



Statewide Overview and Taxes

Q: How does the state budget compare to previous years?

- Florida will have \$36.1 billion of General Revenue available next year – including \$1.4 billion in new General Revenue.
- The Governor’s proposed budget is \$91.4 billion, which is 0.5 percent higher than the current \$91.0 billion budget. The proposed General Revenue budget is \$35.0 billion, which is 3.0 percent higher than the current General Revenue budget of \$33.9 billion.

Q: What are the total savings in the recommended budget?

- There are savings totaling \$480.5 million in the recommended budget, of which \$379.4 million represents a savings from General Revenue. Major savings include:
 - Administrative and operational efficiencies of \$24.3 million
 - Elimination of Earmarks are \$84.8 million
 - Elimination of the Best and Brightest Teacher and Principal Program is \$284.5 million
 - Debt service savings of \$54.6 million
 - Workload adjustment savings of \$6.0 million
 - Contract and lease savings are \$19.6 million
 - Reduced excess budget authority of \$6.7 million

Q: How many positions are added in the Governor’s budget proposal?

- The budget includes a net increase of 549 positions from the current year. This represents an increase of 690 positions and is offset by a reduction of 141 positions.
- The major increases are:
 - 292 at the Department of Corrections for an 8.5-hour shift pilot project; and
 - 109 at the Department of Veterans’ Affairs mainly to staff new nursing homes.

Q: How many positions are reduced in the Governor’s budget proposal?

- The majority of the 141 positions that are proposed to be reduced are a result of streamlining processes, consolidating duties and administrative and operational efficiencies throughout state government.

Q: What kind of positions will be eliminated?

- Of the 141 positions being eliminated, over 99 percent are currently vacant.

Q: Does the Governor’s budget propose sweeping trust funds?

- The proposed budget sweeps \$75.4 million from surplus funds in trust funds as follows:



- \$2 million from the State Attorney's Revenue Trust Fund in the Justice Administration Commission
- \$48.4 million from the Inland Protection Trust Fund in the Department of Environmental Protection
- \$1 million from the Anti-Fraud Trust Fund in the Department of Financial Services
- \$1 million from the Financial Institutions Regulatory Trust Fund in the Department of Financial Services
- \$6 million from the Regulatory Trust Fund in the Department of Financial Services
- \$1 million from the Public Employees Relations Commission Trust Fund in the Department of Management Services
- \$2 million from the Invasive Plant Control Trust Fund in the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- \$3 million from the Florida Condo/Timeshare/Mobile Home Trust Fund in the Department of Business and Professional Regulation
- \$3 million from the Hotel and Restaurant Trust Fund in the Department of Business and Professional Regulation
- \$8 million from the Professional Regulation Trust Fund in the Department of Business and Professional Regulation

Q: Does the Governor's budget proposal make changes to the State Group Health Insurance Program?

- There are no proposed changes to the State Group Health Insurance Program in the Governor's recommended budget.

Q: Does the proposed budget provide salary increases for state employees?

- The budget does not provide an across-the-board salary increase for state employees.

Q: How many reserve dollars are included in the Governor's budget proposal?

- \$1.4 billion in unallocated General Revenue
- \$1.7 billion in the Budget Stabilization Funds
- \$1.7 billion in unallocated Trust Funds
- \$0.8 billion in Tobacco reserves
- \$5.6 billion in Total Reserves

Q: After 11 years of actuarial surpluses, the FRS Pension Plan now has been underfunded for eleven consecutive years. As of June 30, 2019, the plan's liabilities exceeded its assets by \$29.2 billion, translating into a funded ratio of 84.6%. How does your proposed budget address this deficit?

- For the past seven fiscal years, Florida has fully funded both the normal cost and the unfunded actuarial liability.



- The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget implements several key recommendations of the independent actuary and fully funds both the normal cost and the unfunded actuarial liability.
- This helps Florida continue to have one of the best funded pension plans of the largest states in the nation.

Q: Does the proposed budget reduce taxes?

- Governor DeSantis is committed to continue to cut Floridians' tax burden by proposing to two sales tax holidays with an aggregate savings up to \$312 million. The holidays consist of:
 - an 8-day back-to-school sales tax holiday on clothing up to \$60, school supplies up to \$15, and computers priced at \$1,000 or less saving taxpayers \$56 million; and
 - a 10-day disaster preparedness sales tax holidays on items needed during disasters including generators priced at \$750 or less saving taxpayers \$9 million.
- Additionally, the budget provides tax relief of \$247.3 million in the required local effort for property taxes.

Q: Is Florida taking on new debt in the budget?

- The budget provides authorization for debt for:
 - The expansion of Florida's transportation infrastructure system through the Department of Transportation's Five-Year Work Plan which has a return on investment of more than 4:1.
 - Construction costs of a new 600-bed mental health hospital at Lake Correctional Institution.



Education

Early Learning

Q: What is the recommended budget for early learning?

- The Governor's recommended budget includes more than \$1.2 billion in funding.

Q: What additional funding is provided for Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten?

- The Governor's recommended budget includes an additional \$12.8 million for a total of more than \$415 million for Florida's VPK program. This investment funds the projected enrollment growth of 1,876 and increases the base student allocation for the school year and for the summer program to \$2,486 per student and \$2,122 per student, respectively. VPK will prepare approximately over 160,000 four and five-year old's for kindergarten.

Q: How will the Governor's budget provide for improvements in the quality of early learning programs?

- The Governor's recommended budget provides funding for the following early learning initiatives:
 - 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 a statewide professional learning system for Florida's early learning workforce; and
 - 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.

K-12 Public Education

Q: What did the Governor's recommended budget propose regarding salary increases for Florida classroom teachers?

- The Governor announced his proposal to increase the minimum salary for teachers across the state on October 7th. The proposal would invest over \$600 million in funding to provide a pay raise to more than 101,000 teachers in Florida by raising the minimum salary for full-time classroom teachers to \$47,500.

Q: Does the Governor include funding in his budget recommendation for classroom teacher bonuses?



- Yes, the Governor’s proposal includes \$290.7 million in funding to implement the Florida Classroom Teacher Bonus program, as part of the \$300 million teacher and principal bonus program.

