



Statewide Overview and Taxes

While our state's fiscal landscape has changed since the COVID-19 pandemic hit the United States earlier this year, Florida's future remains bright. This fiscally responsible budget safeguards taxpayer dollars while being mindful that we are still realizing the impacts of COVID-19. This budget ensures we maintain significant funding in reserves, including General Revenue, while making historic investments in our K-12 education system and teachers, and continuing our commitment to preserving and protecting Florida's environmental resources.

The total for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget is \$92.2 billion. The General Revenue portion is \$34.7 billion. Florida's total reserves are \$6.3 billion, more than 6 percent of the total budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Budget Savings

The budget includes \$218.8 million in savings and a reduction of 203 positions. Notable savings contained in the budget include:

- Administrative and operational efficiencies of \$62.7 million;
- Debt service savings of \$60.6 million;
- Contract and lease savings are \$26.2 million;
- Budget reductions based on carry forward balances for state colleges and universities are \$11.9 million; and
- Reduced excess budget authority of \$57.4 million.

Taxpayer Savings

Governor DeSantis is committed to continuing to reduce Floridians' tax burden. The budget includes tax relief of \$352.2 million. Florida's per capita state tax burden of \$2,158 is currently the fifth lowest among all states.

The \$352.2 million tax cut package includes funding for:

- A 3-day Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday to save families \$41.8 million – The holiday covers clothing up to \$60, school supplies up to \$15, and first the \$1,000 of the sales price of personal computers.
- A 7-day Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday to save families \$5.6 million – The holiday covers items needed during disasters including generators priced at \$750 or less.
- Property tax relief of \$304.8 million – The budget reduces the property tax rate by 0.155 mills in the required local effort of the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP).



Florida Reserves

- \$2.3 billion in unallocated General Revenue
 - Includes projected reversions of \$781.6 million. This does not include adjustments for COVID-19 revenue losses.
- \$1.7 billion in the Budget Stabilization Fund
- \$1.5 billion in unallocated Trust Funds
- \$0.8 billion in Tobacco reserves
- \$6.3 billion in Total Reserves

Florida Retirement System

The unfunded actuarial pension liability of the Florida Retirement System (FRS) Defined Benefit Program amounted to \$30.3 billion on June 30, 2019. Based on an actuarial liability of \$191.3 billion and an actuarial value of assets of \$161.0 billion, the program is 84.2 percent funded as of June 30, 2019.

The budget implements several key recommendations of the independent actuary and proposes to fully fund the resulting recommended contributions to both the normal cost and the unfunded actuarial liability. These provisions ensure that Florida will continue to have one of the best funded pension plans of the largest states in the nation.

State Employee Pay Raise

The budget includes funding to provide an across-the-board competitive pay adjustment of 3.0 percent to all eligible state employees effective October 1, 2020. Also included are salary increases to address areas of critical concern, including:

- Security Service Employees in the Department of Corrections, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities and the Department of Children and Families.
- Child Protective Investigators in the Department of Children and Families
- Department of Corrections Teachers
- Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel
- Guardian Ad Litem Attorneys



Education

Elevating our state's education system is critical to building a bolder, brighter future for Florida. Governor DeSantis vowed to make 2020 the "Year of the Teacher" by making historic investments in our K-12 education system. Despite the unprecedented circumstances our state has faced due to COVID-19, this budget makes major investments in our schools, teachers, and students.

Several key investments include:

- \$500 million in funding to raise the minimum K-12 teacher salary into the Top 5 nationwide and increase salaries for veteran teachers and other eligible instructional personnel.
- \$1.3 billion in funding for early child education, including more than \$412 million for Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK).
- K-12 public schools have the highest total and state funding of all time with \$22.5 billion in total funding and \$12.9 billion in state funding.
 - This brings K-12 per student funding to \$7,793, which exceeds the current year's record funding by \$137 per student.
- The Florida College System is funded at a historic \$1.3 billion in state operating funding.
- The State University System is funded at a historic \$2.7 billion in state operating funding.

Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK)

The budget provides an additional \$9.9 million for a total of more than \$412 million for Florida's VPK program, a quality, free education initiative, which serves almost 160,000 four and five-year olds. VPK prepares each child for kindergarten by building a strong foundation for school and focusing on early literacy skills.

