

GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT'S 2017-2018 BUDGET

Fighting for Florida's Future



Governor Rick Scott's Fighting for Florida's Future Recommended Budget Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions Relating to the Fighting for Florida's Future Budget

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

- As a result of Florida's economic turnaround, including the addition of more than 1.2 million new jobs in less than six years, Florida will have a record \$32.3 billion of General Revenue available next year – including \$1.3 billion in new General Revenue.
- Florida's revenue is continuing to grow while Governor Scott has cut taxes more than 50 times, and cut taxes by \$1 billion over the last two years. To date, Governor Scott has cut more than \$6.5 billion in taxes.
- The Governor's proposed budget is \$83.5 billion, which is just over one percent above the current \$82.3 billion budget. The proposed General Revenue budget is \$30.8 billion.

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

- There are savings totaling \$1.1 billion in the recommended budget, of which \$418.1 million represents a savings from general revenue. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget saves taxpayers more than \$800 million over the current year budget. Major savings include:
 - \$581 million by allowing Medicaid managed care plans to reimburse hospitals at more efficient rates than the traditional Medicaid program.
 - \$298 million in hospital costs by eliminating existing arbitrary and inconsistent supplemental payments for hospitals who provide less charity and uncompensated Medicaid care compared to the for-profit hospital industry.
 - \$50 million by slowing hospital inflation and eliminating an automatic increase in Medicaid hospital rates.
 - \$52 million from bond debt service reductions.
 - \$49 million from administrative and operational efficiencies from across state government.

Q: How can the Governor propose further tax cuts and provide funding for other priorities with only a \$7.5 million surplus as projected in the Long Range Financial Outlook?

- As a result of Florida's incredible economic turnaround, Florida will have a record \$32.3 billion of General Revenue available next year – including \$1.3 billion in new General Revenue.
- The \$7.5 million figure provided in the Long Range Financial Outlook is the ending balance after funding critical needs (ex: Medicaid, FEFP) totaling more than \$516 million and funding "other high priority" needs totaling \$1.1 billion.
- A more appropriate "surplus" is the amount of funds available after funding only the critical needs of more than \$516 million, which is reflected in the Long Range Financial Outlook as "Tier 1" critical needs. This leaves a balance of \$1.1 billion of discretionary funds available for non-critical budget needs.

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

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes a net increase of 327 positions from the current year. This represents an increase of 596 positions and is off-set by a reduction of 266 positions.
- Most of the position increases are to provide increased security through Florida's public safety and human services agencies, including:
 - 327 at the Department of Corrections;
 - 90 at the Department of Children and Families' state mental health treatment facilities; and
 - 46 at the Department of Law Enforcement to create counterterrorism squads to allow the department to provide an increased level of safety.

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

- The majority of the 266 positions that are proposed to be reduced are a result of streamlining processes, consolidating duties and administrative and operational efficiencies throughout state government.

Q: What kind of positions will be eliminated?

- Of the 266 positions being eliminated, 86 percent are currently vacant and many more are anticipated to become vacant by July 1, 2017.

Q: Does the Governor recommend outsourcing any current state functions?

- The Governor challenged his agencies to identify functions within their agencies that could be performed more efficiently and economically through private entities. The purpose is to lower the costs of government and achieve higher performance and better outcomes for tax dollars spent. Governor Scott is focused on providing the best return on investment to taxpayers.
- Most of the outsourcing proposals that were identified by agencies are administrative and include, but are not limited to:
 - Print Shop at the Department of Business and Professional Regulation;
 - Mail Room Services at the Department of State;
 - Housekeeping functions at Sunland Development Disabilities Center that is currently performed by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities; and
 - Tracking and auditing of Employee Leasing Companies' Financial reports that is currently performed by the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

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

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget sweeps a total of \$319.5 million from trust funds to the General Revenue fund.

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

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes a savings of \$21.8 million by proposing that all employees pay the same amount for health insurance coverage - \$50 per month for individual coverage and \$180 per month for family coverage.
- This will reduce the employer contribution for health insurance coverage for employees in the Senior Management Service and Selected Exempt Service systems. The Governor has proposed this plan every year he has been in office.

Q: Does the Governor's budget create any savings for state employee health costs?

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends \$1.2 million for one-time auditing services and continuous quality control services to determine dependent eligibility in the state employee health insurance program. This audit is estimated to save taxpayers more than \$45 million per year by reducing waste, fraud and abuse in the state health plan.
- The budget also includes a new formulary model for managing state employee's health care prescriptions that will save the state approximately \$51.2 million annually in prescription drug costs.
- These program changes allow the state to avoid a premium increase for participating agencies.

