



Governor Rick Scott's 2017-2018 Budget Fighting for Florida's Future

To access information on Governor Rick Scott's 2017-2018 Fighting For Florida's Future Budget, please access the following steps:

1. Go to: <http://fightingforfloridasfuturebudget.com/HomeFY18.htm>



2. Click on the "Florida's Future" tab to see a listing of all topics of the budget. You can click on a topic to learn more about it.

Fighting for Florida's Future Students

Investing in Early Learning for Florida's Future

Governor Scott knows that success starts early and believes in doing everything possible to prepare a child for their education, which begins with a solid foundation of early learning programs. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget invests in initiatives that are focused on results and ensure effective early learning providers and increased access for more children. **Governor Scott recommends \$1.1 billion in funding for early child education and care. This is more than \$36 million increase over current year funding.** The budget highlights for Early Learning include:

Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK)

The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends an additional **\$11.3 million for a total of \$406.5 million** for Florida's VPK program, a quality free education initiative, which serves more than 150,000 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 Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes an increase of *\$25 million* in federal funding to allow access to more than 4,600 additional children into School Readiness programs. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget maintains funds in Fiscal Year 2017-2018 for the following early learning initiatives:

T.E.A.C.H. – **\$10 million** for early childhood teacher scholarships.

Performance Funding – **\$15.5 million** to award child care providers and instructors for improving School Readiness program outcomes.

Help Me Grow – **\$2.5 million** to connect children and families with information, resources, and developmental services to enhance health, behavior, and learning in the development of young children.

Lastinger Center Teacher Training – **\$3 million** for a statewide professional learning system for Florida's early learning workforce.

Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) – **\$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.

Fighting for a Healthier Future

More Than \$1 Billion in Mental Health and Substance Abuse Funding

Governor Scott understands the importance of addressing the needs of those with mental illness and better aligning services to serve this unique population in their communities. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget continues to invest more than **\$1 billion** for individuals with behavioral health needs in Florida. The recommended budget increases mental health and substance abuse funding by **\$25 million** over current year funding levels.

Nursing Homes

The Fighting for Florida's Future budget transitions the current inflationary cost based system to a prospective payment method, which provides equitable payments for similar services while rewarding efficient delivery of care. The new payment system will also reward quality of care at an unprecedented level and allows for a greater predictability of future costs.

Supported Employment for Floridians with Behavioral Health Needs and Persons with Disabilities

Governor Scott knows that the most important step toward independent living is getting a good job. That is why the Fighting for Florida's Future budget provides **\$3 million** to the Department of Children and Families to provide employment services to more than 5,000 individuals with serious mental illness. This is the first time that

employment services including job training and coaching, employment assistance and transportation to and from their place of work will be supported by state funding at the Department of Children and Families. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget also includes **\$3.3 million** in new funding to the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) to provide employment services to more than 2,500 individuals with developmental disabilities who are ready to work.

Eliminating the APD Critical Needs Waiting list

The Fighting for Florida's Future budget provides **more than \$7.4 million** to place approximately 680 additional Floridians into the waiver program. This is the fourth consecutive year that Governor Scott has provided funding to enroll all individuals with critical needs to help them live, learn and work in their communities.

Record Funding for Community-Based Care

The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends a **record \$632 million** to provide core services to children who depend on Florida's child welfare system. Governor Scott knows that caring for Florida's children is essential to ensuring a bright future for Florida and that every dollar must have a maximum return on investment. This is accomplished by beginning the process of using the established Social Services Estimating Conference. This conference will determine the needed levels of funding for core services provided by Community-Based Care organizations (CBCs) and improve the transparency, accountability and effectiveness of taxpayer money supporting the state's child welfare system.

Caring for Seniors

The Fighting for Florida's Future budget invests **\$4.7 million** in new funding to serve more of the frailest individuals on the Home Care for the Elderly program waiting list. This funding provides services to an additional 1,300 seniors. These individuals receive assistance with medical supplies, home health services, medications, wheelchairs and home accessibility modifications, and other services to help maintain them in their home. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes **\$3 million in new funding to enroll 249 individuals** onto the Alzheimer's Diseases Initiative Program and another **\$4 million in new funding to serve an additional 497 individuals** in the Community Care for the Elderly Program.

Fighting to Keep Florida's Future Generations Safe

Supporting Local Law Enforcement

Governor Scott wants to ensure that local communities have the resources they need to respond to emerging crime trends. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget provides **\$4 million** to the Florida Violent Crime and Drug Control Council, which provides financial assistance to local law enforcement agencies. Of these funds, **\$2 million** is provided for

financial assistance to local law enforcement to conduct investigations related to heroin abuse.