School Readiness

The budget provides increased funding to serve additional children in the School Readiness program, and reward School Readiness providers who participate in program assessment and implement quality improvement strategies.

- \$60 million in federal funding to expand services and serve approximately 10,000 additional students currently on the waitlist; and
- \$50 million in federal funds to increase eligible early learning coalitions' provider rates.

In addition, the following initiatives that support early learning are included:

- T.E.A.C.H. – \$10 million for early childhood teacher scholarships.
- Help Me Grow – \$1.8 million to connect children and families with information, resources and developmental services to enhance health, behavior and learning in the development of young children.



- Teacher Training – \$3 million for statewide professional development to improve childcare instructor quality.
- Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters – \$3.9 million to deliver high-quality School Readiness curriculum directly to parents so they may strengthen the cognitive and early literacy skills of at-risk children.

K-12 Public Education

To combat the shortage of teachers entering the career field and elevate the profession to the level it deserves, Governor DeSantis championed and secured \$500 million to raise the minimum teacher salary, as well as provide raises for veteran teachers and other instructional personnel. This funding puts Florida in the Top 5 nationwide of average starting teacher salaries. This is a 20-spot jump in one year for the state, which was previously ranked 26th. Florida has the best teachers in the nation, and this was proven again this year when our teachers stepped up and found ways to keep our students learning and engaged when COVID-19 forced school campuses to close.

The budget invests a record \$22.5 billion in total funding for the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP). This is a per student funding amount of \$7,793, an increase of \$137 per student. The Base Student Allocation grows by \$40 per student.

To achieve the \$22.5 billion in total funding, the budget includes an additional \$392.7 million in state funding and an additional \$248.6 million in local funding, of which \$158.8 million is generated by new construction only through the required local effort (RLE). In total, the budget includes an increase of \$641.4 million in the FEFP.

Highlights of the FEFP increases include:

- \$40 increase in the Base Student Allocation.
- \$25 million, for a total of \$100 million for mental health initiatives.
- \$400 million to increase the minimum teacher salary for full-time public classroom teachers and \$100 million to raise the salaries of Florida's veteran teachers and other instructional personnel.

School Safety

The Governor is committed to ensuring Florida's students and teachers are in a safe and secure learning environment. The budget includes the following school safety initiatives:

- \$180 million for the safe schools component of the FEFP.
- \$500,000 in recurring funding to provide stipends of \$500 to school guardians who participate in the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program.
- \$5.5 million in recurring funding to continue the Youth Mental Health Awareness and Assistance Training.



- \$640,000 in recurring funding for the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool. The tool is used to assist school officials with identifying threats, vulnerabilities and appropriate safety controls.
- \$3 million in recurring funding to continue providing a centralized integrated data repository and data analytics resources to improve access to timely, complete and accurate information integrating data from: social media; the Department of Children and Families; the Department of Law Enforcement; the Department of Juvenile Justice; and local law enforcement.
- \$8 million in new funding for school districts to implement a mobile panic alert system that is capable of connecting multiple first responder agencies.
- \$42 million in school hardening grants.

Protecting Florida's Jewish Day Schools

To continue to address safety concerns for Florida's Jewish communities, Governor DeSantis secured \$2.5 million in funding for additional security to ensure children at Florida's Jewish Day Schools can learn in a safe environment. This funding will help provide security and counter-terrorism upgrades such as video cameras, fences, bullet-proof glass, alarm systems and other safety equipment.

Promoting Computer Science

The budget maintains \$10 million to certify teachers to teach computer science courses, and to provide bonuses to teachers who hold educator certificates or industry certifications in computer science.

Higher Education

Florida boasts four of the Top 100 public universities in the country, including one in the Top 10, and another in the Top 20, while maintaining the second lowest tuition in the country for public four-year institutions. Additionally, *U.S. News and World Report* has ranked Florida's higher education system the best in the nation for three consecutive years.

To continue building on this success, the budget invests an additional \$22.8 million, for a total of \$1.3 billion in state operating funding for Florida's colleges and an additional \$44.4 million, for a total of \$2.7 billion for Florida's universities.

