



Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions Relating to the Bold Vision for a Brighter Future Budget

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

- Florida will have \$33.7 billion of General Revenue available next year – including \$1 billion in new General Revenue.
- The Governor’s proposed budget is \$91.3 billion, which is 2.2 percent higher than the current \$89.3 billion budget. The proposed General Revenue budget is \$33.8 billion, which is 2.8 percent higher than the current General Revenue budget of \$32.8 billion.

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

- There are savings totaling \$98.2 million in the recommended budget, of which \$16.5 million represents a savings from General Revenue. Major savings include:
 - Administrative and operational efficiencies of \$16.5 million
 - Savings resulting from contract and lease renegotiations are \$3.3 million
 - Debt service savings of \$55 million are a result of refinancing efforts
 - Reduced excess budget authority in the amount of \$22.9 million

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

- The budget includes a net increase of 792.5 positions from the current year. This represents an increase of 886.5 positions and is off-set by a reduction of 94 positions.
- The major increases are:
 - 573 at the Department of Corrections for mental health services per pending litigation; and
 - 145 at the Department of Veteran’s Affairs to staff new nursing homes.

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

- The majority of the 94 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 94 positions being eliminated, 89 percent are currently vacant and many more are anticipated to become vacant by July 1, 2020.

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

- The proposed budget sweeps \$29.5 million from surplus funds in trust funds as follows:



- \$3 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
- \$3 million from the Regulatory Trust Fund in the Department of Financial Services
- \$2 million from the Public Employees Relations Commission in the Department of Management Services
- \$5 million from the Florida Condo/Timeshare/Mobile Home Trust Fund in the Department of Business and Professional Regulation
- \$5.7 million from the Hotel and Restaurant Trust Fund in the Department of Business and Professional Regulation
- \$8.8 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?

- There is a total of \$5.2 billion set aside for reserves:
 - \$1.4 billion General Revenue;
 - \$1.6 billion Budget Stabilization Fund;
 - \$754 million Lawton Chiles Endowment Fund; and
 - \$1.5 billion in other trust funds.

Q: After 11 years of actuarial surpluses, the FRS Pension Plan now has been underfunded for 10 consecutive years. As of June 30, 2018, the plan's liabilities exceeded its assets by \$29.9 billion, translating into a funded ratio of 83.9 percent. How does your proposed budget address this deficit?

- For the past six fiscal years, Florida has fully funded both the normal cost and the unfunded actuarial liability.
- The Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget implements the 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 cut taxes by more than \$335 million. The tax cut package includes:
 - Sales Tax Holidays to Save Families \$45.3 million. These sales tax holidays include:
 - \$39.5 million for a 3-day back-to-school sales tax holiday on clothing up to \$60, school supplies up to \$15, and the first \$1,000 on computers; and
 - \$5.8 million for a 1-week disaster preparedness sales tax holidays on items needed during disasters including generators up to \$750.
 - \$289.7 million for a property tax millage rate reduction of 0.157 in the required local effort in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP).

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

- The budget provides authorization for debt exclusively 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. Actual debt, if any, will be minimized based on balances available at the time of project implementation.

Environment

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

- 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, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 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?

- The budget includes more than \$625 million 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:
 - \$360 million for Everglades Restoration;
 - \$150 million for targeted water quality improvements;
 - \$40 million for an Alternative Water Supply grant program;
 - \$50 million for Springs projects; and



- More than \$25 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?

- The budget includes \$150 million in General Revenue for targeted water quality improvements. This funding includes:
 - \$100 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); and
- \$50 million for project to restore Florida’s world-renowned springs.

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

- The budget provides \$360 million for Everglades Restoration. This funding includes:
 - Nearly \$178 million for Everglades Restoration, including the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, C-43 Reservoir and Restoration Strategies;
 - \$107 million for the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir project (\$43 million above the annual \$64 million);
 - Nearly \$35 million for dispersed water management and public private partnerships to provide additional water storage; and
 - \$40 million through the Department of Transportation’s work program to accelerate and complete the final phase of the Tamiami Trail road raising project.

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

- The budget includes more than \$25 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.
 - \$4.2 million 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 \$150 million for targeted water quality improvements and \$360 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 west of Lake Okeechobee once completed. These projects will help reduce nutrient loading and provide critical water storage.

Q: What does the budget do to strengthen enforcement of environmental laws?

