



## Statewide Overview and Taxes

The Governor's total recommendation for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget is \$91.4 billion. The General Revenue portion is \$35.0 billion. The General Revenue funds available for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget year increased by \$1.4 billion from the previous fiscal year, a 4.3 percent increase. Florida's total reserves are \$5.6 billion, more than 6 percent of the total recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

### Budget Savings

The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget recommends \$480.5 million in savings and a reduction of 141 positions. Notable savings contained in the Governor's recommended budget include:

- Administrative and operational efficiencies of \$24.3 million;
- Elimination of Earmarks are \$84.8 million;
- Elimination of the Best and Brightest Teacher and Principal Program is \$284.5 million;
- Debt service savings of \$54.6 million;
- Workload adjustment savings of \$6.0 million;
- Contract and lease savings are \$19.6 million; and
- Reduced excess budget authority of \$6.7 million.

### Taxpayer Savings

Governor DeSantis is committed to continuing to cut Floridians' tax burden. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget proposes tax relief of \$312 million. Florida's per capita state tax burden of \$1,917 is currently the fourth lowest among all states. Governor DeSantis believes in keeping taxes low to help Florida's future generations.

Governor DeSantis' \$312 million tax cut package includes funding for:

- An 8-day Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday to save families \$56 million – The holiday covers clothing up to \$60, school supplies up to \$15, and computers priced at \$1,000 or less.
- A 10-day Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday to save families \$9 million – The holiday covers items needed during disasters including generators priced at \$750 or less.
- Property tax relief of \$247.3 million – The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget reduces the property tax millage rate by 0.126 in the required local effort in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP).



### **Florida Reserves**

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

### **Florida Retirement System**

Pension Unfunded Liability – The unfunded actuarial liability (UAL) of the Florida Retirement System (FRS) Defined Benefit Program amounted to \$29.2 billion on June 30, 2019. Based on an actuarial liability of \$190.2 billion and an actuarial value of assets of \$161.0 billion, the program is 84.6 percent funded as of June 30, 2019.

The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget implements several key recommendations of the independent actuary and proposes to fully fund the recommended contributions to the UAL for state employees, as well as makes substantive changes to strengthen the long-term solvency of pensions. This helps Florida continue to have one of the best-funded pension plans of the largest states in the nation.



## Education

Governor DeSantis grew up in Florida's public-school system and knows the importance of ensuring all students in Florida have the opportunity to receive a high-quality education. Governor DeSantis believes that every student, regardless of zip code or family circumstances, should be afforded the same opportunities to succeed in the classroom. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget builds on the success of the past year and includes key investments in K-12, workforce and higher education to prepare all Florida students for the future.

Key investments include:

- Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) is funded at \$415 million.
- K-12 public schools have the highest total and state funding of all time with \$22.9 billion in total funding and \$13.2 billion in state funding.
- In addition, K-12 per student funding of \$7,979 exceeds the current year's record funding by \$302 per student.
- The Florida College System state operating funds is funded at \$1.3 billion.
- Total operating funding for the State University System of \$4.4 billion and total state operating funding of \$2.7 billion.

### K-12 Public Education

To combat the shortage of teachers entering the career field, Governor DeSantis is recommending raising the minimum salary for full-time classroom teachers to \$47,500. This investment of over \$600 million in funding would provide a pay raise to more than 101,000 teachers in Florida. He also proposes \$300 million to implement the Florida Classroom Teacher Bonus and Florida School Principal Bonus programs. The new bonus programs would provide financial incentives to deserving teachers and principals.

Governor DeSantis' recommended budget builds on the educational achievements made during the 2019 Legislative Session, which included the establishment of the Florida Empowerment Scholarship Program. He continues his focus on making sure every Florida student is provided the skills needed to either enter the workforce or continue their education at a postsecondary institution. That is why the budget invests a record \$22.9 billion in total funding for the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP). This budget provides a per student funding amount of \$7,979, an increase of \$302 per student. The base student allocation grows by \$50 per student.

To achieve the \$22.9 billion in total funding, the budget provides \$792 million in additional state funding and \$245 million in local funding, of which is \$157.8 million in additional required local effort (RLE) revenue. The increase in RLE revenue is generated from new construction only. In total, the budget includes an increase of over \$1 billion in the FEFP.



Highlights of the FEFP increases include:

- \$50 million increase in the Base Student Allocation (BSA);
- \$1.4 million, for a total of \$181.4 million, for school safety initiatives;
- \$25 million, for a total of \$100 million for mental health initiatives;
- \$602.3 million to increase the minimum salary to \$47,500 for full-time public classroom teachers;
- \$290.7 million for the new Florida Classroom Teacher Bonus Program; and
- \$9.4 million for the new Florida School Principal Bonus Program.

## Early Learning

As a father of two young children with another on the way, Governor DeSantis recognizes a child's early years of education provide a strong foundation for their future learning. That is why the Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget provides more than \$1.2 billion in funding for early child education.

## Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK)

The budget provides an additional \$12.8 million for a total of more than \$415 million for Florida's VPK program, a quality, free education initiative, which serves over 160,000 four and five-year olds. VPK prepares each child for kindergarten by building a strong foundation for school and focusing on early literacy skills.

## School Readiness

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

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

- T.E.A.C.H. – \$10 million for early childhood teacher scholarships;
- Help Me Grow – \$1.8 million to connect children and families with information, resources and developmental services to enhance health, behavior and learning in the development of young children;
- Teacher Training – \$3 million for statewide professional development to improve 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.

## Protecting Florida's Jewish Day Schools

To continue to address safety concerns for Florida's Jewish communities, Governor DeSantis is providing \$2.5 million in funding for additional security to ensure children at Florida Jewish Day Schools can learn in a safe environment. This funding will help



provide security and counter-terrorism upgrades such as video cameras, fences, bullet-proof glass, alarm systems and other safety equipment.

### **Promoting Computer Science**

The budget maintains \$10 million to cover the cost of training and provide bonuses to teachers who hold educator certificates or industry certifications in computer science.

### **Higher Education**

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

To continue building on this success, the Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget supports and expands higher education programs that ensure Florida's state colleges and universities offer students a high-quality education at an affordable rate. The budget includes state operating funding for Florida's higher education system of \$1.3 billion for Florida colleges, an increase of \$22.4 million, and more than \$2.7 billion for Florida universities, an increase of \$23.8 million.

### **Performance Funding**

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

- \$6.5 million for students earning industry certifications in high-skill, high-demand areas at career technical centers;
- \$14 million for students earning industry certifications in high-skill, high-demand areas at Florida colleges;
- \$40 million in performance funding for state colleges through the 2+2 Student Success Incentive Fund, Work Florida Success Incentive Fund, and Dual Enrollment; and
- \$660 million in performance funding for state universities.

### **Holding the Line on Tuition and Student Expenses**

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

### **Workforce Initiatives**

- **Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program** – The budget maintains \$10 million to establish or expand pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs for high school and college students.
- **Work Florida Student Success Incentive Fund at State Colleges** – The budget maintains \$10 million in funding to support statewide efforts to align



students in Florida to workforce programs, within the Florida College System, to statewide and regional workforce demands and high-wage job opportunities.

- **Work Florida Student Success Incentive Fund at District Postsecondary Programs** – The budget provides \$5 million in funding to support statewide efforts to align district postsecondary programs with statewide and regional workforce demands.

### Last Mile College Completion Program

The budget includes \$1.5 million to fund the Last Mile College Completion Program to assist students who left college with 12 or fewer credit hours remaining to complete their first associate or baccalaureate degree.

### Education Infrastructure

The budget provides more than \$502 million in funding to school districts, colleges, and universities, and funds the necessary infrastructure for public charter schools without utilizing any funds from the school districts. Florida's public school students and teachers deserve a safe environment in which to learn and work. Specific investments include:

#### School Safety Grants

- \$75 million for school safety grants is provided to school districts to assist with costs associated with improving the physical security of K-12 school buildings, an increase of \$25 million over current year funding.

#### Maintenance

- \$173.9 million for public charter school maintenance
- \$50 million for public school maintenance
- \$37.2 million for Florida College maintenance
- \$49.3 million for State University maintenance
- \$7 million for lab school maintenance
- \$5.3 million for Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind maintenance
- \$4.9 million for public broadcasting stations to correct health and safety issues, correct building deficiencies and other project renovations

#### Construction

- \$41.3 million for Special Facility Construction projects currently under construction in Baker, Bradford, Gilchrist and Levy counties
- \$12.8 million for construction projects at the state universities
- \$1.7 million for construction projects at the state colleges
- \$44 million in budget authority to the State University System to spend collected student fees on a list of student-approved facility projects



## Environment

Since taking office, Governor DeSantis has implemented major reforms to achieve more now for Florida's environment. Under the Governor's leadership, record funding for Everglades restoration and the protection of water resources was appropriated this year, and the Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget builds upon these significant investments. As part of more than \$4 billion in funding to protect our environment, agriculture and natural resources, the Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget recommends over \$2 billion specifically for the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

### Continued Improvements for Water Quality, Quantity and Supply

In Executive Order 19-12, among other major environmental reforms, Governor DeSantis called for \$2.5 billion to be invested over four years for protection of water resources, an increase of \$1 billion over the previous four years. The current year budget was the first step towards reaching that goal, appropriating more than \$625 million for this purpose. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget continues this investment, dedicating more than \$625 million of recurring funding for Everglades restoration and the protection of water resources. Establishing recurring funding will ensure that \$625 million is appropriated each year to restore our natural resources, and that the goal of the \$2.5 billion investment is reached.

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

The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget also includes \$200 million in General Revenue for targeted water quality improvements to achieve significant, meaningful and measurable nutrient reductions in key waterbodies across the state and to implement the initial recommendations of the Blue-Green Algae Task Force. This includes:

- \$150 million for cost-share grant funds for water quality improvements, including septic conversions and upgrades, other wastewater improvements, and rural and urban stormwater system upgrades; and
- \$50 million to accelerate projects to meet scientific nutrient reduction goals (called Total Maximum Daily Loads), which may include green infrastructure investments or land conservation to protect our water resources.



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

The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget supports a more than \$22 million investment to improve water quality and combat the effects and impacts of harmful algal blooms, including blue-green algae and red tide. The budget recommends the following:

- \$10 million for innovative technologies and short-term solutions to aid in the prevention, cleanup and mitigation of harmful algal blooms.
- \$10.8 million to increase water quality monitoring, support the Blue-Green Algae Task Force, and to improve and maintain the water quality public information portal. This portal is focused on accountability and transparency, providing monitoring data for all of Florida's outstanding springs and key waterbodies, as well as allow the public to track the investment in projects and progress in attaining water quality goals.
- \$1.9 million and two dedicated positions to continue supporting the Center for Red Tide Research within the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), and to support the Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force and partnerships for mitigation and technology development with a renewed focus on red tide.

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

### **Further Protection of our Valuable and Vulnerable Coastlines**

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

The Governor's budget recommends \$6 million for the Resilient Coastlines Program within the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection within DEP. This program helps prepare Florida's communities and habitats for changes resulting from sea level rise by providing funding and technical assistance and continuing to promote and ensure a coordinated approach to planning among state, regional and local agencies. The



funding for coastal resiliency grants will also help protect Florida's coral reefs, which serve as the state's first line of defense from storm surge and are a major tourism attraction, and support emergency sand placement to help fortify coastal areas ahead of storms. Governor DeSantis' budget includes \$8.9 million to protect our coral reefs, and \$600,000 for artificial reef planning and development which will provide additional habitat to protect marine reef fish and enhance coastal community economies.

### **Investing in Clean Lands and Air**

The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget recommends \$150 million for the cleanup of contaminated sites with a focus on promoting redevelopment of these areas once cleanup has been completed. Working with federal and local partners, cleanup and redevelopment of these sites will ensure Florida's new businesses and growing communities can safely develop and our economy can continue to grow. Specific recommended investments include:

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

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

### **A Commitment to Florida's Prized Properties and Waters**

The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget recommends \$154 million to protect our prized properties and waters in Florida. This funding will ensure all Floridians have access to enjoy our pristine natural environment, while protecting these unique natural resources and investing in the management of our state-owned lands.

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

- \$84 million for the Division of State Lands to acquire land with a focus on protecting our water resources for Floridians and visitors;
- \$10 million for Florida Communities Trust (FCT); and
- \$6 million for the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP).

Florida's State Parks have won the National Gold Medal a record four times for having the best park system nationally. Governor DeSantis recommends devoting \$54 million to infrastructure improvements and resource management with the goal of maintaining this high standard, and ensuring all visitors and residents alike have access to these prized properties for generations to come.



### **Defending Florida’s Everglades from Invasive Species**

Governor DeSantis has prioritized efforts to remove Burmese pythons from the Everglades. Pythons are an invasive species that disrupt the natural food chain balance and have no natural predators, causing them to multiply without impediment and further threaten endangered species. Pythons also decimate other animal populations, disturbing Florida’s delicate ecosystem and threatening the biodiversity in the Everglades and surrounding areas. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget dedicates \$1 million for FWC to remove pythons from the Everglades.