The new bonus program would provide financial incentives to eligible full-time classroom teachers who met one of the following tier structures:

- Tier 1 - Schools earn 85 percent or greater of the total possible points or gains 6 or more points in their A-F school grading calculation;
- Tier 2 - Schools gaining 3 to 5 points in their A-F school grading calculation; or
- Tier 3 - Schools gaining 1 to 2 points in their A-F school grading calculation.

The bonus award amounts are as follows:

- Tier 1 - Title I schools will receive a bonus of up to \$7,500 and non-Title I schools receive up to \$3,700;
- Tier 2 - Title I schools will receive a bonus of up to \$3,500 and non-Title I schools receive up to \$1,750; and
- Tier 3 - Title I schools will receive a bonus of up to \$1,000 and non-Title I schools receive up to \$500.

Q: Does the Governor include funding in his budget recommendation for school principal bonuses?

- Yes, the Governor’s proposal includes \$9.4 million in funding to implement the Florida School Principal Bonus program, as part of the \$300 million teacher and principal bonus program.

The new bonus program would provide financial incentives to school principals who met one of the following tier structures:

- Tier 1 - Schools earn 85 percent or greater of the total possible points or gains 6 or more points in their A-F school grading calculation;
- Tier 2 - Schools gaining 3 to 5 points in their A-F school grading calculation; or
- Tier 3 - Schools gaining 1 to 2 points in their A-F school grading calculation.

The bonus award amounts are as follows:

- Tier 1 - Title I schools will receive a bonus of up to \$10,000 and non-Title I schools receive up to \$5,000;
- Tier 2 - Title I schools will receive a bonus of up to \$5,000 and non-Title I schools receive up to \$2,500; and
- Tier 3 - Title I schools will receive a bonus of up to \$2,500 and non-Title I schools receive up to \$1,250.

Q. Does the Governor include any initiatives to address the need for additional teachers in Florida’s public schools?



- Yes, the Governor’s proposal to increase the minimum salary for teachers to \$47,500 will help alleviate a teacher shortage and elevate the teaching profession to the level of appreciation it deserves.
- The Governor also proposes \$290.7 million for a new classroom teacher bonus program and \$9.4 million for a new school principal bonus program. The new programs are designed to reward eligible classroom teachers and principals who show increases in their student performance as demonstrated through their schools A through F school grading calculation.

Q: What is the recommended budget for K-12 education in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)?

- The Governor is recommending \$22.9 billion in total funding for the FEFP. This recommendation results in a per student funding amount of \$7,979, an increase of \$302.

Q: Why did local funds increase in the FEFP?

- The local millage tax rate will decrease to 3.762 to only allow revenue associated with new construction that is now taxable to be included in the FEFP.

Q: Does the decrease in the local millage tax rate result in a tax savings?

- Yes, the Governor’s proposed budget includes a tax savings of approximately \$247.3 million resulting from the statewide millage rate assessed in Fiscal Year 2019-20 being reduced by 0.126.

Q: Did the Governor’s recommended budget include an increase in the Base Student Allocation (BSA) in the FEFP?

- Yes, the Governor’s FEFP proposal includes an increase of \$50 in the Base Student Allocation (BSA).

Q: Is there funding for mental health initiatives in the recommended budget?

- Yes, the Governor’s recommended budget includes \$100 million, an increase of \$25 million over Fiscal Year 2019-20, for the mental health allocation in the FEFP. The additional \$25 million in funding would be used exclusively to fund additional school-based mental health services providers.

Q: Is there funding for school safety in the recommended budget?

- Yes, the Governor’s recommended budget includes \$181.4 million, an increase of \$1.4 million over Fiscal Year 2019-20, for the safe schools component of the FEFP.

Q: Does the Governor’s budget provide funding for the Schools of Hope program?



- No, the Governor's recommended budget includes a one-year reduction of the \$40 million in recurring funding provided in Fiscal Year 2019-20. This proposal would allow the initiative to utilize the \$262.4 million in carry-forward funding available for the Schools of Hope program.

Q: Does the Governor's budget provide funding for the Gardiner Scholarship program?

- Yes, the Governor's recommended budget provides an additional \$24.9 million, for a total of \$172.8 million, in funding for the Gardiner Scholarship Program. The increase in funding is based on the three-year average of appropriation increases and will allow approximately 2,367 additional students to participate in the program, after fully clearing the waitlist in the FY 2019-2020 budget.

Q: Is the Governor continuing to provide security funding for Jewish Day Schools?

- Governor DeSantis continues the \$2.5 million in funding allocated in Fiscal Year 2019-20 to enhance safety measures, upgrade equipment facilities and technology; and increase security services to ensure children at Florida Jewish Day Schools can learn in a safe environment. This funding will be available to all eligible Florida Jewish Day Schools to help provide security and counter-terrorism upgrades such as video cameras, fences, bullet-proof glass, alarm systems and other safety equipment.

Q: Does the Governor's budget include or continue providing funding for initiatives established in Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act, such as the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program?

- Yes, the Governor's budget includes the following school safety initiatives:
 - Reallocates unexpended funding provided in Fiscal Year 2019-20 for the Guardian Program not utilized by sheriffs' offices to establish a school guardian program. In addition, the Governor's budget continues the \$500,000 in recurring funding to provide stipends of \$500 to school guardians who participate in the guardian program.
 - Maintains \$5.5 million in recurring funding to continue the Youth Mental Health Awareness and Assistance Training.
 - Maintains \$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.
 - Maintains \$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; Department of Children and Families; the Department of Law Enforcement; the Department of Juvenile Justice; and local law enforcement.



- Provides \$75 million for grants to schools to fund fixed capital outlay costs associated with improving physical security of school buildings as identified by the security risk assessment tool.

Q: Does the Governor provide funding for initiatives that promote computer science?

- Yes, the Governor maintains the \$10 million in funding provided in Fiscal Year 2019-20 to continue providing professional development and covering the cost of training for teachers to earn educator certificates or industry certifications in computer science. The initiative also provides bonuses to teachers who earned an educator certificate or industry certification who are teaching computer science courses.

Q: Does the Governor's recommended budget include funding for initiatives that promote civic education?

