



Florida Leads the Nation

Statewide Overview and Taxes

Q: How does the Governor's Fiscal Year 2021-22 recommended budget compare to the current year?

- The budget is \$96.6 billion, which is 4.7 percent higher than the current \$92.3 billion budget. The General Revenue portion of the budget is \$35.8 billion, which is 3.0 percent higher than the current General Revenue budget of \$34.8 billion.
 - \$2.3 billion, which is over half of the \$4.3 billion total increase, is due to an increase in federal funding authority:
 - \$1.7 billion is to fund the increase in Medicaid enrollment. Due to COVID-19, Medicaid has experienced a 16.5 percent increase in enrollment in the current year and is expected to have over 4.5 million people enrolled in Fiscal Year 2021-22, the highest enrollment in the history of the Medicaid program.
 - For comparison, Medicaid has seen an average increase of 3.4 percent over the last 4 years.
 - Nearly \$300 million is for the Department of Emergency Management to continue response efforts to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Over \$400 million is given to Florida's school districts to effectively administer available federal grants.
 - The General Revenue increase is due almost entirely to the \$1.3 billion state's portion of the Medicaid enrollment increase.
- When you take out the increases in Medicaid enrollment due to COVID-19 and the continued emergency response funding, Governor DeSantis' Fiscal Year 2021-22 recommended budget increases by \$1.7 billion for other government services and programs, or 2 percent over Fiscal Year 2020-21.

Q: It has been reported that Florida is expecting a \$4.7 billion shortfall over the next two years, yet the Governor's Budget Recommendations leave \$2.2 billion of General Revenue reserves while only taking approximately \$876 million in General Revenue reductions over the two years. How does the short fall not require further reductions?

- The \$4.7 billion shortfall is based on the projections of the State of Florida's Long-Range Financial Outlook which was presented to the Legislature in September 2020. That Outlook is based on revenue projections made in August 2020 and expenditure estimates which reflect the needs deemed critical and high priority by the Legislature.



- In December 2020, the Revenue Estimating Conference increased its revenue projections and issued a General Revenue Outlook showing a \$2.1 billion increase in funds available over the next two years.
- The expenditures recommended by the Governor differ from those outlined in the Long-Range Financial Outlook. Together, the increased revenues, strategic reductions and \$295.5 million in trust fund sweeps allow the Governor to present a fiscally prudent budget that funds critical needs of Florida and leaves \$2.2 billion in unallocated General Revenue for unforeseen needs in the ongoing pandemic response and for hurricane season.

Q: How many reserve dollars are included in the budget?

- \$2.2 billion in unallocated General Revenue
- \$1.7 billion in the Budget Stabilization Fund
- \$1.7 billion in unallocated Trust Funds
- \$1.0 billion in Tobacco reserves
- \$6.6 billion in **Total Reserves**

Q: How many state positions are included in the budget?

- There are 113,722 state positions in the Governor's budget. This is 324 more FTE than in the Fiscal Year 2020-21 budget. For Fiscal Year 2021-22:
 - The largest increase in FTE is in the Department of Corrections to provide for a continuation of the conversion from 12 to 8.5 hour shifts.

Q: Does the Governor's budget include funds for the ongoing response to the COVID-19 emergency?

- The Governor includes over \$383 million for the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) to continue Florida's response efforts to the COVID-19 pandemic, on top of the \$1.4 billion in General Revenue spent since the start of the pandemic.
- \$88.3 million in Fiscal Years 2020-21 and 2021-22 for the Department of Economic Opportunity to continue economic recovery efforts and processing reemployment assistance claims.
- The Governor's budget also recognizes that there will likely be additional federal pandemic relief funding and authorizes state agencies to submit budget amendments to increase federal budget authority under an expedited process for Fiscal Years 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Q: How much of the \$5.9 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund has the state spent?

- Florida has fully maximized the use of the federal Coronavirus Relief Funds for pandemic response costs and services in accordance with guidance provided by the U.S. Treasury, and as of January 11, 2021, reported to the federal



government the full obligation of \$5.9 billion of eligible COVID-19 related expenditures, including \$1.275 billion distributed to local governments.



Florida Leads on Education

Early Learning

Q: What is the budget for early learning?

