

Bobby Jindal  
GOVERNOR



Alan Levine  
SECRETARY

**State of Louisiana**  
Department of Health and Hospitals  
Office of Management and Finance

October 29, 2009

The Honorable Michael J. "Mike" Michot, Chair  
Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget  
State Capital  
P.O. Box 44294  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Senator Michot:

In response to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 116 (SCR 116) of the 2009 Regular Session, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) submits the enclosed report. The resolution directs DHH to report to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget the savings achieved and the number of waiver slots for people with developmental disabilities offered, filled, and served on a quarterly basis.

The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities within DHH is available to discuss the enclosed report and recommendations with you and the members of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget. Please contact Kathy Kliebert, assistant secretary with the office for citizens with developmental disabilities, at (225) 342-0095 with any questions or comments you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles Castille".

Charles Castille  
Undersecretary

Enclosures

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 116**

**2009 REGULAR SESSION**

**QUARTERLY REPORT ON THE NEW OPPORTUNITIES WAIVER  
STATUS OF SAVINGS AND SLOTS: July - September 2009**

Report to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget:

In accordance with Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 116 adopted during the 2009 Regular Session, the Department of Health and Hospitals has prepared this quarterly report for the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.

**CHARGE OF THE RESOLUTION:**

- Savings generated from cost effective practices in the New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) program will be maintained in the NOW program to sustain current waiver slots or apply to new slots for those on the waiting list.
- The Department of Health and Hospitals will report to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget regarding the savings achieved and the number of waiver slots for people with developmental disabilities offered, filled, and served on a quarterly basis, beginning July 1, 2009.

**FIRST QUARTER STATUS:**

As of September 30, 2009, there is insufficient data available to determine the savings generated by the Resource Allocation Model. Savings data will be provided on the next scheduled report for the reporting period (2<sup>nd</sup> quarter) ending December 31, 2009.

The following table illustrates status of New Opportunities Waiver slots and recipient served during the quarter:

NOW Slots Offered	600
NOW Slots Filled*	188
Unduplicated Recipients Served**	6,302

\*The number of *NOW Slots Filled* means the number of individuals who were certified and for which services were initiated during the quarter.

\*\**Unduplicated Recipients Served* means the total number of certified individuals who received NOW services during the quarter.

The Department of Health and Hospitals plans to continue to work on implementation of cost control mechanisms for the New Opportunities Waiver and anticipates that savings will be generated from use of the Resource Allocation Model.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 116

BY SENATORS DONAHUE, ADLEY, ALARIO, AMEDEE, APPEL, CHAISSON, CLAITOR, CROWE, DORSEY, DUPRE, ERDEY, B. GAUTREAUX, N. GAUTREAUX, GRAY EVANS, HEBERT, HEITMEIER, KOSTELKA, LONG, MARIONNEAUX, MARTINY, MORRELL, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, QUINN, SHAW AND SMITH AND REPRESENTATIVES BALDONE, TIM BURNS, CORTEZ, CROMER, HARRISON, HINES, HOFFMANN, HOWARD, KATZ, LABRUZZO, LIGI, NOWLIN, PEARSON, POPE, RICHARD, RICHMOND, SCHRODER, SIMON, TALBOT, TUCKER, WILLIAMS AND WOOTON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To authorize and direct that savings generated from cost effective practices in the NOW program be maintained in the NOW program to sustain current waiver slots or apply to new slots for those on the waiting list and to provide that the Department of Health and Hospitals report to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget the savings achieved and the number of waiver slots for people with developmental disabilities offered, filled, and served on a quarterly basis, beginning July 1, 2009.

WHEREAS, approximately 9,200 individuals with developmental disabilities are on a waiting list for home and community based waiver services; and

WHEREAS, the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS)/La. Plus assessment process and Resource Allocation Model was approved by the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and will be implemented by the Department of Health and Hospitals to reduce the per person cost of the New Opportunities Waiver (NOW); and

WHEREAS, implementation of the Resource Allocation Model will result in savings estimated to be at least \$16 million in the NOW program; and

WHEREAS, implementation of the assessment process and a new individual planning process have already achieved savings in the NOW program.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby authorizes and directs that savings generated from cost effective practices in the NOW program be maintained in the NOW program to sustain current waiver slots or apply to new

**SCR NO. 116**

**ENROLLED**

slots for those on the waiting list.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health and Hospitals report to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget the savings achieved and the number of waiver slots for people with developmental disabilities offered, filled, and served on a quarterly basis, beginning July 1, 2009.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Department of Health and Hospitals and the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES