms. Scioneaux can also cancel the Request for Proposals issued last week which will disrupt the funding to FHF Centers across the state.

EMAIL: Beth Scioneaux, Acting Louisiana State Superintendent of Education at:

Beth.Scioneaux@la.gov

BESE MEMBERS

BESE Member Listing by District

1st BESE District	Mr. James D. Garvey, Jr.	James.Garvey@la.gov
2nd BESE District	Ms. Kira Orange Jones	Kira.OrangeJones@la.gov
3rd BESE District	Ms. Sandy Holloway	Sandy.Holloway@la.gov
4th BESE District	Mr. Tony Davis	Tony.Davis@la.gov
5th BESE District	Ms. Ashley Ellis	Ashley.Ellis@la.gov
6th BESE District	Mr. Ronnie Morris	Ronnie.Morris@la.gov
7th BESE District	Dr. Holly Boffy	Holly.Boffy@la.gov
8th BESE District	Mr. Preston Castille	Preston.Castille@la.gov
Members At-Large	Dr. Belinda Davis	Belinda.Davis@la.gov
	Mr. Thomas Roque	Thomas.Roque@la.gov
	Ms. Doris Voitier	Doris.Voitier@la.gov



More Information

On Wednesday, April 22nd [LDOE issued a Request for Proposals \(RFP\) for Educational Training and Direct Support to Families of Children and Youth with Disabilities](#). Organizations have until June 8th to respond with a proposal to be considered for funding. The selected organization will be awarded \$1.5 million over three years (\$510,000 a year) to do what FHF Centers have been doing for decades. All the individual contracts LDOE currently has with FHF Centers total \$510,000 a year.

Unfortunately, a few conditions in the RFP make it impossible for FHF Centers to collaborate and have a chance at maintaining the funding levels to provide educational training and supports at the same level currently provided.

While details of the RFP may seem relevant, the truth of the matter is the entire RFP is not necessary. State agencies, like LDOE, do not have to make FHF Centers respond to an RFP to provide services to people with disabilities at such low contract levels. LDOE funded FHF Centers for almost twenty years without issuing annual RFPs. It is not clear what changed three years ago when [LDOE issued an RFP for Regional Support for Families of Students Disabilities](#). And, it is not clear what happened this year for LDOE to issue an RFP changing the support structure of FHF Regional Resource Centers parents of children with disabilities have relied on for decades. An RFP is not necessary and the change will reduce support to

FHF Centers at a time when COVID-19 has created significant obstacles in educating students, particularly students with disabilities.

Pre-Proposal Conference:

If you are interested in learning more about the RFP, the Louisiana Department of Education is holding a Pre-Proposal conference over Zoom on:

May 4, 2020 11:00am - 12:00pm CDT

Join Zoom

Meeting: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/404799004?pwd=WGI1T09yVndYOEI4TDJaQmN5MThvUT09>

Meeting ID: 404 799 004

Password: 043282

One tap mobile: +13126266799,,404799004# US (Chicago),
+16468769923,,404799004# US (New York)

Confirm Your Action

Don't forget to let us know you took action! Reply to this email or notify your [LaCAN Leader](#) to confirm your action.

Why confirm your action? This helps the Council know how effective we are in reaching you with this important information and engaging members across our state in advocacy for systems change.

Contact Us

LaCAN is an initiative of the LA Developmental Disabilities Council. If there are any questions about the information in this email, 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

website: www.lacanadvocates.org

facebook: www.facebook.com/LaDDCouncil

twitter: www.twitter.com/LaDDCouncil

Sign up to receive LaCAN Alerts [HERE](#).
View all recent LaCAN Alerts [HERE](#).



Louisiana Developmental
Disabilities Council