- Yes, the Governor proposes \$375,000 in funding to implement the Florida Civics and Debate Initiative. The initiative would promote the expansion of middle and high school debate and speech programs across the state.

Higher Education

Q: What does the Governor's budget propose for Florida state colleges and universities?

- Governor DeSantis supports higher education programs that ensure Florida's state colleges and universities offer students a high-quality education at an affordable rate. That is why the Governor's budget includes state operating funding for Florida's higher education system of almost \$1.3 billion for Florida colleges, an increase of \$22.4 million, and more than \$2.7 billion for Florida universities, an increase of \$23.8 million.

Q: Does the budget include any tuition increases?

- No, Governor DeSantis will work with the Legislature to keep tuition as low as possible by looking for administrative spending reduction opportunities while also supporting Bright Futures Scholarships and other programs that reduce the financial burden on Florida's students.

Q: Has the Governor provided performance funding for workforce education, colleges and universities? What metrics will be used to distribute the funds?

- Yes, Governor DeSantis will increase performance funding to encourage Florida's career technical centers, Florida College System, and the State University System to continue investing in initiatives that have proven effective in: increasing the number of industry certifications awarded, increasing the four-year



graduation rates; increasing student retention rates, lowering student costs; and reducing student debt.

- The Governor's budget includes performance funding in the following areas:
 - A total of \$6.5 million, in funding for district workforce programs to be allocated based on students earning industry certifications in high-demand areas;
 - A total of \$14 million in funding for state colleges to be allocated based on students earning industry certifications in high-demand areas;
 - An increase of \$10 million in performance funding for state colleges, for a total of \$40 million, through the 2+2 Student Success Incentive Fund, Work Florida Success Incentive Fund, and Dual Enrollment; and
 - An increase of \$50 million in state investment and an equivalent increase in institutional investment, for a total of \$660 million, in funding for the State University System. Performance will be based on 10 metrics including: percent of graduates employed or continuing education, average wages of employed graduates and graduation rates.

Q: Why does the Governor's budget not include any of the initiatives requested by the Board of Governor's for the State University System?

- Governor DeSantis is proposing \$4.4 billion in total operating funding for the State University System. Universities have the discretion to utilize the funding they receive as they see fit and may allocate funding to support these initiatives.

Q: Does the Governor budget propose any new workforce initiatives?

- Yes, the Governor includes funding for the following workforce initiatives:
 - Work Florida Student Success Incentive Fund – \$5 million in funding to align district technical center postsecondary programs with statewide and regional workforce demands. The initiative will focus on shaping workforce programs to ensure graduates are prepared to meet the local workforce needs by utilizing job growth reports and industry partner feedback.

Student Financial Aid

Q: What student financial aid funding is the Governor recommending for private higher education institutions?

- The Governor's budget recommends more than \$115.5 million for the Effective Access to Student Education (EASE) Grants almost \$4.9 million for the Access to Better Learning and Education (ABLE) Grants.

Q: Why does the Governor's budget include a decrease in funding for Access to Better Learning and Education (ABLE) Grants?



- The Governor’s budget’s funding for ABLE is based on the August 12, 2019 Estimating Conference, which projects a decrease of 12 students for the program when compared to the funded student count of 1,735.

Q: What other state funded scholarship program are funded in the Governor’s recommended budget for the Student Financial Aid?

- The Governor’s budget includes funding for the following state scholarship programs:
 - Florida Student Assistance Grant – Public Full and Part Time: \$235.3 million
 - Florida Student Assistance Grant – Private: \$23.7 million
 - Florida Student Assistance Grant – Postsecondary: \$6.8 million
 - Florida Student Assistance Grant - Career Education: \$3.6 million
 - Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans: \$8.4 million
 - Florida Work Experience: Nearly \$1.6 million
 - Rosewood Family Scholarships: \$256,747
 - Honorably Discharged Graduate Assistance Program: \$1 million
 - Florida Farmworker Scholarship Program: \$317,385

Q: What are the Governor’s budget recommendations for the Bright Futures Scholarship?

- The Governor’s budget recommends increasing funding by more than \$23 million, for a total of \$618.2 million, for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program. Funding ensures the Bright Futures Academic Scholars award will continue to cover 100 percent of tuition and fees for all semesters, including summer, for all eligible students. In addition, funding provided for Bright Futures continues funding the Florida Medallion Scholars at an award amount equal to 75 percent of tuition and fees for all semesters, including summer.

Education Infrastructure

Q: How are Public Education Capital Outlay Funds (PECO) utilized in the Governor’s budget recommendations?

- The August 7, 2019 Public Education Capital Outlay Estimating Conference identified the cash amount available for appropriation from the PECO Trust Fund for Fiscal Year 2020-21 to be \$353.4 million.
- The PECO program addresses educational facility construction and fixed capital outlay needs for school districts, state colleges, state universities and other public education programs.
- The Governor’s recommended budget includes more than \$502 million.
 - **School Safety Grants**



- \$75 million for school safety grants provided to school districts to assist with costs associated with improving the physical security of K-12 school buildings, an increase of over \$25 million over current year funding.
- **Maintenance**
 - \$50 million for traditional public school maintenance;
 - \$173.9 million for public charter school maintenance;
 - \$37.2 million for Florida College System maintenance;
 - \$49.3 million for State University System maintenance.
 - \$7 million for lab school maintenance;
 - \$5.3 million for Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind maintenance; and
 - \$4.9 million for public broadcasting stations to correct health and safety issues, correct building deficiencies and project renovations;
- **Construction**
 - \$41.3 million for Special Facility Construction projects. This funding is for critical infrastructure needs in Baker, Bradford, Gilchrist and Levy counties;
 - \$14.5 million to complete construction projects at the state colleges and state universities; and
 - \$44 million in budget authority to the State University System to spend collected student fees on a list of student-approved facility projects.

Q: Does the Governor’s budget provide bonding authority for educational facilities?

- No, the Governor’s recommended budget does not provide additional bonding authority outside of the of the FDOT work plan. All projects are recommended to be funded on a cash-basis.

Q: What does the Governor’s budget do to help small school districts with facility needs?