- The budget includes more than \$1.4 billion in funding for our state's youngest learners.

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

- The budget includes a total of more than \$405 million for Florida's VPK program. This investment maintains the base student allocation for the school year and summer programs to \$2,486 per student and \$2,122 per student, respectively. VPK will prepare more than 157,000 four and five-year olds for kindergarten.

Q: How does the budget provide for improvements in the quality of early learning programs?

- The budget maintains 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 statewide professional development to improve child care instructor quality; 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: Is there additional funding for the School Readiness Program?

- \$100 million is provided in federal funds to maintain the provider rate increases provided to early learning coalitions in Fiscal Year 2020-21.

K-12 Public Education

Q: Does the budget maintain the funding provided in FY 2020-21 for salary increases for Florida's teachers?

- The Governor's proposed budget increases the funding provided to increase teacher salaries from \$500 million to \$550 million.
 - Through the existing program established last Legislative Session after the Governor's leadership in proposing the program, this will provide an additional:



- \$40 million in funding to allow school districts to continue raising the minimum teacher salary to the goal of \$47,500 or the highest level achievable through the funding appropriated; and
- \$10 million is appropriated to raise the salaries of other eligible Florida teachers and instructional personnel.

Q: Did the Governor restore the School Recognition Program funding in the FEFP?

- The budget leaves the School Recognition Program dormant for the 2021-22 fiscal year, however, the Governor has provided \$43.5 million in funding to establish the Title I School Recognition Program that provides financial awards to Title I schools based on student performance, with a focus on promoting literacy programs.

Q: What is the budget for K-12 education in the FEFP?

- The budget invests a record \$22.8 billion in total funding for the FEFP. This results in a per-student funding amount of \$8,019, an increase of \$233 over last year.

Q: How does the Governor's budget consider the required local effort in the FEFP?

- The required local millage rate is maintained at the Fiscal Year 2020-21 statewide level of 3.720.

Q: Does the budget include an increase in the Base Student Allocation in the FEFP?

- COVID-19 has affected Florida's education system significantly, however the Governor is committed to investing in the future of our students. The budget recommends an increase of \$132 in the Base Student Allocation (BSA) over Fiscal Year 2020-21.
- During the Great Recession, the BSA in the FEFP had significant reductions. From Fiscal Year 2007-08 to Fiscal Year 2008-09, the BSA decreased by \$193. From Fiscal Year 2008-09 to Fiscal Year 2009-10, the BSA was reduced by another \$255. Over the two year period, the total reduction in the BSA was \$449.
 - During that same two year time period, from Fiscal Year 2007-08 through Fiscal Year 2009-10, state funding declined by \$1.6 billion from \$9.7 billion to \$8.1 billion.

Q: How was the full-time equivalent (FTE) student enrollment determined?

- The Education Estimating Conference on PreK-12 Enrollment based the projected FTE for Fiscal Year 2021-22 using the available data at the time. With the uncertainty regarding how many students would return to a public



K-12 school next year, the conference principals adopted a more conservative policy.

- As we progress through session and more data becomes available, the estimating conference principals will reevaluate the projected Fiscal Year 2021-22 FTE.

Q: Why is the Governor’s recommended budget for the FEFP compared to the Second Calculation over Fiscal Year 2020-21?

- The Governor’s recommended budget compares to the latest official calculation for Fiscal Year 2020-21.

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

- Yes, the budget provides an increase of \$10 million, for a total of \$110 million, in funding for the mental health allocation in the FEFP.

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

- Yes, the budget includes the following safety initiatives:
 - Maintains \$180 million for the safe schools component of the FEFP.
 - Provides an increase of \$500,000, for a total of \$1 million, in funding for the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program. Funding is used for screening-related and training-related costs and providing a one-time stipend of \$500 to school guardians who participate in the school 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.
 - Maintains \$42 million in funding for school safety grants.
 - \$6.4 million is included for school districts to continue to implement a mobile panic alert system that is capable of connecting multiple first responder agencies.

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

- The budget includes a one-year pause of the \$40 million in recurring base funding, as well as a \$50 million reduction in the un-used balance of carry-forward funding available for the program. This proposal would allow the



initiative to utilize a remaining amount of \$208 million in carry-forward funding for the Schools of Hope program.