- The budget transfers 19 investigators and \$1.9 million from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission back to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. These investigators will be stationed across the state to ensure strong enforcement of Florida's environmental laws.

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?

- The budget contains over \$224 million for land acquisition and statewide land management activities, including:
 - \$100 million for Florida Forever through DEP's Division of State Lands;
 - \$10 million for Water Management District Land Management; and
 - \$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 land 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 new 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; and
 - \$2.5 million for removal of waste tires currently posing a threat to coral reefs.

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

- 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;
 - Nearly \$35 million for dispersed water management, which will provide more than 56 billion gallons of water storage when projects are operational; and
 - \$107 million for the EAA Reservoir (\$64 million required by SB 10), which will provide a minimum of 78 billion gallons of water storage when complete.

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

- 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?

- The budget contains more than \$166 million to operate and improve the award-winning Florida State Park system. This includes:
 - \$50 million for State Park Facility Improvements;
 - \$4 million for ADA accessibility improvements; and
 - \$625,000 for Partnership in Parks.

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

- The budget includes the following for waste management:
 - \$110 million for Underground Petroleum Storage Tank Cleanup;
 - \$8.5 million for Dry Cleaning/Site Cleanup;
 - \$5.5 million for Hazardous Waste/Site Cleanup;
 - \$3 million for Solid Waste Management Grants; and
 - \$600,000 for Cleanup of State Owned contaminated sites.

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

- 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?

- The budget recommends \$10 million for year one of the 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?

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

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

- The Governor recommends \$20 million for citrus, including:
 - \$8 million for Citrus Research;
 - \$7.5 million for the Citrus Health Response Program (CHRP); and
 - \$4 million to support consumer awareness efforts.

Q: What is in the budget for wildfire prevention?

- The budget provides \$7.4 million for wildfire prevention efforts.
 - \$3 million is for replacement of wildfire equipment
 - \$4.4 million for road and bridge maintenance to allow for better access for land management and wildfire suppression activities

Q: How does the Governor's Budget use Land Acquisition Trust Fund dollars?

- The budget provides more than \$950 million 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.

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, an increase of \$135.3 million over Fiscal Year 2018-19.

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

- The Governor's recommended budget includes an additional \$7 million for a total of more than \$405.4 million for Florida's VPK program. This investment funds the projected enrollment growth of 3,260 and maintains the base student allocation for the school year and for the summer program at \$2,437 per student and



\$2,080 per student, respectively. VPK will prepare approximately 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.

Q: How will the Governor's budget utilize the additional federal funding provided for the School Readiness program?

- Governor DeSantis recommends an increase of \$130 million in federal funding that will be utilized to serve additional children in the School Readiness program, meet additional federal requirements for the School Readiness Program, and reward School Readiness providers who participate in program assessment and implement quality improvement strategies.

K-12 Public Education

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

- The Governor is recommending \$21.7 billion in total funding for the Florida Educational Finance Program (FEFP). This recommendation results in a per student funding amount of \$7,653, an increase of \$224.

Q: Why did local funds increase in the FEFP?

- The local millage tax rate will decrease to 3.918 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 \$289 million resulting from the statewide millage rate assessed in Fiscal Year 2018-19 being reduced by 0.157.



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

- Yes, the Governor's recommended budget includes \$211.9 million, an increase of \$50 million over Fiscal Year 2018-19, for the safe schools component of the FEFP.

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

- Yes, the Governor's recommended budget maintains Fiscal Year 2018-19 funding of \$140 million 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 \$18.8 million in funding to address the current wait list of 1,800 students. This increase provides a total of \$147.1 million in funding for the Gardiner Scholarship Program.

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

- Yes, the Governor's recommendation includes:
 - \$423 million for a new initiative to recruit and retain great teachers and principals.

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

- Governor DeSantis recommends \$2.5 million in recurring funding to provide additional security to ensure children at Florida Jewish Day Schools can learn in a safe environment. This funding will be available to all 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 2018-19 for the Guardian Program not utilized by sheriffs' offices to establish a school guardian program. The Governor proposes language to utilize the unexpended funds to provide incentives for school districts to participate in the program and to implement additional best practices for school safety for all participants of the 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.