- The Governor’s recommended budget provides \$41.3 million in funding for four small school districts for critical construction needs through the Special Facilities Program (Baker, Bradford, Gilchrist and Levy counties).

Q: Does the Governor’s budget include funding for Research Developmental Schools’ (lab schools) facility needs?

- Yes, Lab schools are traditional K-12 schools that, like charter schools, cannot levy taxes. The Governor budget recommends a total of \$7 million for maintenance for all lab schools.



Environment

Q: What is recommended in the budget for protecting Florida’s environment and improving water quality?

A: The Governor’s Recommended Budget invests more than \$4 billion for the protection of Florida’s pristine natural resources. (This includes the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Public Service Commission and Department of Citrus)

Q: What is recommended in the budget to reach the Governor’s goal of \$2.5 billion investment in Everglades and water resources over the next four years?

A: The budget includes more than \$625 million in recurring funds for Everglades restoration and protection of water resources. This level of funding over four years will result in a \$2.5 billion investment. This includes:

- \$322 million for Everglades Restoration;
- \$200 million for targeted water quality improvements;
- \$40 million for an Alternative Water Supply grant program;
- \$50 million for Springs projects; and
- \$22 million for water quality monitoring and to combat harmful algal blooms including blue-green algae and red tide.

Q: How does the Governor’s recommendation specifically address water quality improvements?

A: The budget includes \$200 million for targeted water quality improvements. This includes \$150 million for cost-share grant funds for water quality improvements, including septic to sewer conversions and upgrades, other wastewater improvements, and rural and urban stormwater system upgrades. \$50 million will focus specifically on achieving the Department of Environmental Protection’s scientific nutrient reduction goals, called Total Maximum Daily Loads, as part of the plans set forth in adopted Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs). On top of this investment, the Governor’s recommendation includes \$50 million for projects to restore Florida’s world-renowned springs.

Q: How much did the Governor recommend for Everglades Restoration?

A: The budget provides \$322 million for Everglades Restoration. This funding includes:

- \$170 million for Everglades Restoration, including the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, C-43 Reservoir and Restoration Strategies.
- \$64 million for the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir project.
- \$22.8 million for dispersed water management and public private partnerships to provide additional water storage.



Q: What does the Governor's budget do to address harmful algal blooms and discharges from Lake Okeechobee?

- The budget includes more than \$23 million to specifically address algae blooms and red tide, including:
 - \$10 million for innovative technologies and short-term solutions to address algae blooms. This includes the emergency red tide grant program to help local governments to clean up their beaches and coastal areas to minimize the impacts of red tide to residents and visitors.
 - \$1.9 million and 2 dedicated positions for the FWC Center for Red Tide and to support the Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force.
 - \$10.8 million for increased water quality monitoring, a water quality public information portal, and to support the Blue-Green Algae Task Force to focus on expediting progress toward reducing adverse impacts of blue-green algae blooms now and over the next five years.
- Additionally, the Governor's recommendation invests \$200 million for targeted water quality improvements and \$322 million for Everglades Restoration, including \$140 million for continued investment in the C-43 reservoir, which will provide more than 55 billion gallons of water storage east of Lake Okeechobee once completed. These projects will help reduce nutrient loading and provide critical water storage.

Q: How does the Governor's Budget reflect recommendations of the Blue Green Algae Task Force?

- \$200 million for targeted water quality
- \$10.8 million for increased water quality monitoring
- \$10 million for innovative technologies to address algae blooms
- Nearly \$1 million and 8 additional staff to increase participation and conduct verification site visits for producers enrolled in the Best Management Practices (BMP) program to ensure compliance
- \$1.5 million for Mobile Irrigation Labs to increase water supply planning and conservation
- \$5 million to support agricultural producer implementation projects identified in BMAP's to meet water quality goals

Q: What does the Governor recommend to address water supply needs?

- The budget provides \$40 million in General Revenue for an alternative water supply grant program to help communities plan for and implement vital conservation, reuse and other alternative water supply projects.
- DEP will engage local governments, industry, citizens and other stakeholders through a targeted education and outreach campaign that focuses on the importance of conservation and reuse efforts and encourage Floridians to implement these efforts in their homes, businesses and communities.



Q: How much did the Governor recommend for land acquisition and maintenance?

A: The budget contains over \$220 million for land acquisition and statewide land management activities, including:

- \$100 million for Florida Forever through DEP's Division of State Lands, Florida Communities Trust and Florida Recreation Development Assistance Grants
- More than \$114 million for base land management funding across all four state agencies that manage land (Department of Environmental Protection, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and Department of State)
- In addition, springs protection and water quality improvement projects may include acquisition to protect water resources.

Q: How does the Governor's budget address sea level rise?

- The budget recommends \$6 million for the Florida Resilient Coastline Program within the Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection, which will assist local governments with sea level rise planning and coastal resilience projects, in addition to protection of coral reef health.
- Governor DeSantis also remains committed to funding coastal protection projects, including:
 - \$50 million for beach restoration projects
 - \$832,000 for Florida's Coastal Zone Management Program
 - \$2.5 million for removal of tires and other waste currently posing a threat to coral reefs

Q: Does the Governor's budget include money for water storage south of Lake Okeechobee?

A: The budget includes more than \$280 million for several water storage projects, many of these around Lake Okeechobee, which will collectively provide nearly 190 billion gallons of water storage once completed. Examples of these projects include:

- \$140 million to continue the C-43 Reservoir, which will provide 55 billion gallons of water storage to protect estuaries
- \$22.8 million for dispersed water management, which will provide more than 24 billion gallons of water storage when projects are operational
- \$64 million for the EAA Reservoir, which will provide a minimum of 78 billion gallons of water storage when complete

Q: How much did the Governor recommend for beach restoration?

A: The budget includes \$50 million for statewide beach restoration to continue to address Florida's critically eroded shorelines.



Q: How much did the Governor recommend for state parks?

A: The budget contains \$164 million for the award-winning Florida State Park system. This includes:

- \$50 million for State Park Facility Improvements
- \$4 million for ADA accessibility improvements
- \$250,000 for Partnership in Parks

Q: How does the Governor's budget provide for waste management?