- This includes a \$30 million investment for the University of Florida and Florida State University to continue their rise in the national rankings.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities

The budget provides \$123.2 million for Florida's Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

- Bethune-Cookman University received an increase of \$13 million, for a total of \$16.96 million in operating funds.



- Florida Memorial University received an increase of \$3.5 million, for a total of \$7 million in operating funds.
- Edward Waters College received an increase of \$3.5 million, for a total of \$6.4 million in operating funds.
- Florida A&M University received an increase of \$1.3 million, for a total of \$92.8 million.

Holding the Line on Tuition

The budget does not include any tuition increases for Florida's colleges and universities.

Performance Funding

The budget includes the following performance funding at career technical centers, state colleges, and state universities:

- \$6.5 million for students earning industry certifications in high-skill, high-demand areas at career technical centers;
- \$14 million for students earning industry certifications in high-skill, high-demand areas at Florida colleges;
- \$30 million in performance funding for state colleges through the 2+2 Student Success Incentive Fund and the Work Florida Student Success Incentive Fund; and
- \$560 million in performance funding for state universities.

Workforce Initiatives

The budget maintains \$10 million for the Governor's Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program to establish or expand pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs for high school and college students.

Education Infrastructure

The budget provides more than \$421.5 million in education capital outlay funding:

- **School Safety Grants**
 - \$42 million for school safety grants is provided to school districts to assist with costs associated with improving the physical security of K-12 school buildings.
- **Maintenance**
 - \$169.6 million for public charter school maintenance to fund the necessary infrastructure for public charter schools without utilizing any local funds from school districts.
 - \$7 million for lab schools.
 - \$5.3 million for the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.
 - \$4.9 million for public broadcasting stations to correct health and safety issues, correct building deficiencies, and complete renovations.



- **Construction**
 - \$41.3 million for four Special Facility Construction projects, funding critical infrastructure needs in Baker, Bradford, Gilchrist and Levy counties.
 - \$92.7 million for construction projects at state universities.
 - \$10.7 million for construction projects at state colleges.
 - \$48 million in budget authority to the State University System to spend collected student fees on a list of student-approved facility projects.



Environment

Governor DeSantis has implemented major reforms to achieve more now for Florida's environment. Under the Governor's leadership, record funding for Everglades restoration and the protection of water resources was appropriated for the current year, and the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget builds upon these significant investments.

Even in the midst of the COVID-19 global pandemic, the environment remains a key focus of the budget, with significant investments made for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. As part of more than \$4.4 billion in funding to protect our environment, agriculture and natural resources, the budget includes over \$2.2 billion specifically for the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Continued Improvements for Water Quality, Quantity and Supply

Upon taking office, Governor DeSantis called for a \$2.5 billion investment over four years for the protection of water resources, an increase of \$1 billion over the previous four years. The Fiscal Year 2019-2020 budget was the first step towards reaching that goal, appropriating more than \$625 million for this purpose. The Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget continues this investment, dedicating more than \$625 million for Everglades restoration and the protection of water resources.

The budget includes more than \$322 million for Everglades restoration projects, including \$32 million for Restoration Strategies, \$170 million for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and \$47 million for the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program. This level of funding will put Florida on track to complete the C-44 Reservoir and stormwater treatment area, the C-43 Reservoir, and additional projects over the next four years. These projects will provide 672,000 acre-feet of storage and remove more than 200,000 pounds of total phosphorus annually, a major source of nutrient pollution. The budget includes \$64 million for the EAA Reservoir to continue this critical project to reduce harmful discharges and help send more clean water south of the Everglades.

The budget also includes \$160 million for targeted water quality improvements to achieve significant, meaningful and measurable nutrient reductions in key waterbodies across the state and to implement the initial recommendations of the Blue-Green Algae Task Force. This includes:

- \$25 million for cost-share grant funds for water quality improvements, including septic conversions and upgrades, other wastewater improvements, and rural and urban stormwater system upgrades.
- \$25 million for Indian River Lagoon water quality improvement projects.
- \$25 million for St. Johns, Suwannee and Apalachicola Rivers watershed and Springs Coast watershed water quality improvements.
- \$50 million for Everglades Restoration water quality improvements.