- Restores \$6 million, for a total of \$6.5 million, to continue the Youth Mental Health Awareness and Assistance Training.
- Provides \$1 million to implement any updates or enhancements recommended from the third-party evaluation of the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool. The tool is used to assist school officials with identifying threats, vulnerabilities and appropriate safety controls.
- Provides \$3 million 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.
- Restores \$98.9 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 proposes \$10 million in funding to establish a program to cover the cost of training for teachers to earn educator certificates or industry certifications in computer science. Program would also provide bonuses to teachers who earned an educator certificate or industry certification who are teaching computer science courses.

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 more than \$1.2 billion for Florida colleges, and more than \$2.6 billion for Florida universities.

Q: Does the Securing Florida’s Future 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:
 - An increase of \$2 million, for 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;
 - An increase of \$4 million, for 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 \$30 million in state investment and an equivalent increase in institutional investment, for a total of \$120 million, in funding for the Florida College System. Performance will be based on metrics that include: completion rates, retention rates, wages, job placement and continuing education for recent graduates; and
 - An increase of \$30 million in state investment and an equivalent increase in institutional investment, for a total of \$620 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:
 - Pathways to a Career Opportunity Grants – \$10 million in funding for school districts and Florida College institutions to develop high quality workforce, on the job, apprenticeship and other industry specific learning opportunities for students. Programs will promote partnerships between high schools, postsecondary institutions, and local businesses to align Florida's graduates to business needs.
 - Work Florida Initiative – \$26 million in funding to support statewide efforts to align students in Florida to workforce programs at Florida College System institutions that lead to jobs. 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.

Q: Does the Governor budget propose any new higher education initiatives?

- Yes, the Governor establishes the Last Mile College Completion Program by providing \$1.5 million to fund an incentive program to assist up to 1,000 students who have dropped out of their associate's or bachelor's degree program to be able to return to school and graduate. The program will allow colleges to identify students who need ten percent or less credits to complete their degree and offer the students tuition waivers to continue working towards earning their degree.

Student Financial Aid

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

- The Governor's budget recommends \$139.3 million for the Effective Access to Student Education (EASE) Grants and more than \$6.3 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 November 30, 2018 estimating conference, which projects a decrease of 2 students for the program when compared to the funded student count of 1,811.

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: \$233.7 million
 - Florida Student Assistance Grant – Private: More than \$24 million
 - Florida Student Assistance Grant – Postsecondary: \$8 million
 - Florida Student Assistance Grant - Career Education: More than \$3 million
 - Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans: More than \$7.2 million
 - Florida Work Experience: Nearly \$1.6 million
 - Rosewood Family Scholarships: \$256,747
 - Honorably Discharged Graduate Assistance Program: \$1 million
 - Florida Farmworker Scholarship Program: \$317,355



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

- The Governor’s budget recommends investing more than \$63 million, for a total of \$582.8 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 December 4, 2018 Public Education Capital Outlay Estimating Conference identified the cash amount available for appropriation from the PECO Trust Fund for Fiscal Year 2019-20 to be \$272.5 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 \$510.4 million from General Revenue, other trust funds, and PECO funds:
 - **School Safety Grants**
 - More than \$98.9 million for school safety grants provided to school districts to assist with costs associated with improving the physical security of K-12 school buildings.
 - **Maintenance**
 - \$50 million for traditional public school maintenance;
 - \$155.5 million for public charter school maintenance;
 - \$6.6 million for lab school maintenance;
 - \$2.8 million for Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind maintenance;
 - \$2.9 million for public broadcasting stations to correct health and safety issues, correct building deficiencies and project renovations;
 - \$35.7 million for Florida College System maintenance; and
 - \$48.4 million for State University System maintenance.
 - **Construction**
 - More than \$45.5 million for Special Facility Construction projects. This funding is for critical infrastructure needs in Bradford, Gilchrist, Jackson and Liberty counties;
 - More than \$19.9 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. 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 more than \$45.5 million in funding for four small school districts for critical construction needs through the Special Facilities Program (Bradford, Gilchrist, Jackson and Liberty 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 more than \$6.6 million for maintenance for all lab schools.

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 Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget includes \$1.9 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 Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget also includes an additional \$92 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 did State agencies spend for preparedness and recovery for Hurricanes Irma and Michael?

- Hurricane Irma preparedness and recovery totaled \$636.6 million. Hurricane Michael preparedness and recovery so far totals \$1.1 billion. The combined total for both storms is \$1.7 billion.

Q: How much will the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimburse to cover the costs of Hurricanes Irma and Michael?