A: The budget includes the following for waste management:

- \$125 million – Underground Petroleum Storage Tank Cleanup
- \$8.5 million – Dry Cleaning/Site Cleanup
- \$6.5 million – Hazardous Waste/Site Cleanup
- \$3 million – Solid Waste Management Grants
- \$10 million for Cleanup of State-Owned contaminated sites

Q: Does the Governor's budget include funding for springs restoration?

A: The budget provides \$50 million for springs protection and restoration projects.

Q: How does the Governor's budget address the implementation of Volkswagen Clean Air Act settlement?

A: The budget recommends \$67.5 million for continued implementation of the State Mitigation Plan for the \$166 million Volkswagen Clean Air Act settlement, which will assist with the reduction of diesel emissions and further improve Florida's air quality.

Q: How much does the Governor's budget recommend for Agriculture?

A: The budget recommends more than \$1.7 billion for Florida's agricultural industry.

Q. What is in the budget for wildfire prevention?

A: The budget provides \$8.2 million for wildfire prevention efforts.

- \$3.3 million for replacement of wildfire equipment
- \$4.9 million for road and bridge maintenance to allow for better access for land management and wildfire suppression activities

Q: How much does the Governor's budget recommend for the Citrus Industry?

A: The Governor recommends \$19.5 million for citrus, including:

- \$8 million for Citrus Research
- \$7.5 million for the Citrus Health Response Program (CHRP)
- \$4 million to support consumer awareness efforts



Q. How does the Governor’s Budget use Land Acquisition Trust Fund dollars?

A: The budget provides more than \$1 billion of Land Acquisition Trust Fund dollars for a variety of conservation and restoration programs including Florida Forever land acquisition and management, Everglades restoration, springs restoration projects, beach management projects, and improvements to Florida’s award-winning state parks.

Q: What is included in the Governor’s recommendation to protect our coral reefs?

A: The budget provides over \$8.9 million to combat coral reef disease.

Q: What is being done to combat Burmese Pythons in Florida?

A: The budget dedicates \$1 million to remove pythons from the Everglades.



Health and Human Services

Q. Does the Governor's Budget include funding to address improper billing practices by behavior analysis service providers?

- The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes \$3.1 million to implement statewide electronic visit verification to assist in preventing fraudulent billing.

Q. Does the Governor's Budget include funding for the Canadian Drug Importation Program?

- Yes, the Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget provides \$20.4 million to implement a safe and effective Canadian Drug Importation program once it has been approved by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Q. Does the Governor's Budget include any rate increases for Medicaid providers?

- Yes, the Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget provides \$38.3 million in funding for a new level of reimbursement for Intermediate Care Facilities with individuals who have severe behavioral needs.

Q. How many individuals does the Governor's budget serve on the Agency for Persons with Disabilities waiting list?

- The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget provides \$56.5 million to add approximately 1200 individuals from the waiting list who are in crisis onto the Agency for Persons with Disabilities waiver program.

Q. Does the Governor's Budget include funding for crisis stabilization services for individuals with disabilities?

- Yes, the Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget invests over \$200,000 in a pilot which will serve individuals with disabilities who are in need of crisis diversion and community mental health services.

Q. Does the Governor's Budget include funding for the Agency for Persons with Disability Home and Community Based Services Waiver?

- Yes, the Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget provides \$239 million for services that have been provided by the agency in previous fiscal years.

Q. What does the Governor's proposed budget include to address the opioid epidemic?

- The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget provides \$54.8 million in total funding to fight the opioid crisis in Florida.
 - \$12.4 million in federal funding from the State Opioid Response Grant to address the opioid crisis by providing evidence-based prevention, medication-assisted treatment and recovery support services.



- \$8.7 million in federal funding to the Department of Health from the Overdose Data to Action grant to enhance drug overdose surveillance and to pilot prevention strategies to reduce overdoses.

Q. Does the Governor’s proposed budget increase behavioral health funding?

- Yes, Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget provides an additional \$17.6 million increase in funding.
 - \$2.1 million new funding for an additional 24 forensic community transition beds.
 - \$9.0 million to expand CAT Team capacity for children ages 11-21 with mental health and/or substance abuse diagnosis.
 - \$4 million to expand telehealth services to children in K-12 public schools in 27 additional counties.
 - \$2.5 million to 211 providers to increase their capacity to handle call volume and to expand care coordination services.

Q. What does the Governor’s budget recommend for enhancing Child Welfare?

- The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget provides \$97.6 million to provide funding for services to children and families who depend on Florida’s child welfare system.
 - The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future invests \$21.8 million for adoption incentives for state employees and for maintenance adoption subsidies and post adoption services for children who are adopted from foster care.
 - The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes \$75.7 million for improved system wide accountability, safety management services, support foster care parents who serve as caregivers for children who have been removed from their home, early intervention efforts for substance affected infants and additional legal staff who assist in expediting each child’s permanency and educational and well-being needs.

Q. What is the purpose of the funding provided to the Department of Children and Families for Community Based Care Funding Formula?

- The purpose is to create a system that incentivizes quality outcomes for children being cared for in the child welfare system.

Q. How will funds be distributed?

- The funds will be distributed based on workload and will include incentives to encourage children to remain in their homes when it is safe to do so. The funding formula is also designed to help keep families out of crisis by incentivizing prevention services.

Q. Does this new formula impact existing funding for the Community Based Care Agencies?



- The funding formula is designed to be equitable and provide support for families. Current funding is based on historical allocations, not caseload and includes discrepancies in per child costs across the state. This model, over time will rectify these issues and achieve lower caseloads for Florida’s child welfare workers.

Q. Does the Governor’s budget include funding for employment opportunities?

- The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes \$1 million to serve individuals with developmental disabilities.
- The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes \$700,000 to serve individuals with behavioral health needs.
- The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget provides \$2.5 million to assist veterans in mentoring, training and networking throughout the state of Florida.

Q. Does the Governor’s budget include funding for HIV/AIDS?

- Yes, the Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes \$15.2 million in funding to support housing needs for individuals living with HIV/AIDS and support services, medical services and medication assistance for uninsured and underinsured individuals.