Department of Corrections Reforms

Last year, **more than \$65 million** was invested in the Department of Corrections (FDC). This funding was used to ensure Florida prisons were safely staffed, vehicles were safe to operate, and that the state's facilities were better maintained. Governor Scott's Fighting for Florida's Future budget continues to support the reformation of Florida's prison system and recommends nearly **\$127 million** over the Department of Corrections' current budget, an increase of more than five percent.

Expanding Workforce Education Programs

The Fighting for Florida's Future budget also provides **\$3 million** for FDC to expand and operate new workforce education programs. Inmates that are employed after release are far less likely to recidivate, which increases public safety and lowers taxpayer costs. This investment will provide inmates with the skills that are necessary to obtain a job upon release.

Reducing Juvenile Delinquency

Governor Scott is committed to continuing the dramatic reforms made at the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) which have culminated in the lowest juvenile arrest rate in more than 40 years.

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget gives DJJ the resources it needs to continue to reduce juvenile delinquency. The budget provides **\$5.2 million to add an additional 60 beds in DJJ's residential facilities**, which will ensure that youth committed to these facilities are promptly placed and receiving services. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget also provides **\$5.3 million** to allow DJJ to improve staffing and evidence-based services in its residential facilities. These funds will serve to further reduce juvenile arrests.
- **Expanding Prevention and Workforce Education Programs for Youth**
Governor Scott understands that effective prevention and workforce education services strengthen families and turn around the lives of troubled youth. In recognition of these benefits, the Fighting for Florida's Future budget **invests \$4.7 million** to expand prevention programs, and **\$2.6 million** to provide additional workforce education programs throughout the state.
- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget also provides **\$10.2 million** to maintain and repair juvenile facilities statewide. This increases the safety of the youth in DJJ's custody, and also protects Florida's investment in its infrastructure.

At Risk Youth Programs and Prevention Services

Governor Scott knows that investing in services for at-risk youth provides a positive return on investment by preventing future crime and deterring children from

entering the juvenile justice system. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends **more than \$8 million** to continue to expand evidence-based prevention and treatment programs for at-risk youth. These programs are part of the reason Florida has seen the lowest juvenile arrest rate in more than 40 years. The budget includes funding for the following programs:

- **About Face Program** - Maintaining **\$1.25 million** in funding to provide summer and after-school life preparation programs;
- **Forward March Program** - Maintaining **\$750,000** in funding to provide job readiness services at selected Florida armories for Work and Gain Economic Self-Sufficiency recipients and other qualifying young adults;
- **Youth Challenge Program** - More than **\$5.6 million** which includes an increase of more than **\$765,000** to support additional academic and technical course offerings and equipment for 16-18 year-olds who withdraw or are removed from school.
- **Contracted Prevention Funding for DJJ** - An **additional \$4.7 million** for DJJ to contract with evidence-based prevention programs that will serve at-risk youth and prevent them from engaging in delinquency.

Protecting Florida's Vulnerable Populations

The Fighting for Florida's Future budget provides an **additional \$1.5 million** to the Department of Legal Affairs to provide services to human trafficking victims. Over the past two years, the Governor has invested more than **\$8 million** to fight human trafficking, and to ensure survivors have the services they need.

Ensuring Florida's Communities are Strong for the Future

Disaster Preparedness Response, Recovery and Mitigation

Since 2011, Governor Scott has overseen the investment of **more than \$1 billion** to ensure Florida is a leader in disaster preparedness and recovery. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget invests **\$355.6 million** in financial assistance to state and local governments for emergency public awareness, outreach programs, and disaster mitigation programs.

Affordable Housing

Since 2011, Florida has invested **more than \$1 billion** to make Florida's affordable housing among the best in the nation. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends **\$120.8 million** for affordable housing including **\$90.8 million** for the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) program and **\$30 million** for the State Housing Initiative (SHIP) program. SAIL provides low interest loans to developers who build or rehabilitate affordable housing projects. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget provides special consideration to properties that target demographics such as the elderly and those with special needs. SHIP funding will be focused on providing first-time home buyer down payment assistance for very low to low and moderate income families.

Small Community Development Block Grants

The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends **\$36.5 million** in small community development block grants programs focusing on low and moderate income persons, improving housing and supporting infrastructure improvements.

Fighting for Veterans Future in Florida

Expanding Crisis Support Services for Veterans Statewide

The Fighting for Florida's Future budget builds on Florida's success as the most military and veteran friendly state in the nation by providing more than **\$350,000** to expand the Crisis Center Support Line for Veterans beyond the Tampa region. This new, statewide dedicated telephone line (1-844-MYFLVET) will help veterans in need who are facing delays at the federal level by connecting them with local call centers where they can receive referrals to community health services and other community resources. This includes employment, financial, legal, transportation, housing, and other assistance. More than 4,300 veterans in all 67 Florida counties will benefit - an almost fivefold increase over the program's current capacity. Governor Scott also recommended this funding in his 2016-17 Florida First budget.