- The Governor supports the continuation of the Schools of Hope program and believes carry forward funds are sufficient to support current and impending projects.

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

- Yes, the budget provides an additional \$21 million, for a total of \$210.9 million, in funding for the Gardiner Scholarship Program. The increase in funding will allow approximately 2,000 additional students to participate in the program.

Q: Is security funding for Jewish Day Schools included the budget?

- The budget maintains \$2.5 million in funding 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 budget provide funding for initiatives that promote computer science?

- Yes, the budget maintains the \$10 million in funding provided in Fiscal Year 2020-21 to continue providing professional development and fund costs associated with 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 budget include funding for initiatives that promote civic education?

- Yes, the budget includes \$750,000 in funding to continue the Florida Civics and Debate Initiative. The initiative will create and expand existing speech and debate programs with a focus on civic education.

Higher Education

Q: What does the budget include for Florida state colleges and universities?

- The budget includes state operating funding for Florida's higher education system of \$1.2 billion for Florida colleges, and \$2.7 billion for Florida universities.
- The budget also establishes the Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network to provide essential library services to Florida College System and



State University System institutions. A total of \$20.8 million, \$9 million to colleges and \$11.8 million to universities, is allocated to provide students with e-resources, technical support, distance learning, and more.

Q: Does the budget include any tuition increases?

- No, the budget prohibits any increases in tuition and fees. It is imperative that we do not increase the burden on students while in the midst of COVID-19.

Q: Does the budget provide performance funding for workforce education, colleges and universities? What metrics will be used to distribute the funds?

- Yes, the budget maintains 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 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;
 - A total of \$30 million for state colleges, through the 2+2 Student Success Incentive Fund and Work Florida Student Success Incentive Fund; and
 - A total of \$560 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: What does the budget include for Florida's Historically Black Colleges and Universities?

- \$16.96 million in operating funds to Bethune-Cookman University.
- \$7.4 million in operating funds Edward Waters College.
- \$7 million in operating funds to Florida Memorial University.
- \$87.7 million in operating funds to Florida A&M University.

Student Financial Aid

Q: What student financial aid funding does the budget include for private higher education institutions?

- The budget provides funding for the Effective Access to Student Education



(EASE) Grants and the Access to Better Learning and Education (ABLE) Grants, which provide tuition assistance for eligible private school students.

- \$115.7 million in EASE Grants for 40,723 students, at an award amount of \$2,841 per student.
- \$4.6 million in ABLE Grants for 1,630 students, at an award amount of \$2,841 per student.

Q: What other state funded scholarship programs are funded in the budget for the Student Financial Aid?

- The budget includes funding for the following state scholarship programs:
 - Florida Student Assistance Grant – Public Full and Part Time: \$236 million
 - Florida Student Assistance Grant – Private: \$23.6 million
 - Florida Student Assistance Grant – Postsecondary: \$6.4 million
 - Florida Student Assistance Grant – Career Education: \$3.3 million
 - The maximum award of the above four Florida Student Assistance Grants is \$3,260.
 - Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans: \$11 million
 - Florida Work Experience: \$1.6 million
 - Rosewood Family Scholarships: \$256,747
 - Florida Farmworker Scholarship Program: \$219,225
 - Honorably Discharged Graduate Assistance Program: \$1 million

Q: What does the budget include for the Bright Futures Scholarship?

- The budget includes a total of \$651.3 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.
 - Funding ensures the Bright Futures Medallion Scholars award will continue to cover 75 percent of tuition and fees for all semesters, including summer, for all eligible students.
 - However, beginning in the fall 2021 semester, a Florida Medallion Scholar enrolled in an associate degree program at a Florida College System institution is eligible for an award equal to the amount necessary to pay 100 percent of tuition and fees.
 - Funding ensures Gold Seal Vocational Scholars awards and Gold Seal CAPE Scholars awards will continue to be awarded to eligible students enrolled in a career education or a certificate program.