Q. Does the Governor’s budget include funding to combat the Hepatitis A outbreak?

- The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes \$14.1 million in funding to support the Department of Health’s response to the Hepatitis A outbreak, of which more than 3,300 Floridians have tested positive, by providing vaccinations through local county health departments.

Q. Does the Governor’s budget include funding to reduce Infant and Maternal Morbidity and Mortality rates in Florida?

- Yes, the Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes \$2 million in new funding for the Department of Health to collaborate with Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative to address health care quality in infants and mothers to ensure hospitals are using evidence based practices in providing care.

Q. Does the Governor’s budget continue funding DOH’s Healthy Water Initiative?

- Yes, the Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes \$1 million, of which \$350,000 is new funding, to continue to study the long-term health impacts of exposure to blue-green algae and red tide toxins to residents and visitors in Florida.

Q. Does the Governor’s budget support services for seniors?

- Yes, the Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget invests \$3.6 million to reduce the Alzheimer’s disease Initiative Waitlist by more than 250 individuals.



- The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget continues the investment of \$5 million to reduce the waitlist by more than 590 individuals for the Community Care for the Elderly Program.
- Additionally, the Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget provides \$1 million to reduce the Home Care for the Elderly Program Waitlist by more than 240 individuals.
- These programs provide support of activities of daily living activities, medical assistance and caregiver support to keep seniors in their homes.

Q. Does the Governor's budget including funding for Public and Professional Guardians?

- Yes, the Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget provides \$6.4 million in new funding to support the Office of Public and Professional Guardianship Program. This funding supports professional guardianship investigative services and establishes a professional guardian monitoring tool. Also, this funding also includes an increase in cost to serve individuals in the public guardianship program. Guardianship funding will help ensure the legal rights of older Floridians are protected and help eliminate abuse, neglect and exploitation of Florida's elderly population.

Q. Does the Governor's budget include funding for State Veterans' Nursing Home?

- The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget provides \$6.1 million for staffing and start-up operations at the Ardie R. Copas State Veterans' Nursing Home in St. Lucie County.
- The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget also recommends \$4.1 million for staffing and operations costs and \$7.9 million for repairs at the Lake Baldwin State Veterans' Nursing Home in Orange County.
- Additionally, the Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget recommends \$6.7 million for capital improvements, equipment updates and increased staffing needs for Florida's existing state veteran nursing homes.



Transportation and Economic Development

Q: What does the Governor's budget include for emergency management/disaster recovery from Hurricanes Hermine, Matthew, Irma and Michael?

- The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes \$1.4 billion in federal and state funding to Florida communities for open federally declared disasters related to these hurricanes, so that the impacted communities can continue to respond and recover from these disasters as well as mitigate the impact of any future disasters or emergencies. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget also includes an additional \$195 million in federal and state funding for state operations related to these disasters for the Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation, and Disaster Activity programs.

Q: How much has the State of Florida spent on preparedness and recovery for Hurricanes Irma and Michael?

- Hurricane Irma preparedness and recovery totaled \$627.8 million. Hurricane Michael preparedness and recovery so far totals \$1.3 billion. The current combined total for both storms is over \$1.9 billion.

Q: Does the Governor's budget include Community Development Block Grant funds for localities recovering from all the hurricanes that have struck Florida in recent years?

- The current fiscal year budget includes \$747.4 million in federal Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Funds directed toward local hurricane recovery efforts throughout the state. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget recommends that any of these funds remaining unspent at the end of the current fiscal year be made available in the coming fiscal year for the same purpose.

Q: Are there additional resources available through the state to help with hurricane response and recovery?

- The following items are in the current state budget or in the Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget recommendation:
 - The Hurricane Michael Recovery Grant Program is funded at \$25 million in the current year budget and the Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget recommendation. This funding provides resources where insufficient federal funds, private funds, or insurance proceeds are available to fund projects designed for the repair, replacement, hardening of affected critical infrastructure, and improve the capacity of emergency services. Additionally, this funding provides for disaster relief costs that are solely the responsibility of the local government, as well as local revenue losses.
 - The Revolving Loan Fund Program is funded at \$40 million. Funding provided by the Economic Development Administration 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.

- Marine Debris Removal - \$1 million is in the Governor's budget recommendation.
- Marine Fisheries Disaster Recovery - \$18.8 million in the Governor's budget recommendation.

Q: Does the Governor recommend funding for affordable and workforce housing?

- The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes \$387 million to fully fund affordable and workforce housing. This recommendation includes \$119.8 million for the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) program, with a minimum 20 percent of the housing units developed through this funding to be set aside for persons with special needs, persons with developmental disabilities, and the elderly.
- The budget also includes \$267.2 million for the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program. Local governments that receive disbursements from the SHIP Program are to prioritize funding to assist with hurricane housing recovery before routine and customary use of these funds.
- In addition to these programs, the budget provides \$1 million to Building Homes for Heroes, a nonprofit organization building or modifying homes for brave veterans who were seriously injured while serving in the line of duty. The homes built or modified are gifted mortgage free to the veterans and their families.

Q: Does the Governor's budget include funding for the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund?

- The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future recommended budget includes \$50 million for the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund. The Florida Job Growth Grant Fund provides funding for job training and public infrastructure projects that support growth and employment in Florida. One of the priorities of the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund now and in the coming fiscal year will be to expedite the review of proposals that provide workforce training programs in the financial services industry, with a focus on FinTech skills training. Proposals from state colleges or state technical centers will focus on how their program will identify industry skill set needs and match them with private sector partners that will provide employment opportunities for those who complete the program.

Q: Does the Governor's budget include funding for promoting community investments?

- The budget includes \$250,000 to market and highlight community investment possibilities in Florida's 427 Opportunity Zones, which are designated low income census tracts that investors can put capital to work financing new projects and enterprises in exchange for federal capital gains tax advantages. This funding will be



used for a marketing campaign, technical assistance, matchmaking sessions, and other outreach activities.

Q: How much funding is Governor DeSantis recommending to promote Florida tourism?

- The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget recommends \$50 million for VISIT FLORIDA, the same amount as in the current fiscal year, as well as an 8-year reauthorization of VISIT FLORIDA in state law. At this proposed level of funding, we can be assured that Florida will set another record for the number of tourists visiting our state.

Q: What is the total budget proposed for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for Fiscal Year 2020-21?