- The amount of reimbursements expected to be covered by FEMA varies for each storm. Hurricane Irma is reimbursed at 100 percent for 30 days for debris removal and protective measures. All other categories are reimbursed at 75 percent, but are expected to become reimbursable at 90 percent once we hit the \$2.6 billion threshold. Right now our estimate to be reimbursed to the state is \$561.7 million.
- President Trump recently committed to reimburse at 100 percent for 45 days for debris removal and protective measures. Like Hurricane Irma, all other categories are reimbursed at 75 percent, but are expected to become reimbursable at 90 percent once we hit the \$2.6 billion threshold. Right now our estimate to be reimbursed to the state is \$942.6 million.

Q: Does the Governor’s budget include housing assistance for communities recovering from all the hurricanes that have struck Florida in recent years?

- The current year budget includes \$36 million, and the Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget includes \$765.5 million in federal Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Funds to be directed toward hurricane recovery efforts throughout the state.

Q: What types of programs will be implemented with the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Funds?

- Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Funds will be used to implement the following programs:
 - **Housing Repair** – \$273.3 million. Rehabilitation or replacement program for low- and moderate-income families impacted by Hurricane Irma.
 - **Workforce Affordable Rental New Construction Program: Leveraged Financing** – \$44.0 million. Partnership between the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) to manage the construction of new affordable rental housing in areas impacted by Hurricane Irma. Funds would be leveraged with Low Income Housing Tax Credits, local or state Tax-Exempt Bond Financing in limited high-cost areas or other local financing to produce new affordable housing rental units.
 - **Workforce Affordable Rental New Construction Program: Small Rental Developments** – \$20 million. Stand-alone or the primary source of funds to finance development in rural areas impacted by the storm where leveraging of funds is not feasible. Funds will be provided as zero-interest, forgivable loans. This program is designated for rural and small communities and may be used to finance up to 100 percent of the cost of new construction or rehabilitation for small properties with less than 50 units.
 - **Land Acquisition for Affordable Workforce Housing** – \$20 million. Funding to purchase land for the development of affordable housing.



DEO, in partnership with FHFC, will manage a program that will provide funding for the purchase of land with a priority for formal public/private commitments to develop affordable housing.

- **Voluntary Home Buyout Program** – \$75 million. To encourage risk reduction through the acquisition of residential property in high flood risk areas. DEO will hire a contracted team to work with counties who are interested in pursuing the buyout projects to support and provide appraisals, title and legal services, environmental review, and related buyout processes.
- **Recovery Workforce Training** – \$20 million. DEO, through its Division of Workforce Services, will utilize existing programs to implement a hurricane recovery workforce training program throughout the state of Florida.
- **Business Recovery Grant** – \$60 million. DEO will create a grant program for eligible business owners who are seeking reimbursement for the cost of replacing equipment and inventory damaged by Hurricane Irma.
- **Business Assistance to New Floridians from Puerto Rico** – \$6 million. DEO will implement a public assistance program for new businesses and entrepreneurs who have migrated from Puerto Rico. This program can include business plan guidance, information about specific regional market, accounting and legal assistance, licensing and permitting guidance, along with seminars and other forms of assistance.
- **Unmet Needs** – \$185.6 million. For additional Workforce Affordable Rental Housing and other recovery needs, based on pending approval from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Q: Are there additional state resources available in the state budget to help with Hurricane response and recovery?

- The following items are either in the current state budget, or in the Governor's budget recommendation:
 - Beach Recovery Funding – \$11.2 million is in the current budget.
 - Marine Debris Removal – \$4.5 million is in the Governor's budget recommendation.
 - Marine Fisheries Disaster Recovery – \$44.4 million in the Governor's budget recommendation.
 - Hurricane Education Recovery funding to address educational needs stemming from Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. This included three (3) grants for a total award amount of \$184 million. The grants are:
 - Temporary Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students – \$95.8 million
 - Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations – \$84.5 million
 - Assistance for Homeless Children and Youth – \$3.7 million