Education Infrastructure

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

- The December 3, 2020 Public Education Capital Outlay Estimating Conference identified the cash amount available for appropriation from the PECO Trust Fund for Fiscal Year 2021-22 to be \$233.6 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 budget includes more than \$318.5 million in funding for capital initiatives:
 - **School Safety Grants**
 - \$42 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**
 - \$180 million for public charter school maintenance;
 - This funds the necessary infrastructure for charter schools without utilizing any of the school districts' local funds.
 - \$7.7 million for lab school maintenance;
 - \$2.7 million for the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind maintenance; and
 - \$6 million for public broadcasting stations to correct health and safety issues and building deficiencies, and to complete renovations at public broadcasting stations.
 - **Construction**
 - \$34.1 million for four Special Facility Construction projects. This funding will continue projects in Baker, Bradford, and Levy counties;
 - \$46 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 budget provide bonding authority for educational facilities?

- No, the budget does not provide bonding authority for educational facilities. All education facility projects are recommended to be funded on a cash-basis.

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

- The budget provides \$34.1 million in funding for three small school districts for critical construction needs through the Special Facilities Program (Baker, Bradford, and Levy counties).



Q: Does the 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 budget includes a total of \$7.7 million in capital outlay funding for all lab schools.

Q: Did Florida receive federal funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation (CRRSA) Acts for education related initiatives?

- Discretionary Funding through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund:
 - These funds are available to be used at the Governor's discretion to provide emergency support through grants to local education agencies (K-12) and institutes of higher education that the Governor deems to have been impacted by COVID-19 to continue to provide educational services to and support ongoing operations.
 - Over \$173 million from the CARES Act and over \$288 million from the CRRSA Act were provided.
 - Of the over \$288 million appropriated in the CRRSA Act, \$213 million must be provided for emergency assistance to non-public schools. The remaining \$76 million is to be utilized at the Governor's discretion.
- Early Learning: \$223.6 million from CARES Act and over \$624 million from the CRRSA Act were provided.
 - These funds are available to ensure access to childcare and early education services during the pandemic.
- K-12: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER)
 - Over \$770 million from the CARES Act and over \$3.1 billion from the CRRSA Act. These funds are available for districts to utilize to ensure educational continuity for students and teachers.
 - From the funds provided, 90 percent were allocated to K-12 School Districts. This provided over \$693 million from the CARES Act and over \$2.8 billion from the CRRSA Act.
 - The Act allowed the Florida Department of Education to reserve the remaining 10 percent of funds for emergency needs to address issues related to COVID-19. This provided over \$77 million from the CARES Act and over \$313 million from the CRRSA Act.
- Higher Education: Over \$873 million from the CARES Act and \$1.26 billion from the CRRSA Act.



- These funds are available to Florida’s public state colleges and universities, eligible private institutions, and eligible technical colleges and centers to ensure educational continuity for students and teachers.
- Workforce Education initiatives that received GEER funding:
 - \$35 million for Rapid Credentials to enroll and complete students in in-demand, high value, short term career and technical education credentialing programs.
 - \$11 million for infrastructure and equipment grants for K-12 schools or technical colleges to support in-demand CTE programs of study for K-12 students.



Florida Leads on the Environment

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

- The budget invests more than \$4.3 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 included in the budget to reach the Governor’s goal of \$2.5 billion investment in Everglades and water resources over four years?

- The budget includes more than \$625 million for Everglades restoration and the protection of water resources. This level of funding over four years will result in a \$2.5 billion investment. This includes:
 - \$473 million for Everglades Restoration;
 - Including \$50 million for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project
 - \$145 million for targeted water quality improvements, including TMDLs;
 - \$40 million for an Alternative Water Supply grant program;
 - \$50 million for Springs projects; and
 - \$25 million for water quality monitoring and to combat harmful algal blooms including blue-green algae and red tide.

Q: How does the budget specifically address water quality improvements?

- The budget includes \$145 million for targeted water quality improvements. This 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. \$45 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 budget includes \$50 million for projects to restore Florida’s world-renowned springs.

Q: How much is in the budget for Everglades Restoration?

- The budget provides \$473 million for Everglades Restoration. This funding includes:
 - \$329 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.



- \$80 million for dispersed water management and public private partnerships to provide additional water storage.

Q: What does the 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 clean up their beaches and coastal areas to minimize the impacts of red tide for residents and visitors.
 - \$4.2 million for the FWC Center for Red Tide Research 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.
- Additionally, the budget invests \$145 million for targeted water quality improvements and \$473 million for Everglades Restoration, including \$144 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 budget reflect recommendations of the Blue Green Algae Task Force?