- \$25 million to accelerate projects to meet scientific nutrient reduction goals (called Total Maximum Daily Loads), which may include green infrastructure investments or land conservation to protect our water resources.
- \$10 million for Coral Reef Protection.

On top of the investment in targeted water quality improvements, the budget includes \$50 million to restore Florida's world-renowned springs. This funding may also be used for land acquisition to protect springsheds and is crucial to supporting homeowners and local communities as they work with the state to achieve the septic and nutrient reduction requirements of Senate Bill 552 (2016), also known as the Water Bill.

The budget supports a more than \$25 million investment to improve water quality and combat the effects and impacts of harmful algal blooms, including blue-green algae and red tide. The budget includes the following:

- \$10 million for innovative technologies and short-term solutions to aid in the prevention, cleanup and mitigation of harmful algal blooms.
- \$10.8 million to increase water quality monitoring, support the Blue-Green Algae Task Force, and to improve and maintain the water quality public information portal. This portal is focused on accountability and transparency, providing monitoring data for all of Florida's outstanding springs and key waterbodies, as well as allowing the public to track the investment in projects and progress in attaining water quality goals.
- \$4.2 million and two dedicated positions to continue supporting the Center for Red Tide Research within the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), and to support the Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force and partnerships for mitigation and technology development with a renewed focus on red tide.

The budget includes \$40 million for the alternative water supply grant program to help communities plan for and implement vital conservation, reuse and other alternative water supply projects. DEP will continue to engage local governments, industry leaders, universities and water management districts to identify and research all viable alternative water supply sources and is working to provide an assessment of funding needs critical to supporting Florida's growing economy.

Further Protection of our Valuable and Vulnerable Coastlines

Protecting Florida's 1,300 miles of coastline is critical to our growing economy and quality of life, as millions travel from around the world to visit our world-renowned beaches. The budget includes \$50 million in beach nourishment funding to continue addressing Florida's critically eroded shorelines.

The budget includes \$10 million for the Resilient Coastlines Program within the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection within DEP. This program helps prepare Florida's communities and habitats for changes resulting from sea level rise by providing funding



and technical assistance and continuing to promote and ensure a coordinated approach to planning among state, regional and local agencies. The funding for coastal resiliency grants will also help protect Florida's coral reefs and support emergency sand placement to help fortify coastal areas ahead of storms.

Investing in Clean Lands and Air

The budget includes \$150 million for the cleanup of contaminated sites with a focus on promoting redevelopment of these areas once cleanup has been completed. Specific investments include:

- \$125 million for Petroleum Tanks Cleanup.
- \$8.5 million for Dry Cleaning Solvent Contaminated Site Cleanup.
- \$6.5 million for Hazardous Waste Contaminated Site Cleanup.
- \$10 million for Cleanup of State-Owned contaminated sites.

The budget also includes \$67.5 million for the implementation of the State Mitigation Plan for the \$166 million Volkswagen Clean Air Act settlement. The plan addresses diesel emission reduction, including funds for electric vehicle infrastructure and electric buses.

A Commitment to Florida's Prized Properties and Waterbodies

The budget includes \$141 million to protect our prized properties and waterbodies in Florida. This funding will ensure all Floridians have access to our pristine natural environment, while protecting these unique natural resources and investing in the management of our state-owned lands.

As land acquisition is vital to both our economic growth and environmental protection, the budget includes \$100 million for the Florida Forever Program, the state's premier conservation and recreation land acquisition program. This includes:

- \$67 million for the Division of State Lands to acquire land with a focus on protecting our water resources for Floridians and visitors.
- \$10 million for the Florida Communities Trust.
- \$12.3 million for the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program.
- \$8.7 million for the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program.
- \$2 million for the Stan Mayfield Working Waterfronts Program.

Florida's State Parks won the National Gold Medal a record four times for having the best park system nationally. The budget dedicates \$41 million to infrastructure improvements and resource management with the goal of maintaining this high standard, and ensuring all visitors and residents alike have access to these prized properties for generations to come.



Defending Florida's Everglades from Invasive Species

Governor DeSantis has prioritized efforts to remove Burmese pythons from the Everglades. Pythons are an invasive species that disrupt the natural food chain balance and have no natural predators, causing them to multiply without impediment and further threaten endangered species. The budget includes \$1 million for FWC to remove pythons from the Everglades.