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

- There is a total of \$5 billion set aside for reserves:
 - \$1.3 billion General Revenue;
 - \$1.4 billion Budget Stabilization Fund;
 - \$693 million Lawton Chiles Endowment Fund; and
 - \$1.6 billion in other trust funds.

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

- Governor Scott believes debt represents a tax burden on our children and grandchildren and only supports issuing new debt for projects that benefit both current and future generations, and have a positive return on any taxpayer investment. Therefore, the Fighting for Florida's Future budget provides authorization for debt exclusively for the expansion of Florida's transportation infrastructure system through the Department of Transportation's Five-Year Work Plan which has a return on investment of more than 4:1. Actual debt, if any, will be minimalized based on balances available at the time of project implementation.

Q: Does the proposed budget include any funding from revenues generated by the Seminole Compact?

- Pursuant to the current Seminole Compact, the Governor's proposed budget includes \$123.7 million in funding sourced from Seminole gaming revenues as estimated by the revenue estimating conference.

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- During the 2016 Legislative Session, Governor Scott negotiated a new compact with the Seminole Tribe that would have generated more than \$3 billion for the state of Florida. Unfortunately, this compact was not ratified by the Legislature and did not go into effect.

Q: How does the Fighting for Florida's Future budget make up for lost revenue from the expiration of the Seminole Compact?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget follows the official projections of the revenue estimating conference, which does not include revenue from the continuation of any banked card games beyond the 90-day grace period.

Q: After 11 years of actuarial surpluses, the FRS Pension Plan now has been underfunded for seven consecutive years. As of July 1, 2016, the plan's liabilities exceeded its assets by \$24.9 billion, translating into a funded ratio of 85.4%. How does the proposed budget address this deficit?

- For the past four fiscal years, Florida has fully funded both the normal cost and the unfunded actuarial liability.
- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget implements the recommendations of the independent actuary and fully funds both the normal cost and the unfunded actuarial liability.
- This helps Florida continue to have one of the best funded pension plans of the largest states in the nation.

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Fighting to Cut Taxes for Florida's Future - \$618 Million in Tax Cuts

Q: What are the specific tax cuts included in the Fighting for Florida's Future budget?

- Governor Scott is committed to reducing the burden of taxes on Florida families and future generations. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget cuts taxes by \$618 million to boost our economy and encourage both large and small businesses to create jobs and build opportunities for generations of Floridians. These tax cuts include:
 - \$454 million to permanently reduce the sales tax on commercial rentals by 25 percent;
 - \$15 million to increase the corporate income tax exemption from \$50,000 to \$75,000; and
 - \$3 million to permanently exempt purchases at school book fairs from Florida's sales tax.
- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget proposes the following one-time tax cuts:
 - \$98 million by providing for four sales tax holidays:
 - \$72 million from a 10-day back-to-school sales tax holiday;
 - \$7 million from a nine-day disaster preparedness sales tax holiday;
 - \$18.4 million from a three-day veterans' sales tax holiday; and
 - \$500,000 from a one-day camping and fishing sales tax holiday.
 - \$48 million by providing a one year sales tax exemption on college textbooks.

Q: Why would reducing the commercial rental tax benefit Florida's economy?

- Florida is the only state that has a tax on commercial leases and this tax unfairly targets small businesses. Governor Scott is proposing to reduce the tax on commercial leases by 25 percent in 2018, saving Florida businesses \$454 million a year. This is the largest portion of the Governor's tax cut package.

Q: Does the Fighting for Florida's Future budget propose any fee cuts?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends \$8.1 million in additional annual fee cuts for Florida's seniors, veterans and businesses, all while maintaining the quality of services provided.

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Fighting for Florida's Future Jobs

Q: What is the recommended budget for the Department of Economic Opportunity?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget invests \$1.27 billion at DEO, which includes \$300 million from General Revenue and \$965 million in trust fund dollars. This is a \$162.7 million, or 14.7 percent, increase over the current year level of funding and includes:
 - \$283.4 million for the 24 Regional CareerSource Boards;
 - \$85 million for flexible funding for economic development tools;
 - \$23.5 million for Enterprise Florida, Inc.;
 - \$26 million to maintain VISIT Florida's funding level (\$76 million total);
 - \$19.5 million for Space Florida;
 - \$1 million to focus on international trade and export;
 - \$3.2 million for space, defense, and rural infrastructure projects; and
 - \$11 million to increase Florida Flex (Quick Response Training) funding level (\$20 million total).