- \$145 million for targeted water quality improvements
- \$10.8 million for increased water quality monitoring
- \$10 million for innovative technologies to address algae blooms
- \$1.5 million for Mobile Irrigation Labs to increase water supply planning and conservation

Q: What does the budget do to address water supply needs?

- The budget provides \$40 million 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 does the budget include for land acquisition and maintenance?

- The budget contains over \$163 million for land acquisition and statewide land management activities, including:
 - \$50 million for Florida Forever through DEP's Division of State Lands
 - More than \$113 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 budget bolster Florida's resiliency?

- The Governor's recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22 takes the next tangible step to address the challenges of sea level rise, intensified storm events, and localized flooding by establishing the Resilient Florida program. The Resilient Florida program will provide \$1 billion over four years to provide grants to state and local government entities to fund projects to adapt regionally significant assets to address the impacts of sea level rise, intensified storms and localized flooding.
- Specifically in Fiscal Year 2021-22, the Governor's recommended budget includes \$10.1 million to close the gap for statewide sea level rise/vulnerability assessments. These funds would allow DEP to grant up to \$100,000 to all remaining coastal counties, coastal municipalities, and inland counties who have not completed vulnerability assessments.
- Additionally, the Governor's recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22 includes more than \$165 million in the first year of the Resilient Florida program to provide grants to state and local government entities to adapt regionally significant assets to the impacts of sea level rise, intensified storms, and localized flooding.
- The budget provides \$10 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.
- Coastal protection projects include:
 - \$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 budget include money for water storage south of Lake Okeechobee?

- The budget includes more than \$288 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:
 - \$144 million to continue the C-43 Reservoir, which will provide 55 billion gallons of water storage to protect estuaries
 - \$80 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: Does the budget include money for water storage north of Lake Okeechobee?

- The budget includes \$50 million for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project, which has received \$100 million over the last two fiscal years. The Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project, the EAA Reservoir and other storage projects, all working in concert, are critical to achieving the goal of reducing harmful discharges to the estuaries, ensuring essential flood protection and providing maximum environmental benefits to the Everglades.

Q: How much is included in the budget for beach restoration?

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

Q: How much is included in the budget for state parks?

- The budget dedicates \$32 million to infrastructure improvements and resource management for the award-winning Florida State Park system.

Q: How much does the budget provide for waste management?

- The budget includes the following for waste management:
 - \$60 million – Underground Petroleum Storage Tank Cleanup
 - \$4 million – Dry Cleaning/Site Cleanup
 - \$2 million – Hazardous Waste/Site Cleanup
 - \$1 million – Cleanup of State-Owned contaminated sites

Q: Does the budget include funding for springs restoration?

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



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

- The budget includes \$30 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 budget include for Agriculture?

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

Q: What is in the budget for wildfire prevention?

- The budget provides \$7.3 million for wildfire prevention efforts.
 - \$3.3 million for replacement of wildfire equipment
 - \$4 million for road and bridge maintenance to allow for better access for land management and wildfire suppression activities

Q: How much does the budget provide for the Citrus Industry?

- \$20.2 million for citrus, including:
 - \$8 million for Citrus Research
 - \$7.2 million for the Citrus Health Response Program (CHRP)
 - \$5 million to support consumer awareness efforts

Q: How does the budget use Land Acquisition Trust Fund dollars?

- 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.



Florida Leads on Transportation and Economic Development

Q: Does the budget include funding for affordable and workforce housing?

- The budget includes \$423.3 million to fully fund affordable and workforce housing. This includes \$126.7 million for the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) program and \$296.6 million for the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP).

Q: What does the budget include for emergency management?

- The budget includes \$1.9 billion in federal and state funding to Florida communities for open federally declared disasters, 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 budget also includes an additional \$265 million in federal and state funding for state operations and public assistance related to these disasters for the Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation, and Disaster Activity programs.
- The Rebuild Florida Revolving Loan Fund Program includes \$15 million to support the Rebuild Florida Revolving Loan Program in Hurricane Michael affected counties. This program, supported by an additional \$8 million award from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, assists businesses with disaster related economic changes, and can be used to address capital needs and help businesses implement plans for resiliency to protect against future storms.