- \$140 million of this funding is included in the current year budget and another \$44 million in the Governor's budget recommendation.
- Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) provided food assistance benefits to families in the amount of \$1 billion for Hurricane Irma and almost \$20 million for Hurricane Michael.
 - The Other Needs Assistance portion of the Individuals and Households Program provides assistance to individuals and households affected by a disaster to enable them to address necessary expenses and serious needs, which cannot be met through other forms of disaster assistance or insurance. Forms of other needs assistance include personal property, medical, dental and funeral expenses. The state is responsible for a 25 percent match to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) 75 percent. The state's portion of other needs assistance projection for Hurricane Irma is \$76.4 million and so far \$6.1 million for Hurricane Michael.
 - FEMA may provide Transitional Shelter Assistance (TSA) to applicants who are unable to return to their pre-disaster primary residence because their home is either uninhabitable or inaccessible. The state is responsible for a 25 percent match to FEMA's 75 percent. The state's portion of other needs assistance projection for Hurricane Irma is \$27.3 million and so far \$20 million for Hurricane Michael.
 - The Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program is provided to Florida small businesses as a source of expedient cash flow to help those businesses impacted by a disaster. To date, \$26 million was made available to those impacted by Hurricane Irma. Of that amount \$21.2 million has been repaid. Another \$12.5 million was made available to Citrus Growers due to the impacts of Hurricane Irma. Also to date, \$23 million was made available to those impacted by Hurricane Michael and loans are being made.

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

- The Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget includes \$338.4 million to fully fund affordable and workforce housing. This recommendation includes more than \$95.4 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. Further, from the total amount recommended for SAIL, \$20 million is recommended for workforce housing projects in the Florida Keys.
- The Bold Vision for a Brighter Future recommended budget also includes \$242.9 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.



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

- The Bold Vision for a Brighter Future recommended budget includes \$85 million for the 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

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

- The Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget recommends \$76 million for VISIT Florida, the same amount as in the current fiscal year. 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 2019-20?

- The Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget includes \$10.7 billion for the Department of Transportation. Of this amount, \$9.92 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 123,200 jobs. Every dollar invested in transportation is estimated to result in a return of up to 4.4 for every \$1 dollar 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 Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget provides \$9.92 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:
 - \$3.2 billion to expand transportation system capacity which includes 102 new lane miles;
 - \$2.7 billion for highway construction;
 - \$160.8 million in seaport infrastructure improvements;
 - \$277.4 million for aviation improvements;
 - \$1.1 billion for scheduled repairs of 85 bridges and replacement of 22 bridges;
 - \$1.1 billion for maintenance and operation of existing facilities;
 - \$667.9 million for transit program improvements; and
 - \$229 million for safety initiatives.



Q: What is the Governor proposing to enhance cyber security at the Department of State's Division of Elections?

- The Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget recommends \$12.2 million for state-level election oversight activities, with a focus on cybersecurity enhancements to Florida's election system. \$1.3 million will be used for five cyber security specialists and one project manager who will provide Supervisors of Elections with support and recommendations to combat cyber-security threats. A total of \$3 million will be available to Supervisors of Elections to continue cybersecurity initiatives and improvements to their systems.

Q: What is the Governor proposing to secure Florida's corporate and business filing information?

- The Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget recommends \$12 million for replacement of the current commercial registry system with a new cloud-based information technology system. The new system will ensure the ongoing security of Florida's business filings and will have the capacity to accommodate an ever-increasing amount of filings as the number of companies and businesses with a presence in Florida continues to grow.

Health and Human Services

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

- The Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget includes \$1.2 million to implement electronic visit verification to assist in preventing fraudulent billing.

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

- The Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget provides \$40.4 million to add approximately 1600 individuals from the waiting list who are in crisis onto the Agency for Persons with Disabilities waiver program.

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

- The Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget provides \$84.6 million in total funding to fight the opioid crisis in Florida.
 - Provides for \$1.3 million in new funding to the Department of Health for increase epidemiology and surveillance to prevent and reduce opioid related morbidity.
 - Provides \$49 million in new 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.



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

- Yes, the Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget provides an additional \$25.7 million increase in funding.
 - Provides \$3 million in expanding civil bed capacity.
 - Provides \$4.2 million new funding for an additional 48 forensic community transition beds.
 - Provides \$6.7 million to expand CAT Team capacity for children ages 11-21 with mental health and/or substance abuse diagnosis.
 - Provides \$4.2 million to expand FIT Team capacity for parents who have a child ages 0-10 who has been determined unsafe.
 - Provides \$7.5 million in federal funding for services to individuals with behavioral health needs.

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

- The Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget provides \$73.6 million to provide funding for services to children and families who depend on Florida’s child welfare system.
 - The budget includes \$42.9 million for safety management services, training to ensure staff are adequately prepared to provide child protective investigations, foster care parents who serve as caregivers for children who have been removed from their home and early intervention efforts for substance affected infants.
 - The budget invests \$30.7 million for maintenance adoption subsidies and post adoption services for children who are adopted from foster care.