### **Investing in Florida’s Agriculture**

The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget recommends more than \$1.7 billion for Florida’s agricultural industry. In order to preserve Florida’s iconic citrus industry, Governor DeSantis recommends investing \$19.5 million for citrus research, the Citrus Health Response Program and for consumer awareness marketing efforts. Also, recognizing how important it is to effectively combat wildfires, the Governor recommends \$3.3 million for wildfire suppression equipment and \$4.9 million for road and bridge maintenance to allow for better access for land management and wildfire suppression activities.



## **Health and Human Services**

Governor DeSantis has worked to prioritize the needs of all Floridians and hopes that all are able to lead long, healthy and productive lives. The Governor also understands the importance of helping our state's most vulnerable who are unable to help themselves. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes an increase in funding for child welfare, funding for seniors and individuals with disabilities. Additionally, the Governor's budget includes funding to help fight the opioid epidemic and to assist Florida's veterans.

### **Child Welfare**

The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget invests \$97.6 million to provide funding for services to children and families who receive services through Florida's child welfare system. The budget invests \$21.8 million for incentives for state employees who adopt children from the child welfare system and for maintenance adoption subsidies to support post-adoption services for children who are adopted from foster care.

Included in this investment is \$75.7 million for improving accountability and enhancing quality within the child welfare system to help drive decisions to improve outcomes for children and families receiving services. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes a funding model for the Community Based Care system of care; safety management services; support for foster care parents who serve as caregivers for children who have been removed from their home; early intervention efforts for substance affected infants; and additional legal staff who assist in expediting permanency for children who are in out of home care.

Additionally, the budget supports multidisciplinary staffing teams to provide behavioral health expertise for children under the age of five who are in out-of-home care and funding for the Florida Abuse Hotline to better triage calls through a Differential Response System.

### **Opioid Epidemic**

Governor DeSantis is committed to continuing to support the fight against the national opioid epidemic by working with local partners and families affected by this crisis to ensure the needs of individuals struggling with opioid addiction are met. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget recommends \$54.8 million in total funding to fight the opioid epidemic in Florida and invests \$12.4 million in funding from the State Opioid Response Grant to address the opioid crisis by providing evidence-based prevention, medication-assisted treatment and recovery.



The budget provides \$8.7 million in funding to the Department of Health through the Overdose Data to Action grant to enhance drug overdose surveillance and to pilot prevention strategies to reduce overdoses.

### **Mental Health and Substance Abuse**

The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget provides an additional \$17.6 million in funding to support individuals with behavioral health needs. The budget includes \$9 million to expand the capacity of Community Action Teams (CAT) for children ages 11-21 with a mental health and/or substance abuse diagnosis and provide a family centered approach to allow individuals to be served in their community. The budget also includes \$2.1 million in new funding for 24 additional forensic community transition beds to increase the capacity to serve individuals in a community-based setting.

The budget also includes \$4 million to expand telehealth services to children in K-12 public schools in 27 additional counties and makes \$2.5 million available for 211 providers based on an increase in capacity to handle call volume and to expand care coordination services.

### **Employment Opportunities**

Providing assistance and connecting individuals with job opportunities is a priority for Florida. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes \$1.7 million to serve approximately 1,200 individuals with intellectual disabilities and behavioral health needs. Additionally, \$2.5 million is provided to assist approximately 1,000 veterans in mentoring, training and networking throughout the state of Florida.

### **Seniors**

The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes \$10 million in funding to enrich the needs of our seniors in the community. This investment creates a Dementia Care Coordinator to focus on building livable communities in Florida by enhancing quality of life for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and ending abuse, neglect and exploitation of seniors. This funding provides services for individuals and caregivers who have been impacted by Alzheimer's disease and will allow an additional 250 individuals and their families to receive respite services. This funding will also allow an additional 590 individuals to receive adult day care and case management services through the Community Care for the Elderly Program and 240 individuals to receive support for medical services and supplies through the Home Care for the Elderly Program.

### **Public and Professional Guardianship**

The budget provides \$6.4 million in new funding to support the Office of Public and Professional Guardianship. Individuals in need of guardianship may have Alzheimer's disease and other related dementias, an intellectual disability, chronic mental illness or other conditions that limits their ability to make important personal and financial



decisions. This funding supports professional guardianship investigative services and establishes a professional guardian monitoring tool to ensure compliance of private guardians. Additionally, an increase in funding is included to serve individuals in the public guardianship program. This increase in guardianship funding will help ensure the legal rights of older Floridians are protected and will help eliminate abuse, neglect and exploitation of Florida's elderly population.