Q: Does the budget include Community Development Block Grant funds for hurricane recovery and mitigation?

- The budget includes federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds directed toward local hurricane recovery and hardening efforts throughout the state. These funds include several CDBG programs, including CDBG Disaster Recovery Program for all named hurricanes since 2017 and CDBG Mitigation Program.

Q: Does the budget include Job Growth Grant funds to support Florida's continued economic recovery and development?

- The budget includes \$50 million for the Job Growth Grant Fund to support local infrastructure and job training projects targeted towards economic recovery and development.



Q: Does the budget include funds for Enterprise Florida (EFI) to market the opportunities available in Florida for businesses to experience economic and job growth?

- The budget includes \$5 million for EFI to engage in state-wide targeted campaigns that market the opportunities available in Florida for businesses to realize economic and job growth in our state.

Q: How much funding is in the budget to promote Florida tourism?

- The budget includes \$50 million for VISIT FLORIDA, the same amount as in the current fiscal year.

Q: What is included in the budget to help Florida's rural areas grow and prosper?

- The following items are included in the budget for the coming fiscal year:
 - \$5 million for the Rural Infrastructure Fund to support local rural infrastructure projects such as broadband, roads, storm and wastewater systems, and telecommunications facilities.
 - \$1.17 million for the Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Program to provide local governments with access to financial assistance to further promote the economic viability of Florida's rural communities.
 - \$3.2 million is allocated to fund a new program that will study broadband accessibility and provide grants to Florida rural communities to assist them with developing local broadband capability and availability. Legislation was passed in 2020 establishing an Office of Broadband within the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) to increase the availability and effectiveness of broadband internet throughout the state, specifically in small and rural communities.

Q: What is in the budget to help ensure safe and secure elections in Florida?

- The budget includes \$16.7 million for state-level election oversight activities, with a focus on cybersecurity enhancements to Florida's election system. This amount includes:
 - \$3 million for the Supervisors of Elections to continue cybersecurity initiatives and improvements to their systems.
 - \$2 million for Election Legacy Hardware for security improvements and enhancements in election technology.

Q: What is the total budget for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for Fiscal Year 2021-22?

- The budget includes \$10.4 billion for the Department of Transportation. Of this amount, \$9.47 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 more than 148,500 jobs. Every dollar invested in transportation is estimated to result in a return of up to \$4 in user and economic benefits to Florida’s residents and businesses. Additionally, this helps to diversify Florida’s economy.

Q: What Florida transportation initiatives are supported in the budget?

- The budget provides \$9.47 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:
 - \$2.5 billion for highway construction to include 210 new lane miles.
 - \$1 billion in resurfacing to include 2,689 lane miles.
 - \$122.6 million in seaport infrastructure improvements.
 - \$331 million for aviation improvements of which \$199.6 million is for Spaceports;
 - \$516 million in scheduled repairs for 8 bridges and replacement of 18 bridges.
 - \$717 million investment in rail/transit projects.
 - \$172.2 million for safety initiatives.

Q: Is there any funding for transportation projects specifically targeted toward supporting Florida’s continued economic recovery and development?

- The budget includes \$50 million for the Economic Development Transportation Fund, also known as the “Road Fund”. This will provide funding for projects to facilitate economic development by eradicating location specific transportation problems (e.g., access roads, signalization, road widening, etc.).



Florida Leads on Health and Human Services

Q: Does the Governor's budget include any rate increases for Medicaid providers?

- Yes, the budget provides \$36.6 million in funding for a new level of reimbursement for Intermediate Care Facilities for the Developmentally Disabled with individuals who have severe maladaptive behavioral needs who have been classified on the Global Behavioral Service Need Matrix levels four through six (4-6).

Q: Does the Governor's budget cut any Medicaid rates?

- No, the budget does not include a reduction to Medicaid rates.
- The Governor maximizes additional federal funding received through the enhanced FMAP, resulting in General Revenue savings.
- Florida will receive this enhanced level of federal funding through June 30, 2021, and has recently received notice from the federal government that the enhanced FMAP may extend through the end of the 2021 calendar year. Additional General Revenue savings to the state from that further FMAP extension are not factored into the Governor's budget recommendations.

