



December 3, 2024

Secretary Michael Harrington  
Louisiana Department of Health

Surgeon General Ralph Abraham, MD  
Louisiana Department of Health

Re: Protect and Support Addiction Treatment Services in Fiscal Year 25-26 Budget

*Dear Secretary Harrington and General Abraham,*

On behalf of the Coalition of Louisiana Addiction Service & Prevention Providers (CLASPP), representing substance use disorder (SUD) treatment provider agencies across Louisiana and at-risk individuals served, we urgently request that the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH):

**1. Protect SUD treatment services against potential reductions in its FY 25/26 budget.**

In anticipation of a state budget shortfall, CLASPP is concerned that focus for reductions could fall heavily on behavioral health, including both mental health and SUD treatment services. As such, CLASPP requests that LDH protect SUD treatment in its FY 25/26 budget and not recommend action which could damage or disrupt Louisiana's addiction treatment service infrastructure.

**2. Prioritize inclusion of additional SGF dollars in its FY 25/26 budget to support extending the current Medicaid SUD rate enhancement, and that this funding be made recurring.**

In the 2024 Regular Session, the Legislature included an additional \$10 million in House Bill 1 to enhance Medicaid SUD rates. However, the additional funding that was included in HB 1 in 2024 is nonrecurring, which may put our state's SUD treatment providers and systems at unnecessary risk.

Sustainable funding would ensure that SUD treatment programs can:

- Expand access to services for individuals who are uninsured or underinsured.
- Implement evidence-based practices, including medication-assisted treatment (MAT) and peer recovery support.
- Address the growing mental health needs of individuals with co-occurring disorders.
- Build capacity in underserved areas, where treatment availability is often limited.



By providing individuals with the care they need, we help to reduce the burden on emergency services, the criminal justice system, and social support programs. Additionally, research has demonstrated that each dollar invested in SUD treatment yields significant returns in terms of reduced healthcare costs, lower crime rates, and increased productivity in the workforce. Adopting a sustainable funding model for SUD treatment services will enable providers to develop a more reliable workforce, offer quality care, and ultimately save more lives.

**We urge you to protect addiction treatment services from reductions and implement stable, recurring funding which supports the full spectrum of SUD treatment services, ensures equitable access, and improves outcomes for those affected by addiction.**

If CLASPP may ever be helpful or supportive to LDH, please let us know. Thank you very kindly.

Sincerely,

**William M. "Mike" Martyn — President**  
Executive Director, Responsibility House

**Emily Tilley — Vice President**  
Executive Director, O'Brien House

**Edward C. Carlson — Secretary/Treasurer**  
Chief Executive Officer, Odyssey House Louisiana

**Barry LaFleur — Member at Large**  
Clinical Director, AcadianaCares

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