Q: How much does the Governor recommend for economic development tools?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends \$85 million for economic incentives for the sole purpose of bringing more jobs to Florida. This essential funding is provided for economic development incentives such as the Quick Action Closing Fund, the Qualified Targeted Industry Tax Refund, Defense Contractor Tax Refund and Brownfield Redevelopment Tax Refund. A key component of this funding is the flexibility to react quickly to economic opportunities, which will enhance business retention and job creation.
- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget invests \$20 million in Florida Flex, previously known as Quick Response Training. The program's popularity among businesses of all sizes has increased demand for the program, and as a result, last year's budget amount is expected to run out before the end of the year.

Q: Is the Governor asking the Legislature to fund marketing dollars at Enterprise Florida?

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget continues our annual investment of \$8.5 million for EFI to aggressively market what Florida has to offer to businesses which will help lead to more job creation and economic diversity.

Q: What will the funding at Space Florida go toward?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends \$19.5 million for Space Florida to continue its ongoing development of Florida's growing aerospace and commercial space industries. This includes a recommendation of \$7 million in aerospace industry financing.

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Q: Is the Governor recommending funding for Florida's smaller cities through the Community Development Block Grant Program?

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget continues to assist Florida's small cities to successfully implement vital community development projects with \$36.5 million in funding for the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program.

Q: What is the total budget proposed for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for Fiscal Year 2017-18?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes \$10.8 billion for the Department of Transportation. Of this amount, \$10.1 billion goes toward the Transportation Work Program which supports transportation and infrastructure projects throughout the state.
 - This investment will provide for the retention or creation of up to 140,000 jobs. Every dollar invested in transportation is estimated to result in a return of up to five dollars in user and economic benefits to Florida's residents and businesses, and also helps diversify Florida's economy.

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

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget provides \$10.1 billion for the Work Program 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:
 - \$4.1 billion to expand transportation system capacity, which includes adding 206 new lane miles;
 - \$978.2 million for maintenance and operation;
 - \$658.6 million for resurfacing more than 2,142 lane miles;
 - \$257.8 million for aviation improvements;
 - \$618 million for transit program improvements;
 - \$300.8 million for scheduled repairs of 61 bridges and replacement of 16 bridges;
 - \$175.6 million for safety initiatives;
 - \$178.2 million in seaport infrastructure improvements; and
 - \$82.7 million for bike and pedestrian trails.

Q: Is there anything in Governor Scott's recommended budget for economic development to promote increasing imports and exports in order to develop new trading partners?

- Since 2011, the Governor has worked to invest more than \$1 billion in the state budget on projects related to Florida ports. To continue on this path, the Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends \$178.2 million for seaport development projects throughout Florida.
- With the continued expansion of Florida seaports, the Fighting for Florida's Future budget continues to help the state succeed by investing in exports to global markets. Governor Scott's budget recommends \$1 million to continue two highly successful export diversification and expansion programs. These programs help diversify Florida's economy and increase Florida's international trade and exports through Target Sector

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Trade Grants and Export Marketing Plan assistance. Especially important is providing these resources so that Florida maintains its preeminent position as an economic gateway to Latin America and the Caribbean.

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget also recommends restricting state funds for ports that work with Cuba's dictatorship government.

Q: What does the budget provide for bike trails and pedestrian walkways?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes \$82.7 million for bike trails and pedestrian walkways, representing a combined four-year total of more than \$322 million.
- FDOT is working closely with local partners to invest in interconnected and regionally significant trails.

Q: What does the budget provide to make Florida roadways safer?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends a \$175.6 million investment in safety projects to improve roadway conditions.
- With 20.7 million residents and 106.6 million annual visitors, the FDOT's highest priority is to protect and ensure the safety of everyone on Florida's roads. Safety is a component of every project, integrated into the engineering and design of the transportation system.
- FDOT also plans and invests in projects which are specific to safety, where the primary objective is to correct hazardous conditions, reduce vulnerability for road users (pedestrians, bicyclists and motorcyclists) and reduce intersection and lane departure crashes.

Q: Did the Governor provide funding for Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., to support the recovery of counties affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill?

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends \$300 million for Triumph in compliance with section 288.8013, Florida Statutes, to administer funds for the economic recovery, diversification and enhancement of counties disproportionately affected by the disaster.