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

- The Governor's budget provides \$15 million to allow approximately 306 individuals in crisis to enroll onto the Agency for Persons with Disabilities waiver program.

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

- The budget recommends \$178 million in total funding to fight the opioid crisis in Florida.
 - Provides \$119.9 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.
 - Provides \$19.6 million in federal funding to the Department of Health from the Overdose Data to Action grant to enhance drug overdose surveillance and prevention strategies to reduce overdoses.

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

- Yes, the Governor's budget provides \$53.9 million in funding to provide community based behavioral health services for adults with severe and persistent mental illness and children with emotional disturbances. This



funding will also be used to improve the safety of residents and staff at state mental health treatment facilities.

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

- The Governor’s budget provides \$32.9 million to provide funding for services to children and families who depend on Florida’s child welfare system:
 - \$11.9 million for maintenance adoption subsidies and post adoption services for children who are adopted from foster care.
 - \$20.9 million for supporting foster care parents who serve as caregivers for children who have been removed from their home, early intervention efforts for substance affected infants and evidence–based practices statewide for mental health and substance abuse programs to comply with the Family First Prevention Services Act.

Q: Does the Governor’s budget include funding for the COVID-19 pandemic?

- Yes, the budget includes federal funding authority to the Department of Health and Division of Emergency Management for Fiscal Years 2020-21 and 2021-22 for COVID-19 pandemic relief funds.

Q: Does the Governor’s budget include funding for minority health?

- Yes, the budget provides an additional \$9 million, for a total of approximately \$14 million, to support the Office of Minority Health and Health Equity to develop strategies to reduce health disparities and advance health equity.

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

- Yes, the Governor’s recommended budget includes more than \$2.8 million in funding is provided to support additional Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) for medication administration to reduce the spread of HIV in the state.

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

- Yes, the Governor recommends continued funding to invest in the Alzheimer’s Disease Initiative waitlist, the Community Care for the Elderly Program and the Home Care for Elderly Program.
- These programs will continue to provide support for activities of daily living, medical assistance and caregiver support to keep seniors in their homes.

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

- The Governor’s budget provides \$1.3 million to assist approximately 500 veterans in mentoring, training and networking throughout the state of Florida.
- The budget provides \$22.6 million to support capital improvements, equipment updates, and medical costs for nursing home residents and staffing needs for the two new Veterans’ Nursing Homes including Ardie R. Copas and Lake Baldwin State Veterans Nursing Homes.



- Additionally, there is \$2.4 million recommended to support the women's veterans program by assisting women veterans through informing them of health care eligibility, a veteran's suicide prevention campaign, and other services, counseling and assistance for veterans to obtain resources that they need.



Florida Leads on Public Safety

Department of Corrections

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

- Yes, the budget includes \$5 million to continue a retention plan for Correctional Officers, Correctional Probation Officers, and Inspectors that will provide a pay increase of \$500 for new hires, \$1,000 for those with two years of service, and \$1,000 for those with five years of service. The budget also includes \$26.1 million and 330 FTE to continue to convert institutions from a 12-hour shift to an 8.5-hour shift.

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

- Yes, the budget includes \$4.5 million and 7 FTE for reentry programming, which includes funding to expand career and technical education programs, provide additional academic teachers and continue the Continuum of Care program for enhanced offender rehabilitation at private correctional facilities.

Q: Does the budget provide any funding for maintenance and repair of correctional facilities?

- Yes, the budget includes \$14 million to fund various maintenance and repair projects at correctional facilities.

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

- Yes, the budget includes \$2 million for a variety of security equipment (e.g., metal detectors, cell phone detectors, drone detection systems, etc.). The budget also includes \$498,448 and 7 Correctional Officer FTE who will be dedicated to collecting security threat group (i.e., gang) intelligence.

Department of Juvenile Justice

Q: Does the budget provide any funding for maintenance and repair?

- Yes, the budget includes \$5 million to fund various maintenance and repair projects at juvenile facilities.

Q: Why is the Governor recommending a reduction in DJJ residential beds?