Investing in Florida's Agriculture

The budget includes more than \$1.7 billion for Florida's agricultural industry. In order to preserve Florida's iconic citrus industry, the budget invests \$24.8 million for citrus research, the Citrus Health Response Program and for consumer awareness marketing efforts. Also, recognizing how important it is to effectively combat wildfires, the budget includes \$7.6 million for wildfire suppression equipment and \$4.9 million for road and bridge maintenance to allow for better access for land management and wildfire suppression activities.



Transportation and Economic Development

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic, the state has not lost its focus on critical transportation infrastructure needs and continuing hurricane recovery efforts. Governor DeSantis is working to ensure that the strategy and mission behind these projects align, where possible, with the new challenges before our state.

Hurricane Recovery

Governor DeSantis has continued to make hurricane recovery a top priority of his administration. Florida has been hit hard by hurricanes in recent years, most notably Hurricanes Irma and Michael in 2017 and 2018, respectively. This budget provides significant funding for hurricane recovery efforts through multiple state agencies, including:

Division of Emergency Management

- **Open Federally Declared Disasters – Funding to Communities**
\$1.3 billion in federal and state funding is provided so that communities can respond to, recover from, and mitigate against major disasters or emergencies.
- **Open Federally Declared Disasters – State Operations**
\$116 million in federal and state assistance provides funds to leverage the work associated with the state operations relating to federally declared disasters for the Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation, and Disaster Activity programs.

Department of Economic Opportunity

- **Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)**
The budget includes \$737.4 million for federal Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds to be directed toward hurricane recovery efforts throughout the state. Any funds that remain unspent at the end of the current fiscal year are made available in the coming fiscal year for the same purpose.
- **Revolving Loan Fund Program**
The budget includes \$40 million in funding authority provided by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce to assist businesses with economic challenges faced as a result of Hurricane Michael. The Revolving Loan Fund Program can be used to address capital needs and help businesses implement plans for resiliency to protect against future storms.
- **Rural Infrastructure Fund**
The budget includes \$5 million for the Rural Infrastructure Fund provided to rural counties impacted by Hurricane Michael for infrastructure projects such as broadband, roads, storm and wastewater projects, and telecommunications facilities.



Fish and Wildlife Commission

- **Hurricane Irma Marine Debris Removal**
\$1 million of budget authority is included for federal grant funding awarded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA). The grant initiatives will provide FWC with the resources to remove trapped debris, displaced and derelict vessels, and other marine debris.
- **Hurricane Irma Marine Fisheries Disaster Recovery**
\$8.4 million in budget authority is included for FWC to draw from a \$44.4 million federal grant awarded by NOAA. Grant funds will provide direct relief to Florida fishing communities impacted by Hurricane Irma.

Infrastructure

The budget provides \$9.2 billion for the State Transportation Work Program. The Work Program is based on a five-year plan for the implementation and completion of transportation infrastructure projects throughout the state. The Fiscal Year 2020-21 Work Program includes:

- \$2.5 billion for highway construction to include 101 new lane miles.
- \$840.1 million in resurfacing to include 2,073 lane miles.
- \$124.9 million in seaport infrastructure improvements.
- \$400.5 million for aviation improvements of which \$85 million is for Spaceports.
- \$436.2 million in scheduled repairs for 90 bridges and replacement of 17 bridges.
- \$885.5 million investment in rail/transit projects.
- \$236.4 million for safety initiatives.

Investing in Florida Tourism

Last year, Florida welcomed over 131.4 million visitors to Florida, making tourism a key driver in Florida's economy. In support of Florida's tourism industry, the budget provides \$50 million for VISIT FLORIDA, the state's official tourism marketing corporation. Additionally, legislation was passed providing a 3-year reauthorization of VISIT FLORIDA.

Ensuring Housing Availability for Working Families

The budget provides \$145 million to fund Workforce and Affordable Housing Programs. This amount includes \$115 million for the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) Program, and \$30 million for the Hurricane Housing Recovery Program. These programs are administered by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) from a portion of the revenues received from documentary stamp taxes on real estate transfers.