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Fighting for Government Efficiency in Florida

Q: Does the Governor's budget include any pay increases for all state employees?

- Governor Scott is proposing a three-tiered bonus pay system to incentivize state workers at every executive, cabinet and judicial agency. Under Governor Scott's performance bonus proposal, **state employees can earn up to an extra \$1,500**, if each tier is met, for ensuring that Florida remains efficient for the future:
 - **Tier 1:** \$500 if the agency meets its performance measures;
 - **Tier 2:** \$500 if the employee is rated a minimum of "Satisfactory" (meets SMART expectations);
 - **Tier 3:** \$500 maximum for agencies to fund with budget savings (amount determined by agency head based on realized savings).

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

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends more than \$21.1 million in funding for the PALM (Planning Accounting and Ledger Management System) project to replace the antiquated FLAIR system. The multiyear, multiphase PALM project will institute an updated, modernized, advanced statewide accounting system. The system will enforce standardization between the Department of Financial Services and other state agencies, act as a scalable foundation to evolve business needs change, and position Florida for future innovation with a true enterprise-wide solution.

Q: Does the budget include funding for the new Lottery contract?

- \$12.6 million in additional funding is included as a result of the new contract for Fiscal Year 2017-2018. The additional funds and the new contract are projected to yield \$6.1 billion in Lottery revenues and \$1.58 billion in transfers to the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund. This is a \$8.9 million net increase to education over the 2017-2018 projection made by the Revenue Estimating Conference in December.

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Fighting for Florida's Future Students

Early Learning

Q: What is the recommended budget for early learning?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes \$1.1 billion in total funding for early learning programs, an increase of more than \$36 million over Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

Q: What additional funding is provided for Voluntary Prekindergarten?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future Budget recommends an additional \$11.3 million for a total of \$406.5 million for Florida's VPK program. This investment provides a \$50 increase per student for the school year and a \$43 increase per student for the summer program which equates to \$2,487 per student and \$2,123 per student, respectively. VPK will prepare approximately 150,000 four and five-year olds for kindergarten.

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

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget maintains funds in Fiscal Year 2017-2018 for the following early learning initiatives:
 - T.E.A.C.H. – \$10 million for early childhood teacher scholarships.
 - Performance Funding – \$15.5 million to award child care providers and instructors for improving School Readiness program outcomes.
 - Help Me Grow – \$2.5 million to connect children and families with information, resources, and developmental services to enhance health, behavior, and learning in the development of young children.
 - Lastinger Center Teacher Training – \$3 million for a statewide professional learning system for Florida's early learning workforce.
 - Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) – \$3.9 million to deliver high quality School Readiness curriculum directly to parents so they may strengthen the cognitive and early literacy skills of at-risk children.

Q: How will the Governor's recommended budget provide for a decrease in the waitlist for the School Readiness program?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes an increase of \$25 million in federal funds to move approximately 4,600 additional children into the School Readiness program.

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K-12 Public Education

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

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends historic funding for K-12 education and proposes an increase of \$815.2 million in funding, of which \$257.3 million is state funding for K-12 public schools. The total state contribution for the K-12 public schools is \$11.6 billion – the highest ever, for the fifth year in a row.
- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes \$7,421 in per student funding, which is the highest ever in Florida history. It exceeds the previous record of Fiscal Year 2016-2017 by \$216. Governor Scott's budget proposal also includes almost \$21 billion in total K-12 education funding, which is the highest level for the fourth year in a row, exceeding the \$20.17 billion that was provided in Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

Q: Why did local funds increase in the FEFP?

- The local millage tax rate will not increase and will remain at the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 level of 4.638 percent.
- The amount of local funding provided in the FEFP calculation primarily increased due to a 6.56 percent, or \$116.2 billion, rise in the school taxable value that was the result of an increase in the value of Florida property. When property values rise, it's a good thing for Florida families.
- It is a longstanding practice (going back over 10 years with few exceptions) for the Legislature to maintain the prior year's final calculated millage rate in setting the required local effort in the General Appropriations Act.
- While this practice results in increased local revenues when property values are rising, the same process results in significant reductions in local revenues when property values decline, as experienced during the recent national recession.

Q: Has state funding increased at a higher rate than local funding in the FEFP since Governor Scott has taken office?