- The budget includes a reduction of non-secure residential vacant beds due to lower utilization rates. Those rates were declining last fiscal year and have continued to decline even further this fiscal year. The budget includes a \$5 million current year reduction and a \$6 million reduction in FY 2021-22.



Department of Law Enforcement

Q: Does the budget include funding that will allow the state to transition to incident-based crime reporting?

- Yes, the budget provides FDLE \$11.4 million for the ongoing 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: Why is the department reducing positions and funding related to Children's Legal Services?

- The budget provides for a transfer of the Children's Legal Services from the Department of Legal Affairs (DLA) to the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The department's Children's Legal Services Bureau is charged with litigating child abuse, abandonment, and neglect cases under contract for DCF in Broward and Hillsborough Counties. In this role as legal counsel to DCF, this bureau renders legal advice and are also responsible for litigating termination of parental rights petitions to establish permanency for children who have suffered abuse, abandonment, or neglect. DLA and DCF work together to deliver these services. This issue recommends the staff currently performing these duties be transferred from DLA to the DCF on July 1, 2021.

State Courts System

Q: Does the budget include funding for problem-solving courts?

- Yes, the budget provides more than \$10.8 million to continue the operation of problem-solving courts, such as drug, mental health, and veterans courts.



Florida Leads on General Government

Overview

Q: Does the budget propose sweeping any General Government trust funds?

- The budget sweeps \$46.3 million from surplus funds in GGU trust funds. These sweeps will not impact services or operations:
 - \$5 million from the Financial Institutions Regulatory Trust Fund in the Department of Financial Services.
 - \$7 million from the Regulatory Trust Fund in the Department of Financial Services.
 - \$20 million from the Workers' Compensation Administration Trust Fund in the Department of Financial Services.
 - \$1 million from the Public Employees Relations Commission Trust Fund in the Department of Management Services.
 - \$3.3 million from the Florida Condo/Timeshare/Mobile Home Trust Fund in the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.
 - \$10 million from the Professional Regulation Trust Fund in the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

Financial Services

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

- Yes, the Governor's budget recommends more than \$27.9 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?

- Implementation of Phase I for all agencies is scheduled for July 1, 2021 with the replacement of the cash management function. Following that, subsequent functions will be implemented and PALM will be completely 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 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 youth succeed.

Q: Does the Governor's Budget include funding to repairs and maintenance of Florida National Guard armories?

- Yes, the budget includes \$7.2 million to support ongoing maintenance and repairs at armories throughout the state, which are used year-round for training and operations of the Florida National Guard.

Management Services

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

- Yes, the budget includes more than \$192 million to maintain and improve the Florida Facilities Pool including the issuance of new bonding authority in the amount of \$172 million, ensuring the state provides safe and efficient working environments for state employees and visitors to state owned buildings. This also includes improvements in life safety issues, addresses American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance and modernizes equipment.

Q: Which state facilities are included in the Governor's bonding proposal at the Department of Management Services?

- The Governor's budget includes \$172 million in new bonding authority for state facilities as follows:
 - \$49 million to build a new State Emergency Operations Center
 - \$38 million to renovate Waller Park at the Capitol Complex
 - Saves \$36.3 million in General Revenue
 - \$75 million to replace the Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning system and windows at the Capitol Complex
 - Saves \$13.9 million in General Revenue
 - \$10 million to restack the Florida Facilities Pool, making buildings more efficient and reducing future need to lease office space.
- There is an additional \$5.6 million in General Revenue savings achieved by freeing up trust fund revenues no longer needed in Fiscal Year 2020-21 due to the above bonded projects.

Q: Are there any savings associated with the Governor's bonding proposal at the Department of Management Services?

- Yes, the Governor's budget includes over \$55 million in General Revenue savings in Fiscal Year 2020-21 through bonding various projects in the Florida Facilities Pool.



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

- The budget continues the current initiative which allows participants the option to receive a covered immunization from a participating pharmacy within the network, such as CVS Caremark. The budget also continues to allow participants the option to receive services through telehealth for primary care benefits.

Q: Does the Governor’s budget include funding to address the increasing number of cyber threats?

- Yes, the Governor’s budget includes over \$39.3 million in various state agencies to enhance information technology security measures and controls to help protect Florida against the ongoing and evolving nature of cyber threats that can compromise critical state resources and sensitive information.