The SAIL Program, funded by the State Housing Trust Fund, provides low-interest loans on a competitive basis to developers of affordable rental housing. SAIL funds serve to bridge the gap between development primary financing and the total cost of the development, which allows developers to obtain the full financing needed to construct or rehabilitate affordable multifamily units.

The Hurricane Housing Recovery Program provides funding for eligible Hurricane Michael impacted counties and municipalities to assist with the repair and replacement of housing, insurance deductibles, relocation assistance for manufactured homes, and acquisition of building materials for home repair and construction. It also provides housing re-entry assistance such as security deposits, utility deposits, and temporary storage of household furnishings. Additionally, funding is provided to FHFC for down payment and closing cost assistance in conjunction with its Homebuyer Loan Program for homebuyers purchasing a primary residence.

In addition to these programs, the budget provides \$1 million to Building Homes for Heroes, a nonprofit organization that builds and modifies homes for veterans who were seriously injured while serving in the line of duty. The homes are gifted mortgage-free to veterans and their families.

Ensuring Fair, Free, and Safe Elections

Although Florida elections are administered at the local level, the state plays an important role in ensuring elections are conducted fairly and accurately. The state also helps to ensure that Florida's voting and registration systems are safe from cybersecurity threats. With the 2020 elections approaching, it is imperative that investments are made to ensure our elections are fair, free, and safe.

The budget provides \$10 million for state-level election oversight activities, with a focus on cybersecurity enhancements to Florida's election system. This amount includes:

- \$1.3 million for ten positions dedicated to cyber security and support for local Supervisors of Elections.
- \$1 million for the Supervisors of Elections to continue cybersecurity initiatives and improvements to their systems.
- \$1.4 million for voter registration list maintenance services and voter outreach through the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC).
- \$1.5 million for reimbursements to counties for the cost of special elections, pursuant to Section 100.102, Florida Statutes.
- \$1.3 million for advertising constitutional amendments in each county.
- \$3.5 million to improve the administration of elections for federal office, including the enhancement of election technology and making election security improvements to the systems, equipment and processes used in federal elections.



Health and Human Services

The health and well-being of all Floridians is paramount. While our state has been fighting COVID-19, we must continue to support our vulnerable populations, including our children in the child welfare system, seniors, individuals with disabilities, veterans and those fighting the opioid epidemic.

Child Welfare

The budget invests \$117.6 million in funding for children and families who receive services through Florida's child welfare system. Included in this investment is \$53.3 million for major reforms to our child welfare system to enhance provider accountability and quality of care within the child welfare system. This funding will enhance collaboration between partners and community-based organizations. It will also support monitoring of internal programs as well as contracted vendors throughout the state to ensure Florida's children and families are safe and receiving high-quality care.

The budget also includes a funding model for the Community Based Care system of care; safety management services; support for foster care parents who serve as caregivers for children who have been removed from their home; and early intervention efforts for substance affected infants. Additionally, the budget invests \$24.3 million for maintenance adoption subsidies to support post-adoption services for children who are adopted from the child welfare system.

Opioid Epidemic

Governor DeSantis is committed to continuing to support the fight against the national opioid epidemic by working with local partners and families affected by this crisis. The budget includes \$138.1 million in total funding to fight the opioid epidemic in Florida, investing \$81.8 million from the State Opioid Response Grant to address the opioid crisis by providing evidence-based prevention, medication-assisted treatment and recovery.

Additionally, the budget provides \$21.8 million in funding to the Department of Health through the Overdose Data to Action grant to enhance drug overdose surveillance and to pilot prevention strategies to reduce overdoses.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse

The budget includes an additional \$8.3 million in funding to support individuals with behavioral health needs. This funding will expand the capacity of Community Action Teams (CAT) for children ages 11-21 with a mental health and/or substance abuse diagnosis and provide a family centered approach to allow individuals to be served in their community.



The budget includes new funding for 24 additional forensic community transition beds to increase the capacity to serve individuals in a community-based setting. The budget also includes funding to expand telehealth services to children in K-12 public schools in 27 additional counties.

Human Trafficking

The budget includes \$9.1 million in funding to provide services for individuals who are victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. This funding will assist these individuals through the provision of counseling, case management, and support services to allow them to secure stable housing and employment.