- Yes. During Governor Scott's administration, state funding for Florida's K-12 public schools has increased by \$2.8 billion or 32.6 percent, from a total amount of \$8.7 billion in Fiscal Year 2011-2012 to \$11.6 billion in the 2017-2018 Fighting for Florida's Future budget. During this same time period, the local contribution to the FEFP has risen at a slower pace, increasing by \$1.6 billion or 19.9 percent.

Q: What does Governor Scott's recommended budget include for the Teacher of the Year program?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes \$770,000 for the Teacher of the Year program. Under Governor Scott's recommendation and combined with private funds from Macy's, the award amounts will be at least \$10,000 for district participants, at least \$15,000 for finalists, and at least \$20,000 for the Teacher of the Year.

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Q: Is there state funding recommended for professional development in the Governor's budget?

- Yes. Governor Scott recognizes the positive impact highly trained principals and teachers have on today's students and generations of students to come. Therefore, as part of the state's investment this year, Governor Scott proposes a total of \$8.5 million in funding for initiatives focused on professional development. Initiatives include:
 - \$7 million to support principal training;
 - \$849,450 for approximately 600 math teachers to participate in a four-day training session during the summer;
 - \$500,000 to provide a year-long, job-embedded, research-based program to principals, principal supervisors, and education leaders to improve student instruction; and
 - \$100,000 for the Teacher LEAD Network program which provides district Teacher of the Year winners the opportunity to participate in professional development designed to improve leadership skills for improved teaching.

Q: What is included for Governor Scott's initiative for teacher recruitment and retention?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends \$58 million for teacher recruitment and retention, which includes \$15 million to cover the cost of initial teacher certification and renewal certification fees. This investment will save each of Florida's aspiring teachers approximately \$555 on their initial certification and each of Florida's employed public school teachers \$75 for their certification renewal. This funding will not cover an exam taken as a result of failure on the initial exam.
 - Funding is authorized to eliminate the following fees:
 - Initial Teacher Certification Application Fee
 - Initial General Knowledge Exam
 - Initial Professional Education Exam
 - One Subject Area Exam
 - Certification Renewal Fees for Employed Florida Public School Teachers
- The remaining \$43 million is recommended for the following recruitment and retention initiatives:
 - \$10 million for a one time hiring bonus for Florida's teachers testing in the top 10 percent of the Subject Area Examination in the subject they are teaching in the 2017-2018 school year;
 - \$5 million to increase the diversity of the teachers in critical shortage and high need areas;
 - \$5.9 million to recruit Bright Futures Scholars that major in Education and commit to four years of teaching following graduation in the rural district from which they graduated high school;
 - \$16 million for districts to implement targeted recruitment and retention initiatives that meet the districts' needs; and
 - \$6.1 million to reward great teachers in low performing schools.

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Q: Is the Best and Brightest program funded in the Governor's budget?

- No, this specific program is not included. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends \$58 million for teacher recruitment and retention which funds the initiatives outlined above.

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

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes \$74.5 million, an increase of \$10 million or 15.5 percent over Fiscal Year 2016-2017, for the safe school component of the FEFP.

Q: Does the Governor's budget include any funds specifically for technology in our K-12 public schools?

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget maintains current year funding of \$80 million to support digital classrooms. Each district will receive a minimum of \$500,000 in funding.
- This recommendation requires districts to submit an expenditure plan to the Department of Education (DOE) for approval that meets the unique needs of students, schools and personnel. In addition, each district school board must, at a minimum, seek input from the district's instructional curriculum and infrastructure technology staff to develop the district's digital classroom plan. DOE shall provide a report to the Legislature on or before March 1, 2018, that summarizes the district's expenditure of these funds.

Q: Does the Governor's budget include any funds to expand the eligibility for students in grades K-12 to participate in virtual education?

- Yes. Governor Scott is a strong supporter of school choice. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget proposes expanding eligibility for students to participate in virtual education at Florida's K-12 public schools, and includes \$5.9 million in funding to cover newly eligible students. This expansion eliminates the requirement that students have to attend a public school the year before participating in a virtual education program at a Florida public school.