### **Veterans**

As a veteran, Governor DeSantis knows the importance of honoring and caring for those who have served our country in the United States military. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes funding for staff and start-up operations at two new state veteran nursing homes. The budget invests \$18.2 million for the completion of the Ardie R. Copas State Veterans' Nursing Home in St. Lucie County and the Lake Baldwin State Veterans' Nursing Home in Orange County.

The budget invests \$6.1 million for 48 positions to complete the required staffing necessary for the Ardie R. Copas State Veterans' Nursing Home and \$12.1 million for 40 positions to complete the required staffing and repairs necessary for the Lake Baldwin State Veterans' Nursing Home in Orange County. Additionally, the budget recommends \$6.7 million for capital improvements, equipment updates and 16 additional nursing staff for Florida's existing state veteran nursing homes.

### **Person with Disabilities**

The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget provides \$38.4 million in funding for a new level of reimbursement for Intermediate Care Facilities to serve individuals with intellectual disabilities who have severe behavioral needs. Also included is funding to continue the development of a new client assessment tool, which will be used to collect more comprehensive data and more accurately determine the needs of clients.

The budget invests \$56.5 million to allow an additional 1,200 individuals in crisis to be served through the Agency for Persons with Disabilities waiver program. The budget also includes \$239 million for services that have been provided by the agency in previous fiscal years. By funding the Agency for Persons Disabilities waiver program, people with intellectual disabilities will be able to live, learn and work in their communities.



## Transportation and Economic Development

### Hurricane Recovery

Governor DeSantis has made hurricane recovery a top priority of his administration. Florida has been hit hard by hurricanes in recent years, most notably Hurricanes Irma and Michael in 2017 and 2018, respectively. While significant progress was made in the past year, many Floridians continue to need assistance with issues such as rebuilding their homes, finding affordable housing and getting their businesses up and running again. Maintaining a strong focus on recovery will require significant efforts across several programs and agencies.

For the two most recent hurricanes to strike Florida - Irma and Michael - the State of Florida is projected to spend over \$1.9 billion on hurricane related expenses – \$627.8 million for Hurricane Irma, and \$1.3 billion so far for Hurricane Michael.

The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget recommends significant funding be directed towards hurricane recovery efforts through multiple state agencies. Programs that would be implemented with these funds include:

### Division of Emergency Management

- **Open Federally Declared Disasters – Funding to Communities**  
\$1.4 billion in federal and state funding is provided so that communities can respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies as well as mitigate against future disasters or emergencies. Currently, there are a total of 305 hazard mitigation projects and over 9,000 public assistance worksheets open under various disasters, with additional hazard mitigation projects and public assistance worksheets under federal review.
- **Open Federally Declared Disasters – State Operations**  
\$195 million in federal and state assistance provides funds to leverage the work associated with the state operations relating to federally declared disasters for the Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation, and Disaster Activity programs.
- **Hurricane Michael Recovery Grant Program**  
The budget includes \$25 million for resources where insufficient federal funds, private funds, or insurance proceeds are available to fund projects designed for the repair, replacement, hardening of affected critical infrastructure, and improve the capacity of emergency services. Additionally, this funding provides for disaster relief costs that are solely the responsibility of the local government, as well as local revenue losses.

### Department of Economic Opportunity

- **Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)**  
The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes \$747.4 million for federal Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds to be directed



toward hurricane recovery efforts throughout the state. The budget recommends that any of these funds remaining unspent at the end of the current fiscal year be made available in the coming fiscal year for the same purpose.

- **Revolving Loan Fund Program**

The budget includes \$40 million in funding provided by the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce to assist businesses with economic challenges faced as a result of Hurricane Michael. The Revolving Loan Fund Program can be used to address capital needs and help businesses implement plans for resiliency to protect against future storms.

### **Fish and Wildlife Commission**

- **Hurricane Irma Marine Debris Removal**

\$4.5 million of budget authority is included for federal grant funding awarded by NOAA. The grant initiatives will provide FWCC with the financial resource to remove trapped debris, displaced and derelict vessel, and other marine debris.

- **Hurricane Irma Marine Fisheries Disaster Recovery**

\$44.4 million of budget authority is included for federal grant funding anticipated to be awarded by NOAA. Funding will provide relief to the fishing community in Florida—details are still being finalized between FWC and NOAA.

### **Infrastructure and Workforce**

Florida has one of the best transportation systems in the country. From top-ranked roads to record setting seaports and airports, this system allows for the timely movement of people and goods from one place to another. Still, as Florida's population continues to increase, significant investments must be made to handle this growth while relieving traffic congestion and ensure continued efficiency.