- The budget includes \$9.8 billion for the Department of Transportation. Of this amount, \$8.8 billion goes toward the Transportation Work Program which supports transportation and infrastructure projects throughout the state.
- This investment will provide for the retention or creation of up to 117,600 jobs. Every dollar invested in transportation is estimated to result in a return of up to \$4.4 for every \$1 in user and economic benefits to Florida's residents and businesses, and also helps diversify Florida's economy.

Q: What Florida transportation initiatives are supported in the Governor's recommended budget?

- The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget provides \$8.8 billion for the Transportation Work Program, used for the construction and maintenance of Florida's roads, bridges, rails, seaports and other public transportation systems that grow the state's economy and improve the quality of life for our citizens. This includes:
 - \$2.8 billion for highway construction to include 52 new lane miles.
 - \$865.7 million in resurfacing to include 2,057 lane miles.
 - \$119.7 million in seaport infrastructure improvements.
 - \$323.9 million for aviation improvements.
 - \$436.2 million in scheduled repairs of 57 bridges and replacement of 18 bridges.
 - \$686 million investment in rail/transit projects.
 - \$212.9 million for safety initiatives.

Q: What is the Governor proposing to help ensure trouble-free elections in Florida during 2020 and beyond?

- The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget recommends \$6.6 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 who will provide local Supervisors of Elections with support and recommendations to combat cyber-security threats.
- A placeholder total of \$1 million for the Supervisors of Elections to continue cybersecurity initiatives and improvements to their systems; this amount will be adjusted once the current Joint Election Security Evaluation assessment is completed.
- \$1.4 million for voter list maintenance services and voter outreach through the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC).
- \$1.5 million is included 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 in the 10th week and in the 6th week preceding the week of the general election.
- \$100,000 for an Election Activities Small County Grant program, to support election-related actions undertaken in budget constrained communities within Florida's Rural Areas of Opportunity.

Q: Does the Governor's budget include funding for international and cultural engagement?

- The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget recommends \$124,000 and one position to re-establish an Office of International Affairs (OIA) in the Department of State. Florida's Secretary of State will serve as the State Protocol Officer and the State of Florida's intermediary in diplomatic and cultural exchanges with the international community. The OIA and its resources will support the Secretary of State's important interactions with our global friends and partners.
- The budget also recommends \$300,000 to support the Southeast U.S./Japan Association (SEUS) and the Florida/Korea Economic Cooperation Committee (FLOR/KOR). Both of these groups promote trade and friendship between Florida and the countries they represent, and have successfully worked with our state economic development partners. Florida will be hosting the 2021 SEUS conference, and recommended funds will be used to help prepare, plan, and host this event.



Public Safety

Q. What is the recommended budget for public safety?

- The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget recommends \$5.6 billion for public safety, which is an increase of \$142 million, or approximately 2.5 percent over current year funding.

Department of Corrections

Q: Does the Governor's budget cut funding for the Department of Corrections?

- No. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget recommends an additional \$142.4 million to improve officer retention, increase inmate programming, make correctional facilities safer, enhance inmate mental health services, and make technology upgrades.

Q: Does the Governor's budget address high officer turnover and retention issues?

- Yes. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes \$89.7 million to address staffing issues. This includes funding to implement a retention step plan for Correctional Officers, Correctional Probation Officers, and Inspectors that will provide a pay increase of \$1,500 at two years of service, and \$2,500 at five years of service. This also includes funds and FTE to implement a pilot project to convert institutions from a 12-hour shift to an 8.5-hour shift.

Q: Does the Governor's budget include funds for education or reentry programming?

- Yes. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes \$9.4 million and 34 FTE for reentry programming, which includes funding to reestablish wellness programs, increase teacher FTE, and expand career and technical education programs.

Q: Does the Governor's recommended budget provide any funding for maintenance and repair?

- Yes. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes \$10.5 million to fund various maintenance and repair projects at correctional facilities, and \$5 million to fund such projects at juvenile facilities.

Q: Does the Governor's budget address the recent reports of alleged misconduct by correctional officers?

- Yes. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes \$1.5 million and 20 Inspector FTE, which will help the Department's Office of the Inspector General investigate and more quickly resolve cases.



Q: Does the Governor’s budget address the growing contraband issue in state prisons?

- Yes. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes \$3 million for a variety of security equipment (e.g., metal detectors, cell phone detectors, drone detection systems, etc.). The budget also includes \$2.2 million and 34 Correctional Officer FTE who will be dedicated to collecting security threat group (i.e., gang) intelligence.

Q: Does the Governor’s Budget include Hepatitis C treatment?

- No. Current recurring funding is sufficient for FDC to treat the majority of inmates with Hepatitis C (i.e., those with a fibrosis score of F2 or higher). The Department has been court ordered to also treat inmates with a F0 or F1 fibrosis score, but this order is currently pending appeal. If the appellate court does not rule in the Department’s favor or fails to rule within a timely manner, FDC seek additional funds to comply with the court order.

Q: Does the Governor’s recommendation include any funding for inmate mental health services?

- Yes. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes \$11.9 million to build a new 600-bed mental health hospital at Lake CI. It also includes \$5.9 million to expand treatment space and purchase therapeutic furniture. These investments will ensure inmates with mental health issues receive adequate, prompt, and effective treatment.

Department of Juvenile Justice

Q: Does the Governor’s budget cut funding for the Department of Juvenile Justice?

- No. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget recommends an additional \$17.1 million to improve officer retention, enhance residential services, improve medical oversight in residential facilities, and expand prevention programming.

Q: Does the Governor’s recommended budget provide any funding to improve staffing in DJJ facilities?

- Yes. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes \$6.2 million to include DJJ’s Juvenile Detention Officers (JDOs) in the Special Risk Class of the Florida Retirement System, which will help reduce turnover and increase the experience level of staff.

Q: Does the Governor’s recommended budget provide any funding for maintenance and repair?

- Yes. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes \$5 million to fund various maintenance and repair projects at juvenile facilities.



Q: Does the Governor's recommended budget fund juvenile prevention programs?

- Yes. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes an additional \$1.1 million in DJJ prevention funding, which will allow DJJ to expand evidence-based prevention programs.