Q: Does the Governor’s budget including funding for Human Trafficking victims?

- Yes, the Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget invests \$7.8 million in total funding to provide services and placements for commercially sexually exploited youth.

Q: Does the Governor’s budget include funding for Supported Employment for Floridians with Persons with Disabilities and behavioral health needs?

- The Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget includes \$1 million to serve approximately 500 individuals with developmental disabilities.
- The Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget includes \$1.5 million to serve approximately 550 individuals with behavioral health needs.
- This funding is an important step towards independent living for these individuals.

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

- Yes, the Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget invests \$3 million to reduce the Alzheimer’s Disease Initiative Waitlist by more than 250 individuals.



- The 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 budget provides \$1 million to reduce the Home Care for the Elderly Program Waitlist by more than 240 individuals.
- These programs provide support of daily living activities, 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 Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget provides \$2.5 million in new funding to support the Office of Public and Professional Guardianship Program. This funding will help ensure the legal rights of older Floridians are protected and prevent their abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Q: Does the Governor’s budget include funding for State Veterans’ Nursing Home?

- The Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget provides \$7 million for staffing and start-up operations at the Ardie R. Copas State Veterans’ Nursing Home in St. Lucie County.
- The budget also recommends \$3.4 million for operation cost of the Lake Baldwin State Veterans’ Nursing Home in Orange County.
- Additionally the budget recommends \$6.5 million for capital improvements, equipment updates and increase staffing needs for Florida’s existing state veteran nursing homes.

Q: Does the Governor’s budget recommend funding to assist Veterans’ in obtaining jobs?

- Yes, the Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget provides \$1.9 million to assist veterans in mentoring, training and networking throughout the state of Florida.

Public Safety

Q: What is the recommended budget for public safety?

- The Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget recommends \$5.5 billion for public safety, which is an increase of nearly \$167.8 million, or nearly 3 percent over current year funding.

Q: Does the Governor’s recommended budget provide any funding to address gun violence?

- Yes, the Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget provides FDLE over \$700,000 and 11 positions to increase the staffing of the Firearm Purchase Program (FPP) and the Eligibility Research Unit (ERU). These funds and positions will ensure



that FDLE can more quickly determine whether a person trying to buy a firearm is eligible to do so.

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

- Yes, the Governor's budget provides FDLE \$16.6 million to upgrade a variety of crime databases, including \$11.8 million and 18 positions for year two of the project (FIBRS/NIBRS) to transition to incident-based reporting.

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

- Yes, the Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget recommends an additional \$164 million, which includes funding to improve FDC's mental health and medical services, provide required services to inmates with disabilities, and improve and repair correctional facilities.

Q: Does the Governor's recommended budget include any funding for mental health services for inmates?

- Yes, the Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget includes over \$60 million and 573 positions per pending litigation to enhance mental health services to inmates. The funds will be used to better staff mental health facilities with medical and security staff and make facilities more conducive to mental health treatment. This investment will ensure inmates with mental health issues receive adequate, prompt, and effective treatment.

Q: Does the Governor's recommended budget provide any funding for inmates with disabilities?

- Yes, the Governor's budget recommends \$1.7 million and 12 positions to appropriately serve inmates with disabilities. These funds will allow FDC to renovate facilities to make them more ADA compliant, install lighting notification systems and message boards for hearing-impaired inmates, and hire sign language interpreters and regional ADA Coordinators.

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

- Yes, the Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget includes \$3 million for these services, which restores funding that was cut last year.

Q: Does the Governor's recommended budget address the rising cost of health care for inmates?

- Yes, the Governor's budget includes \$137.5 million to account for a general growth in health care costs, increased costs in treating inmates with mental



illness, rising pharmaceutical costs, and increased costs associated with treating inmates with Hepatitis C.

- The Governor has directed the secretary of the Department of Corrections to renegotiate existing agreements and to explore all options to reduce inmate healthcare costs.

Q: Why are inmate health care costs rising?

- FDC is responsible for the care and custody of over 95,000 inmates. This includes providing health care to inmates, many of which have serious medical issues. The increase in health care costs is largely due to an aging inmate population, an increased number of inmates with mental health issues, rising pharmaceutical costs, and new medical standards of care that require specific treatments for certain illnesses.