The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget provides \$8.8 billion for the State Transportation Work Program. The Work Program is based on a five-year plan for the implementation and completion of transportation infrastructure projects throughout the state. The Fiscal Year 2020-21, Work Program includes:

- \$2.8 billion for highway construction to include 52 new lane miles;
- \$865.7 million in resurfacing to include 2,057 lane miles;
- \$119.7 million in seaport infrastructure improvements;
- \$323.9 million for aviation improvements;
- \$436.2 million in scheduled repairs of 57 bridges and replacement of 18 bridges;
- \$686 million investment in rail/transit projects; and
- \$212.9 million for safety initiatives.

### **Increased Employment through Rapid Development of a Skilled Workforce and Improved Infrastructure for Key Priorities**



While Florida has and will continue to experience a high level of job creation and economic development, it is wise to continue investing in infrastructure projects and workforce training initiatives that allow Florida's economy to diversify and support 21<sup>st</sup> century businesses and jobs.

The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes \$50 million for the **Florida Job Growth Grant Fund**. The Florida Job Growth Grant Fund provides funding for job training and public infrastructure projects that support growth and employment in Florida. Specifically, the program is designed to support economic diversification, economic recovery, or economic enhancement in targeted industries. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI), both identify projects, solicit proposals, and make funding recommendations to the Governor who is authorized to approve projects.

Governor DeSantis has announced several initiatives to encourage financial technology (FinTech) companies to start, relocate and expand in Florida. Among these initiatives is a focus on ensuring that FinTech employers have access to a trained and proficient workforce. One of the priorities of the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund now and in the coming fiscal year will be to expedite the review of proposals that provide workforce training programs in the financial services industry, with a focus on FinTech skills training. Proposals from state colleges or state technical centers will focus on how their program will match industry skill set needs with private sector partners that will provide employment opportunities for those who complete the program.

The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget also includes \$250,000 to market and highlight investment possibilities in Florida's 427 Opportunity Zones, which are designated low income census tracts that investors can put capital to work financing new projects and enterprises in exchange for federal capital gains tax advantages. This funding will be used for a marketing campaign, technical assistance, matchmaking sessions, and other outreach activities.

### **Maintaining a Foundational Industry**

Florida's prosperity in recent years is due in no small part to the economic activity generated by over 100 million visitors to Florida every year. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget recommends \$50 million for VISIT FLORIDA, the state's official tourism marketing corporation, the same amount as in the current fiscal year, as well as an 8-year reauthorization in state law. The organization, along with its partners, facilitates tourism industry participation through various domestic and international marketing opportunities (e.g. domestic and international trade shows and consumer shows and media missions) to top global visitor markets. VISIT FLORIDA also works closely with tour operators, travel agents and event planners as part of its marketing activities.



## **Ensuring Housing Availability for Working Families**

Although Florida's strong economy continues to outpace the nation with lower unemployment and higher job growth, the fact remains that many Floridians still find it difficult to find homes and apartments that are affordable within their family budgets.

The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget provides \$387 million to fully fund Workforce and Affordable Housing Programs. This amount includes \$119.8 million for the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) Program and \$267.2 million for the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Program. Both programs are administered by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC), from a portion of the revenues received from documentary stamp taxes on real estate transfers.

The SAIL Program, funded by the State Housing Trust Fund, provides low-interest loans on a competitive basis to developers of affordable rental housing. SAIL funds serve to bridge the gap between development primary financing and the total cost of the development, which allows developers to obtain the full financing needed to construct or rehabilitate affordable multifamily units. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget recommendation includes a minimum 20 percent of SAIL housing units developed through this funding be set aside for persons with special needs, developmental disabilities, and the elderly.

The SHIP Program, funded by the Local Government Housing Trust Fund, provides funds to local governments on a population-based formula as an incentive to produce and preserve affordable housing for very low, low, and moderate-income families. SHIP funds are distributed on an entitlement basis to all 67 counties and to 52 Community Development Block Grant entitlement cities in Florida. SHIP funds may be used to fund emergency repairs, new construction, rehabilitation, down payment and closing cost assistance, impact fees, construction and gap financing, mortgage buy-downs, acquisitions of property for affordable housing, matching dollars for federal housing grants and programs, and homeownership counseling.

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

## **Ensuring Fair and Free Elections**

Although Florida elections are administered at the local level, the state plays an important role in ensuring elections are conducted fairly and accurately and helps to make sure that Florida's voting and registration systems are safe from cybersecurity threats. With the 2020 elections less than a year away, it is imperative that necessary investments are made to ensure these elections are fair and free.