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Education Infrastructure

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

- The December 6, 2016 Revenue Estimating Conference identified the amount available for appropriation from the PECO Trust Fund for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 to be \$336.4 million.
- The PECO program addresses educational facility construction and fixed capital outlay needs for school districts, state colleges, state universities and other public education programs.
- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes a total of \$336.4 million from PECO funds:

	PECO Funding	Purpose
K-12 Public Schools	\$75 million	Maintenance/Repair/Renovation/Remodel
Charter Schools	\$75 million	Maintenance/Repair/Renovation/Remodel
Special Facilities Construction	\$16 million	Special Facility Construction Projects in Hamilton and Taylor Counties
Florida Colleges	\$20.5 million	Capital Projects
Florida Colleges	\$35.9 million	Maintenance/Repair/Renovation/Remodel
State Universities	\$41 million	Capital Projects
State Universities	\$53.9 million	Maintenance/Repair/Renovation/Remodel
Lab Schools	\$13.6 million	Represents local millage equivalent and Maintenance/Repair/Renovation/Remodel Funding for one Lab School
Florida School for the Deaf and Blind	\$2.2 million	Preventative maintenance projects
Public Broadcasting Projects	\$3.2 million	Correct Health/Safety Issues

Q: Is there funding for charter schools in the budget?

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes \$75 million for maintenance needs at charter schools. School districts have the ability to share levied millage with charter schools. According to Florida Department of Education's most recent data, only three school districts are sharing this local funding.

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Q: Does the Governor's recommended budget incentivize charter school capital outlay?

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recognizes that charter schools do not have the ability to levy taxes and are reliant on state funds to help meet capital needs. However, Governor Scott knows that charter schools are most needed in areas where there are few public school choices. Therefore, in order to receive capital outlay funds, new charter schools authorized on or after July 1, 2017 must:
 - Be established primarily to serve students in the attendance zone of a school in need of intervention;
 - Be accredited by the Commission on Schools of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS);
 - Obtain a surety bond; and
 - Receive a school grade.

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

- No. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget does not provide additional bonding authority. All projects must be funded on a cash-basis.

Q: What does the Governor's budget recommend for post-secondary facilities?

- To complete existing facility construction and renovation at Florida's post-secondary institutions, the Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends \$41 million in PECO funding for state universities and \$20.5 million in PECO funding for state colleges. These appropriations require a dollar for dollar match.
- In addition, the Fighting for Florida's Future budget provides authority for state universities to expend \$45 million in collected student fees from the State University System's Capital Improvement Fee Trust Fund for student-approved facility projects.
- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget also recommends \$53.9 million for state university maintenance and repair needs and \$35.9 million for state college maintenance and repair needs.

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

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget provides \$16 million in funding for two small school districts for critical construction needs through the Special Facilities Program (Hamilton and Taylor Counties).

Q: Does the Governor's recommended 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 Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes \$7.9 million for facility needs at A.D. Henderson University School and FAU High. Funds require a dollar for dollar match from Florida Atlantic University, the affiliated state university for both schools.
- The budget also recommends a total of \$5.8 million for maintenance for all lab schools.

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Q: How does the Fighting for Florida's Future budget compare to the Board of Governors' and Florida College System's Legislative Budget Request for fixed capital outlay?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends a total of \$61.5 million to be used to complete project construction at state colleges and universities. With the required dollar to dollar match, this recommendation totals \$123 million.
- As of December 6, 2016, the total PECO amount available for public schools, charter schools, state colleges, state universities and other educational entities is \$336.4 million. The Board of Governors and State College System each requested a specific list of capital projects totaling \$119.9 million.

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Higher Education

Q: What does the Governor's recommended budget propose for higher education?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes historic funding for higher education totaling \$6.6 billion.

Q: Does the Fighting for Florida's Future budget include any tuition increases?

- No. Governor Scott is committed to holding the line on undergraduate tuition at Florida's colleges and universities, as well as on graduate and professional program tuition at Florida universities. Governor Scott has fought to hold the line on undergraduate tuition for four years.

Q: What are the Governor's budget recommendations regarding Florida colleges?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget provides \$1.25 billion in historic state operating funding for state colleges, an increase of \$10.5 million over Fiscal Year 2016-2017 state operating funding. The highlights include:
 - Performance funding – a record \$100 million, which consists of an additional \$40 million from the Florida colleges' base funding, to be allocated based on performance metrics including graduation rates, retention rates, post-graduation employment, wages and continuing education for recent graduates.
 - \$5.6 million for high school students dual enrolled in courses during the summer term.

Q: What are the Governor's budget recommendations regarding state universities?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget provides \$4.8 billion in historic total funding for the State University System. This is an increase of more than \$79 million over Fiscal Year 2016-2017. The major components include:
 - Performance funding – a record \$600 million to be allocated based on the Board of Governors' performance funding model. This is a recommended \$100 million increase in performance over the current year budget of which \$50 million is state funding and \$50 million is institutional funding.
 - \$2 million for the Lastinger Center Algebra Nation.
 - \$2 million for the Lastinger Center Math Nation.

