

**LET'S STAY STOKED**  
**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR MARCH 27**  
**MY PROVIDER IS MY LIFELINE RALLY AT THE CAPITOL**

**Keep up with the latest and find fact sheets at: [communityprovider.org](http://communityprovider.org)**

On Monday, February 19, 2018 the Governor met with representatives of groups that will be affected by the cuts in his proposed budget. The Executive Director of The Arc of Louisiana was present and able to clearly describe the deleterious effect the cuts will have on services and employment should the revenues not be raised to cover these programs. These awareness building meetings are part of the Governor's efforts to get us to a penny, clean penny, or a method that will cover the current gap. We must not forget nor allow our legislators to think that these methods will resolve our issues. The decade old gap is not fixed by these measures. **Our RATES MUST BE RESTORED TO AT LEAST THE 2008 LEVELS.**

This is a fight that we (supported individuals, families, friends, & providers) will have to fight to get results. While we may have several legislators sympathetic to our needs, we are not likely to have any that will take this on as their personal mission. Many will explore funding options that we bring to them, but it would be unreasonable to think that anyone is going to dig for an answer. There are just too many other needs that surface during the legislative sessions.

What we have been advised by many legislators is that we must get **AGGRESSIVE!**

By aggressive it is meant that we must be:

- **Visible** – Meet with legislators individually and as a group. Show up where you know legislators are going to be. **Attend the CPA DAY AT THE CAPITOL.**
- **Articulate** – “Just the facts, Ma’am, just the facts.”
  - What the personal story is,
  - how many stories there are,
  - and what the cost of fixing this is.
- **Persistent** – **Every day, these legislators should hear from one or some of us.**

To this end, let's remember the presentation of Representative Cameron Henry:

- Local Politics – legislators are concerned about the folks in his or her district.
- Phone calls or personal visits are more effective than emails. Throw in an old-fashioned USPO letter. However, if email is the only way a person can communicate, an email should be sent.

Start today informing your families and friends of this **Rally at the Capitol**. We are calling for individuals receiving support through ICF/DDs and Waiver services, their family members, friends, and provider staff to assemble at the Capitol on **March 27** (time to be announced) to clearly demonstrate the message that **MY PROVIDER IS MY LIFELINE *and must be funded for survival.***

P.S. Get ready to tell the important stories as to why this is imperative! And stay in touch through the website [communityprovider.org](http://communityprovider.org) to find the data and information you may need.