The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget recommends \$6.6 million for state-level election oversight activities, with a focus on cybersecurity enhancements to Florida's election system. This amount includes:

- \$1.3 million for ten positions dedicated to cyber security who will provide local Supervisors of Elections with support and recommendations to combat cybersecurity threats;
- A placeholder total of \$1 million for the Supervisors of Elections to continue cybersecurity initiatives and improvements to their systems; this amount will be adjusted once the current Joint Election Security Evaluation assessment is completed;
- \$1.4 million for voter registration list maintenance services and voter outreach through the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC);
- \$1.5 million for reimbursements to counties for the cost of special elections, pursuant to Section 100.102, Florida Statutes;
- \$1.3 million for advertising constitutional amendments in each county in the 10th week and in the 6th week preceding the week of the general election; and
- \$100,000 for an Election Activities Small County Grant program, to support election-related actions undertaken in budget constrained communities within Florida's Rural Areas of Opportunity.

### **Supporting International and Cultural Engagement**

As one of the largest and most diverse states in the country, Florida is an important hub of international activity and cultural vibrancy. Florida is home to multiple international airports and seaports that are key components of our state's tourism and commerce. With the 17<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world, Florida is and will remain a major player on the world stage.

The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget recommends \$124,000 and one position to re-establish an Office of International Affairs (OIA) in the Department of State. Florida's Secretary of State will serve as the State Protocol Officer and the State of Florida's intermediary in diplomatic and cultural exchanges with the international community. The OIA and its resources will support the Secretary of State's important interactions with our global friends and partners, including our large contingent of Consul Generals.

The budget recommends \$300,000 to support the Southeast U.S./Japan Association (SEUS) and the Florida/Korea Economic Cooperation Committee (FLOR/KOR). Both of these groups promote trade and friendship between Florida and the countries they represent and have successfully worked with our state economic development partners. Florida will be hosting the 2021 SEUS conference, and a portion of the recommended funds will be used to help prepare, plan, and host this event.



## **Public Safety**

Keeping Florida's communities safe is critical to the well-being and peace of mind of our residents and visitors. Public safety is the most important responsibility of government, and the Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget includes significant investments to keep Florida safe.

### **Creating a Statewide Behavioral Threat Assessment Strategy**

Governor DeSantis' recommended budget includes \$4.7 million and 20 positions to implement the first Statewide Behavioral Threat Assessment (BTAM) strategy in the country. Florida's BTAM strategy will use Regional Threat Assessment Task Forces throughout the state that will better-enable law enforcement to identify individuals on a pathway to violence and prevent such individuals from committing acts of violence.

The budget also includes \$3.6 million to replace the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) record management system and create a data analytics system. These systems will improve FDLE's ability to identify and analyze data, which will strengthen Florida's BTAM strategy and allow the agency to proactively address modern threats.

### **Enhancing Florida's Crime Databases**

FDLE is responsible for maintaining of variety of databases that law enforcement uses daily to investigate crimes and apprehend criminals. Many of these resources are also accessible to the public, which helps keep Floridians safe. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget invests more than \$14.5 million to expand and enhance these databases, including:

- \$1.9 million to maintain the Computerized Criminal History database (CCH);
- \$9 million to continue the transition to incident-based crime reporting (FIBRS);  
and
- \$3.6 million to centralize criminal justice data and make it more transparent to the public.

### **Safer Correctional Facilities**

Governor DeSantis' recommended budget includes \$89.7 million and 292 FTE to improve staffing levels at the Department of Corrections (FDC). This includes:

- \$60.6 million for a targeted retention pay plan for Correctional Officers, Correctional Probation Officers, and Inspectors that aims to address exceptionally high turnover rates by providing a \$1,500 pay increase at two years of service and a \$2,500 increase at five years of service; and
- \$29.1 million to implement a pilot project that transitions Correctional Officers from a 12-hour shift to an 8.5-hour shift.



The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget also includes \$6.7 million and 54 FTE to make Florida's correctional facilities safer. This includes:

- \$3 million for security equipment, such as radios, metal detectors, and cameras;
- \$1.5 million and 20 FTE to assist the Inspector General's Office with investigations; and
- \$2.2 million and 34 FTE that will allow the Department to more closely monitor gang activity.

### **Expanding Reentry Programming**

Governor DeSantis' recommended budget includes \$8.4 million and 17 FTE to increase inmate reentry programming. This includes:

- \$1.4 million and 17 FTE to begin a four-year plan to ensure there is at least one academic teacher at every major correctional institution and annex; and
- \$4 million to expand career and technical education programs to better meet the vocational training needs of the inmate population and current job market demands.