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

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes performance funding in the following areas:
 - Maintaining \$4.5 million in funding for district workforce programs to be allocated based on students earning industry certifications in high-demand areas.
 - Maintaining \$10 million in funding for state colleges to be allocated based on students earning industry certifications in high-demand areas.
 - \$100 million for the Florida College System. Performance will be based on metrics that include: graduation rates, retention rates, post-graduation employment, wages and continuing education for recent graduates.

GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT'S 2017-2018 BUDGET

Fighting for Florida's Future



- \$600 million for the State University System. Performance will be based on 10 metrics including: average cost per graduate, percent of graduates employed or continuing education, average wages of employed graduates, and graduation rates.

Q: How much performance funding is recommended for the Florida College System?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes \$100 million in performance funding, consisting of a \$30 million state investment and a \$70 million institutional investment. There are no new state dollars for Florida College System performance funding, however, there is a proposed increase of \$40 million in institutional funding to bring the total funding to \$100 million.
- No new state funding is proposed due to declining enrollments at institutions within the Florida College System.

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

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends \$115.9 million for the Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG) and \$4.8 million for the Access to Better Learning and Education (ABLE) Grants.
- The Governor also recommends restoring 100 percent of current year nonrecurring funds in order to maintain the current level of services for student access and retention efforts, direct instructional purposes, and library resource enhancement at Bethune-Cookman University, Edward Waters College, and Florida Memorial University.

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

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget fully funds students eligible for the Bright Futures Scholarship based on the November 16, 2016 estimating conference. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget also recommends investing \$12.9 million to increase the Bright Futures Academic Scholar award in order to provide students a 10 percent increase in the per credit hour award amount.
- Governor Scott is also recommending \$34.7 million to expand Bright Futures Scholarships to cover credit hours taken during the Summer term. Currently, Bright Futures Scholarships only cover credit hours taken during the Fall and Spring terms.

GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT'S 2017-2018 BUDGET

Fighting for Florida's Future



Fighting to Protect Florida's Environment for Future Generations

Q: What is the recommended budget for environmental protection?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget invests more than \$3.9 billion to protect agricultural and natural resources and ensure Florida has a pristine environment for future generations to enjoy.

Q: Did the Governor fully fund Amendment 1?

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget fully complies with Amendment 1 by including more than \$800 million for land and water programs funded from documentary stamp tax revenues.

Q: How much did the Governor fund for Everglades restoration?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget provides \$225 million for Everglades restoration. This funding includes \$32 million in recurring state funding that is part of the Governor's \$880 million Everglades water quality plan, \$140 million for the C-43 and C-44 reservoirs and \$53 million for other Everglades restoration projects.

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

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget proposes \$40 million for a new voluntary 50/50 state matching grant program for local communities affected by the algal blooms to encourage residents to move from septic tanks to sewer systems in order to curb pollution entering the Indian River Lagoon and Caloosahatchee River.
- In addition, \$20 million is proposed for muck dredging and other capital improvement projects to improve water quality and reduce sources of pollution entering the Indian River Lagoon and Caloosahatchee River.
- The \$225 million invested in Everglades restoration will also ensure that projects continue to be completed and provide critical water storage around Lake Okeechobee to reduce harmful releases. This includes \$140 million for the completion of state's portion of the C-44 reservoir and the continued investment in the C-43 reservoir, which will together provide 75 billion gallons of water storage east and west of Lake Okeechobee once complete.
- The budget includes \$4 million for targeted land acquisition necessary to construct the C-23/C-24 project which will provide an additional 30 billion gallons of water storage once complete.

Q: How much did the Governor fund Florida Forever?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes over \$178 million for land acquisition and statewide land management activities.
- This includes \$25.5 million specifically for Florida Forever projects, including \$10.3 million for the Florida Communities Trust Program and \$5 million for the Florida Keys.

GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT'S 2017-2018 BUDGET

Fighting for Florida's Future



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

- No. The budget includes more than \$215 million for several water storage projects around Lake Okeechobee which will provide more than 170 billion gallons of water storage once completed. Examples of these projects include:
 - \$140 million to complete the state's portion of funding for the C-44 reservoir and keep the C-43 reservoir on schedule, together providing 75 billion gallons of water storage to protect estuaries.
 - \$20 million for the C-51 reservoir, which once complete will provide more than 24 billion gallons of water storage, in addition to providing a needed water supply source for South Florida.
 - \$4 million for targeted land acquisition necessary to construct the C-23/C-24 project which will provide an additional 30 billion gallons of water storage once complete.