Employment Opportunities

The budget includes \$3 million to serve approximately 1,200 individuals with intellectual disabilities and behavioral health needs and assist approximately 500 veterans with mentoring, training, and networking throughout the state of Florida.

Seniors

The budget includes \$7.6 million in funding to enrich the needs of our seniors. This funding provides services for individuals and caregivers who have been impacted by Alzheimer's disease and will allow an additional 240 individuals and their families to receive respite services. This funding also allows an additional 500 individuals to receive adult day care and case management services through the Community Care for the Elderly Program and 145 individuals to receive support for medical services and supplies through the Home Care for the Elderly Program.

Public and Professional Guardianship

The budget provides \$8.7 million in new funding to support the Office of Public and Professional Guardianship. Individuals in need of guardianship services may have Alzheimer's disease or other related dementias, an intellectual disability, chronic mental illness or other conditions that limits their ability to make important personal and financial decisions. This funding supports professional guardianship investigative services and establishes a professional guardian monitoring tool to ensure compliance of private, professional guardians. Additionally, an increase in funding is included to serve individuals in the public guardianship program. This increase in funding will help ensure the legal rights of older Floridians are protected and will help eliminate abuse, neglect and exploitation of Florida's elderly population.



Veterans

As a veteran, Governor DeSantis is committed to honoring and caring for those who have served our country in the United States military. The budget includes funding for staff and start-up operations at two new state veteran nursing homes. The budget invests \$16.8 million for the completion of the Ardie R. Copas State Veterans' Nursing Home in St. Lucie County and the Lake Baldwin State Veterans' Nursing Home in Orange County.

The budget invests \$5.4 million for staffing for the Ardie R. Copas State Veterans' Nursing Home and \$11.3 million for additional positions to complete the required staffing and repairs necessary for the Lake Baldwin State Veterans' Nursing Home in Orange County. Additionally, the budget includes \$4.7 million for capital improvements, equipment updates and other necessary services for Florida's existing state veteran nursing homes.

Person with Disabilities

The budget invests \$30.2 million to allow approximately 640 individuals on the wait list to be served through the Agency for Persons with Disabilities waiver program. The budget also includes \$308 million for services provided by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities. By funding the Agency for Persons Disabilities waiver program, people with intellectual disabilities will be able to live, learn and work in their communities.



Public Safety

Governor DeSantis has made public safety a top priority and has taken bold steps to protect all Floridians. Thanks to the hard work of our state's law enforcement officers, Florida's crime rate is at a 47-year low. This budget continues to make necessary investments in public safety, including funding for an innovative threat assessment strategy, safer correctional facilities and evidence-based prevention programs for at-risk youth.

Creating a Statewide Behavioral Threat Assessment Strategy

The budget includes \$2.3 million and 10 positions to implement the first Statewide Behavioral Threat Assessment (BTAM) strategy in the country. Florida's BTAM strategy will use Regional Threat Assessment Task Forces throughout the state that will better-enable law enforcement to identify individuals on a pathway to violence and prevent such individuals from committing acts of violence.

Enhancing Florida's Crime Databases

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) is responsible for maintaining a variety of databases that law enforcement uses daily to investigate crimes and apprehend criminals. The budget invests more than \$8.1 million to expand and enhance these databases, including:

- \$1.9 million to maintain the Computerized Criminal History database.
- \$2.6 million to continue the transition to incident-based crime reporting (FIBRS); and
- \$3.6 million to centralize criminal justice data and make it more transparent to the public.

Safer Correctional Facilities

The budget includes funds and FTE to improve staffing levels at the Department of Corrections (FDC). This includes:

- Funding for a targeted retention pay plan for Correctional Officers, Correctional Probation Officers, and Inspectors that aims to address exceptionally high turnover rates by providing a \$500 pay increase for those with less than two years of service, a \$1,500 pay increase at two years of service, but less than-five years of service, and a \$2,500 increase at five or more years of service.
- \$17.3 million to implement a pilot project that transitions Correctional Officers from a 12-hour shift to an 8.5-hour shift.