### **Improving Inmate Health Services**

The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget provides \$17.1 million to improve inmate health services. This includes:

- \$11.9 million to begin building a 600-bed mental health hospital at Lake Correctional Institution, which will ensure that FDC has adequate resources to treat the mental health needs of inmates;
- Nearly \$1 million and 17 FTE to begin a four-year plan to reestablish wellness programs at all major institutions and annexes; and
- \$4.2 million to begin installing the infrastructure needed to transition to electronic medical records.

### **Improving Correctional Infrastructure**

The budget recommends \$15.5 million to make critical repairs and renovations to correctional and juvenile facilities. This investment in Florida's infrastructure not only enhances the safety and security of Florida's correctional and juvenile officers, inmates, and youth, but will also result in long-term energy and maintenance savings.

### **Special Risk Benefits for Juvenile Detention Officers**

The budget includes \$6.2 million to provide special risk benefits to juvenile detention officers. This will help the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) hire and retain qualified staff, which will help ensure that only those with the requisite skills, training, and experience are interacting with our troubled youth.



## Improving Residential Programs

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

- \$4.2 million to improve staffing and evidence-based services in residential facilities; and
- \$608,000 and 6 FTE to ensure that quality medical services are being provided in residential facilities.

## At-Risk Youth Programs and Prevention Services

Governor DeSantis recognizes that effective prevention programs reduce the likelihood that a child will have future involvement with the juvenile justice system. Recent investments in such programs have played a critical role in reducing juvenile arrest rates to the lowest in 44 years. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget recommends more than \$14 million to fund prevention programs for at-risk youth. This includes funding for the following programs:

- **Youth Challenge Program** – \$5.8 million for a residential program at Camp Blanding that provides 16-18 year-olds who withdraw or are removed from school with opportunities such as high school credit recovery, career-technical education, and life preparation classes;
- **Mentoring Initiatives** – \$7.1 million for the Department of Education to contract with mentoring programs throughout the state; and
- **Contracted Prevention Funding for DJJ** – An additional \$1.1 million for DJJ to contract with evidence-based prevention programs, such as SNAP and Children/Families in Need of Services (CINS/FINS).

## Protecting Florida's Families and Seniors

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

## Supporting Military and Their Families

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

- \$2 million for the Florida Defense Support Task Force;
- \$1.6 million for the Defense Infrastructure Program;
- \$420,000 to reinforce the seawall at the Florida National Guard Headquarters;
- \$3.4 million for armory maintenance;



- \$6.2 million to rebuild the Panama City Armory due to Hurricane Michael destruction;
- \$4.2 million to support Florida National Guardsmen seeking higher education degrees;
- \$8.4 million to support scholarships for children and spouses of deceased or disabled veterans; and
- \$780,000 for satellite-based communication terminals for National Guardsmen to use during storm-related missions and duties.

### **Increased Funding for the Guardian ad Litem**

The budget provides \$2 million and 35 FTE to help ensure that dependent children are represented by a Guardian ad Litem (GAL). These funds will allow the GAL to hire an additional 35 Child Advocate Managers who will work in areas of the state that are seeing the greatest growth in foster care placements.

### **Problem-Solving Courts**

Problem-solving courts, such as drug courts, mental health courts, and veterans' courts, address the root causes of justice system involvement through specialized dockets, multidisciplinary teams, and a non-adversarial approach. These courts use evidence-based treatment and increased judicial supervision to provide individualized interventions for participants, which reduces recidivism. The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget provides more than \$11.4 million to continue the operation of problem-solving courts throughout the state.



## **General Government**

### **Maintaining a safe environment for residents and visitors**

The Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget provides over \$235,000 in funding and three additional full-time positions within the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to implement and facilitate the human trafficking awareness training program as required by HB 851 from the 2019 Legislative Session. Increasing awareness of staff at lodging establishments will aid in the fight against human trafficking.

### **Continued innovation in establishing essential business systems**

The budget provides \$26.9 million for the Florida Planning, Accounting, and Ledger Management System (FL PALM). This funding provides for the third year of software and system integrator contract, project administration, and 6 additional full-time positions to join the Production Support Team to support Pilot organization activities. This system is an integral part of the finance and accounting backbone of the state.

### **Maintaining and improving the Florida Facilities Pool**

It is essential that the State of Florida provides safe and efficient working environments for state employees and visitors to state owned buildings. The budget invests \$10.2 million in the Florida Facilities Pool which will improve life safety issues, address Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance and address needed building updates.