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

- Yes, the Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget includes over \$8 million to fund various maintenance and repair projects at correctional facilities, and \$6.5 million to fund such projects at juvenile facilities.

Q: Does the Governor’s recommended budget include funding for juvenile prevention programs?

- Yes, the Governor’s budget includes a total of \$12.4 million in DJJ prevention funding, which will allow DJJ to continue and expand evidence-based prevention programs.

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

- Yes, the Governor’s recommended budget includes \$4.3 million to enhance services at residential programs throughout the state. The budget also provides \$7.5 million for 84 additional residential beds (56 beds in non-secure residential facilities and 28 intensive mental health beds in non-secure residential facilities). These beds will assist in reducing the waitlist for these programs.

Q: Does the Governor’s recommended budget include any funding that will ensure youth who are in the community awaiting adjudication are better supervised?

- Yes, the Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget includes over \$3.2 million to hire Supervised Release Monitors that will supervise youth awaiting adjudication in the community. These monitors will have more frequent contacts with youth and will provide immediate follow-up and response to electronic monitoring alerts.



Q: Does the Governor’s recommended budget provide funds to provide better oversight of DJJ’s detention centers and residential programs?

- Yes, the Governor’s budget includes \$1.1 million and 10 contract monitor positions to perform monitoring and quality improvement reviews of DJJ’s programs statewide. This also includes funding to evaluate and oversee educational programs in DJJ facilities.

Q: Does the Governor’s recommended budget include any funding for crime victims?

- Yes, the Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget includes funding that will improve services for victims of crime. This includes providing the Department of Legal Affairs \$500,000 and 7 positions to better respond to victims and resolve their compensation claims more efficiently. It also includes more than \$250,000 and 4 positions to ensure victim services grants are properly administered.

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

- Yes, the Governor’s budget includes \$315,000 to upgrade and expand Florida’s Problem-Solving Court database, which will result in better services to those participating in drug, mental health, and veterans’ courts. The budget also provides approximately \$200,000 to continue the development and expansion of the “Do It Yourself Florida” project, which assists pro se litigants in drafting and filing court documents.

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

- No, it appears that the Florida Supreme Court’s Certification of Additional Judgeships anticipated legislative changes to county and circuit court jurisdictional limits. Until those changes occur, a recommendation for additional judgeships is premature.

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

- Yes, the Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget provides more than \$8.9 million to continue the operation of problem-solving courts, such as drug, mental health, and veterans’ courts. The budget also includes \$315,000 to upgrade and expand Florida’s Problem-Solving Court database.

Q: Does the Governor’s recommended budget include additional funding for the State Attorneys and Public Defenders?

- Yes, one of the highest priorities of the Florida Public Defender Association was a technical funding need to fully implement the pay raises assistant public defenders received in the current year. The Bold Vision for a Brighter Future



budget supports this request. Additionally, the Governor's budget includes proviso requiring OPPAGA to develop a weighted caseload model and conduct a workload assessment study to determine the staffing needs of the State Attorneys and Public Defenders.

General Government

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

- Yes, the Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget recommends more than \$22.7 million in funding for the PALM (Planning Accounting and Ledger Management System) project to replace the antiquated FLAIR system. The multiyear, multiphase PALM project will institute an updated, modernized, advanced statewide accounting system.

Q: What does the Governor's budget include to protect Florida Guardsmen and women from domestic threats?

- The Governor's Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget includes \$2 million to harden and secure state readiness centers. This funding would allow for Florida readiness centers to have new perimeter fencing, ballistic covers on windows, barricades to prevent an armed assault on an armory entry point, air-phones and security and detection systems to better secure our Florida Guardsmen and women from domestic attacks.

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

- The Governor's Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget includes \$12.1 million in funding for established programs such as About Face, Forward March and the Florida Youth Challenge and new programs such as Jobs Challenge which serve young people in the state of Florida. Florida Youth Challenge and Forward March offer 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. Jobs Challenge was initiated as an outgrowth of the Florida Youth Challenge and it serves sixteen-eighteen year olds through military based discipline and skills training to help youths be prepared for the job market. Then finally, the About Face Program is an after school program that serves fourteen to eighteen year olds at risk of dropping out to ensure that they stay enrolled in school and graduate. These community based programs help Florida's youths succeed.

Q: Why is the Governor proposing to merge the Agency for State Technology into the Department of Management Services?

- This merger will allow the state to streamline information technology oversight within the state and create administration efficiencies.