Q: Does the Governor's recommended budget provide funding for DJJ's residential programs?

- Yes. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes \$4.2 million to improve staffing and evidenced-based services in all of its residential facilities.

Q: Does the Governor's recommended budget provide funding that will improve oversight of DJJ facilities?

- Yes. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes \$608,000 and 6 positions that will allow DJJ's Office of Health Services (OHS) to conduct on-site clinical assessments of the medical services that are provided in DJJ's 55 residential programs.

Department of Law Enforcement

Q: Does the Governor's budget cut funding for the Department of Law Enforcement?

- No. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget recommends an additional \$37.5 million to better equip and staff state crime labs, transition to incident-based crime reporting, establish a genetic genealogy program, and implement the country's first Statewide Behavioral Threat Assessment Management Strategy.

Q. Does the Governor's recommended budget provide a pay increase to state sworn law enforcement?

- No. Law enforcement officers received pay increases four of the last seven fiscal years.

Q. Does the Governor's recommended budget include funding for the state crime labs?

- Yes. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes more than \$3.8 million to better equip and staff state crime laboratories throughout the state. These funds will also allow the Department to distinguish between legal hemp products and illegal marijuana.

Q. Does the Governor's recommended budget include funding for threat assessment resources?



- Yes. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes \$8.3 million and 20 positions to implement the country's first Statewide Behavioral Threat Assessment Management (BTAM) strategy. 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. These funds will also improve FDLE's ability to identify and analyze data, which will strengthen Florida's BTAM strategy and allow the agency to proactively address modern threats.

Q. Does the Governor's recommended budget include funding that will allow the state to transition to incident-based crime reporting?

- Yes. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget provides FDLE \$9 million and 2 positions for year three of the Florida Incident Based Reporting System (FIBRS) project. This project will allow Florida's law enforcement agencies to transition from summary-based crime reporting to incident-based reporting, which will ensure that Florida can continue to participate in national crime reporting statistics.

Department of Legal Affairs

Q. Does the Governor's recommended budget include funding to address cyber fraud?

- Yes. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget provides the Department of Legal Affairs \$1.7 million and 16 positions 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.

Florida Commission on Offender Review

Q: Does the Governor's recommended budget include any funding to address the passage of Amendment 4?

- No. The Florida Commission on Offender Review did not request any additional funding associated with the passage of Amendment 4 for Fiscal Year 2020-21.

Q. Does the Governor's recommended budget include any funding associated with clemency?

- Yes. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes almost \$400,000 to replace FCOR's antiquated clemency database.

Justice Administrative Commission



Q: Does the Governor’s recommended budget include additional funding for the Guardian ad Litem?

- Yes. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget provides \$2 million to help ensure that every dependent child is represented by a Guardian ad Litem (GAL). These funds will allow the GAL to hire an additional 35 Child Advocate Managers who will work in areas of the state that are seeing the greatest growth in foster care placements.

Q: Do the budget recommendations address the needs of the state attorneys or public defenders?

- Overall, the Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget recommendation for the state attorneys and public defenders is largely consistent with current-year funding levels.

State Courts System

Q: Does the Governor’s recommended budget cut funding for the State Courts System?

- No. The Governor’s budget includes funding to support Florida’s problem-solving courts and to assist the Office of the State Courts Administrator with problem solving court data reporting requirements. The budget also includes funding to purchase virtual remote court interpreting equipment.

Q: Does the Governor’s recommended budget include any funding for new judges?

- No. At the time of the budget development, the Supreme Court’s Certification of Additional Judgeships had not been released.

Q: Does the Governor’s recommended budget include funding for problem-solving courts?

- Yes. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget provides more than \$11.4 million to continue the operation of problem-solving courts, such as drug, mental health, and veterans courts. The budget also includes funding to assist the Office of the State Courts Administrator with problem solving court data reporting requirements.

Q: Is there any funding for building a new second District Court of Appeals?

- At the time of the budget development, it was determined that the initial planning stages, including site selection, were not far enough along to warrant inclusion in the Governor’s Budget Recommendation.



General Government

Financial Services

Q: Does the Governor provide funds for the FLAIR Replacement?

Yes. The Governor's Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget recommends more than \$26.9 million in funding for the PALM (Planning Accounting and Ledger Management System) project to replace the antiquated FLAIR system. The PALM project will institute an updated, modernized, advanced statewide accounting system.

Q: When is PALM going to go into effect?

PALM is scheduled to launch a Pilot involving DFS beginning July 1, 2021 and take 20 months to complete. After the Pilot goes live, PALM will have four more phases to implement and all agencies are scheduled go live by Fiscal Year 2025-26. The final phases of PALM are scheduled to be complete and production support finished in Fiscal Year 2026-27.

Military Affairs

Q: What does the Governor's Budget include for National Guard community-based programs that serve Florida's youth?

The Governor's Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes \$5.8 million in funding for the Florida Youth Challenge program. Florida Youth Challenge offers services to high school aged youths to ensure they have technical and job readiness skills as well as mentoring to ensure they get their GED or graduate high school and move on to secondary education or the military. The community-based program helps Florida's youths succeed.

Business and Professional Regulation

Q: Does the Governor's Budget include funding to implement the new Human Trafficking Awareness Program?

Yes, the Governor's Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes over \$235,000 and three additional full-time positions to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to implement and facilitate the human trafficking awareness training program. Promoting awareness and prevention of human trafficking in Florida's public lodging establishments strives to further increase public safety.

Management Services

Q. Does the Governor's Budget provide funding for maintenance and repair for Private Prisons?



Yes, the budget includes \$1.5 million for maintenance and repair for two Private Prison Facilities. Of this amount, \$1 million will be for roof repair at the Lake City Correctional Facility. The remaining \$500,000 is recommended to comprehensively address end of life facility systems within the Gadsden Correctional Facility.

Q: Does the Governor’s Budget include funding for repairs and maintenance of state facilities?

Yes, the budget includes \$10.2 million to maintain and improve the Florida Facilities Pool, ensuring the state provides safe and efficient working environments for state employees and visitors to state owned buildings. This includes improvements in life safety issues, addresses American’s with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance and modernizes equipment.