The budget includes \$6 million and 44 FTE to make Florida's correctional facilities safer. This includes:

- \$3 million for security equipment, such as radios, metal detectors, and cameras.
- \$736,479 and 10 FTE to assist the Inspector General's Office with investigations.
- \$2.2 million and 34 FTE to allow FDC to monitor gang activity more closely.

Expanding Reentry Programming

The budget includes \$3 million to expand career and technical education programs to better align the vocational training needs of the inmate population with current job market demands.

Improving Inmate Health Services

The budget provides \$17.7 million to improve inmate health services. This includes:

- \$13.8 million to begin building a 600-bed mental health hospital at Lake Correctional Institution, which will ensure that FDC has adequate resources to treat the mental health needs of inmates.
- \$1.9 million and 34 FTE to begin a four-year plan to re-establish wellness programs at all major institutions and annexes.
- \$2 million to begin installing the infrastructure needed to transition to electronic medical records.

Improving Correctional Infrastructure

The budget includes \$9.3 million to make critical repairs and renovations to correctional and juvenile facilities. This investment in Florida's infrastructure not only enhances the safety and security of Florida's correctional and juvenile officers, inmates, and youth, but will also result in long-term energy and maintenance savings.

Improving Residential Programs

Recent reforms at the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) have culminated in the lowest juvenile arrest rate in more than 44 years. To build on this success, the budget includes more than \$4.8 million to improve DJJ's 55 residential programs. This includes:

- \$4.3 million to improve staffing and evidence-based services in residential facilities.
- \$553,700 and 6 FTE to ensure that quality medical services are being provided in residential facilities.

At-Risk Youth Programs and Prevention Services

Effective prevention programs reduce the likelihood that a child will have future involvement with the juvenile justice system. Recent investments in such programs have played a critical role in reducing juvenile arrest rates to the lowest in 44 years. The budget includes more than \$15 million to fund prevention programs for at-risk youth. This includes funding for the following programs:



- **Youth Challenge Program** – \$5.8 million for a residential program at Camp Blanding that provides 16-18 year olds who withdraw or are removed from school with opportunities such as high school credit recovery, career-technical education, and life preparation classes.
- **Mentoring Initiatives** – \$6.6 million for the Department of Education to contract with mentoring programs throughout the state.
- **Contracted Prevention Funding for DJJ** – An additional \$2.6 million for DJJ to contract with evidence-based prevention programs.

Protecting Florida’s Families and Seniors

The budget includes funding for the Department of Legal Affairs to protect Floridians from fraudulent practices. This includes \$1.7 million and 16 FTE to address increasing cyber fraud threats, better-identify emerging senior fraud trends, focus on the increasing number of organized retail theft enterprises, and better respond to price-gouging complaints.

Supporting Military and Their Families

The budget provides \$27 million for Florida’s military presence and families, which funds the State’s support of military research and development. This includes:

- \$2 million for the Florida Defense Support Task Force.
- \$1.6 million for the Defense Infrastructure Program.
- \$420,000 to reinforce the seawall at the Florida National Guard Headquarters.
- \$3.4 million for armory maintenance.
- \$6.2 million to rebuild the Panama City Armory due to Hurricane Michael destruction.
- \$4.2 million to support Florida National Guardsmen and women seeking higher education degrees.
- \$8.4 million to support scholarships for children and spouses of deceased or disabled veterans.
- \$780,000 for satellite-based communication terminals for Florida National Guardsmen and women to use during storm-related missions and duties.

Problem-Solving Courts

Problem-solving courts, such as drug courts, mental health courts, and veterans’ courts, address the root causes of justice system involvement through specialized dockets, multidisciplinary teams, and a non-adversarial approach. The budget provides more than \$11.1 million to continue the operation of problem-solving courts throughout the state.



General Government

Maintaining a Safe Environment for Residents and Visitors

The budget provides over \$340,000 in funding and four additional full-time positions within the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to implement and facilitate the human trafficking awareness training program as required by House Bill 851 from the 2019 Legislative Session. Increasing awareness of staff at lodging establishments will aid in the fight against human trafficking.

Maintaining and Improving the Florida Facilities Pool

It is essential that the State of Florida provides safe and efficient working environments for state employees and visitors to state owned buildings. The budget invests \$72.8 million in the Florida Facilities Pool which will improve life safety issues, address Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance and address needed building updates.