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Louisiana's projected budget shortfall for the 2012-13 fiscal year, which starts July 1, is projected to be \$895 million, according to the director of the Louisiana Budget Project.

"This is the fourth consecutive year Louisiana has faced a massive budget shortfall, and the red ink is projected to continue as far as the eye can see," Director Jan Moller said Friday in a news release. "

Until we get a tax base that is broad-based, equitable and sustainable, Louisiana will continue to face these harmful deficits that have resulted in cuts to critical health-care and education programs that our citizens depend on." she said.

--Online: www.labudget.org.

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