

## Disability Service System Fund

The Community and Family Support System Fund is a fund that was created to improve the capacity of the state to meet the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities, but also with a focus on increasing the number of people receiving waiver services. Before we ended the waiting list, this was a great way to fund additional waivers. Now that we do not have people waiting for waivers, this fund could be useful to individuals and families who do not meet the waiver criteria or receive other services other than waiver services, i.e. early steps or ICF services.

### What is needed?

There needs to be a fund that supports individuals who have disabilities, not just those who are lucky enough to have a waiver. Changing a couple of words in the current law to the Community Supports Waiver Service System Fund: LA Rev Stat 28:826 <http://legis.la.gov/Legis/law.aspx?d=85302> would provide the Louisiana Department of Health the ability to use those funds to serve a broader population and add services that will impact the entire community.

### What is the proposed language change?

#### Current language:

C.(1) Subject to annual appropriation by the legislature, the monies in the Community and Family Support System Fund shall be used solely to improve the capacity of the state to meet the varying and complex needs of individuals with developmental disabilities, **with emphasis on increasing the number of recipients of waiver services** and no less than fifty percent of the proceeds of the fee assessed pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 40:1046(H)(8)(a) deposited into the fund shall be used to provide funding for the Early Steps intervention program for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families as established in R.S. 28:461 et seq.

#### Proposed change:

We are proposing to keep the language the same but remove “with emphasis on increasing the number of recipients of waiver services”. (See in Bold above)

### How will this help broaden the ability of the fund?

Making this simple change will not only continue to allow individuals with waivers to utilize the fund, but it would expand that usage for those funds to other disability programs such as early steps, and the ICF's.

**Supporting this change means supporting ALL people with disabilities!**