Q: What does the Governor's budget do to address environmental impacts from Hurricanes Matthew and Hermine?

- The budget includes \$61.2 million specifically for the state's share of hurricane-related beach restoration, which combined with the nearly \$15.8 million in emergency funding already provided by Governor Scott, fulfills the \$77 million total responsibility of the state to respond to hurricane damage to Florida's beaches.
- The budget includes \$22.2 million for a new Wastewater Treatment Facility Storm Preparedness grant program, which will offer up to a 75 percent state matching grant to help wastewater treatment facilities owned by local governments to prevent sanitary sewer overflows during future storm events. The amount of grant assistance will be dependent on the size of the facility, with smaller facilities being eligible for a higher level of assistance.

Q: How much did the Governor fund beach restoration?

- The budget includes a total of \$111.2 million for beach restoration. This includes:
 - \$61.2 million specifically for the state's share of hurricane-related beach restoration, which combined with the nearly \$15.8 million in emergency funding already provided by Governor Scott, fulfills the \$77 million total responsibility of the state to respond to hurricane damage to Florida's beaches.
 - \$50 million for annual beach restoration projects. This is the most since Governor Scott took office and a more than 50 percent increase over current year funding.

Q: How much did the Governor fund state parks?

- The Governor recommends more than \$50 million for state park enhancements, management and facility improvements. This includes:
 - \$44 million – State Park Facility Improvements
 - \$5 million – Fire Equipment and Road Repairs for State Parks
 - \$1 million – Parks and Community Trails Program
 - \$1 million – State Parks Marketing Initiative

GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT'S 2017-2018 BUDGET

Fighting for Florida's Future



Q: Does the Governor's recommended budget provide money for enhancements at any state parks?

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget provides \$44 million for park repairs and enhancements across the state, which includes those repairs needed for damages incurred by Hurricanes Matthew and Hermine.
- \$10 million of park repair funding will be specifically focused on those improvements that bring the greatest return on investment to state parks by enhancing park users' experiences.

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

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes the following for waste management:
 - \$8.5 million – Dry Cleaning/Site Cleanup
 - \$8.5 million – Hazardous Waste/Site Cleanup
 - \$110 million – Underground Petroleum Storage Tank Cleanup
 - \$3 million – Solid Waste Management Grants

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

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget provides a record \$65 million for springs. The proposed funding will help protect water quality through proper wastewater/stormwater and runoff pollution control projects, and ensure the protection of the groundwater supply in Central and North Florida.

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

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget provides \$100 million for the development, design and construction of water supply projects. This includes:
 - \$75 million for partnership grants with the water management districts for communities facing critical water supply needs.
 - \$25 million for projects within the Central Florida Water Initiative and the North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership.

Q: What is the Governor's proposed funding for combating citrus diseases?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends \$15.6 million to fight citrus diseases such as greening, black spot, and canker. This includes \$8 million for short-term research projects to provide important information to growers and \$7.6 million for the Citrus Health Response Program. This program is responsible for surveying citrus groves for pests and diseases, as well as ensuring growers are taking appropriate measures to suppress disease incidence and minimize spread.

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

- Governor Scott remains committed to funding coastal protection projects, including:
 - \$111.2 million for beach restoration projects, including hurricane-related restoration.
 - \$832,000 for Florida's Coastal Zone Management Program.

GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT'S 2017-2018 BUDGET

Fighting for Florida's Future



Q: Does the Governor's budget include funding to help prevent conflicts with bears?

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget provides \$500,000 to partner with residents, local governments and businesses to reduce conflicts between humans and bears by offsetting costs of bear resistant equipment (trash cans) and outreach to increase public safety.

GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT'S 2017-2018 BUDGET

Fighting for Florida's Future



Fighting for a Healthy Future

Q: Does the recommended budget fund the Low Income Pool?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget provides authority for the federal government and local hospital districts to fund a low income pool, in the event the hospital districts decide to do so. Local hospital districts have yet to fund the low income pool in the current year budget even though hospital profits are at an all-time high relative to the amount of charity care they provide.

Q: Does the Governor's proposed budget include funding for a Medicaid block grant?

- No. The Governor's budget assumes increases based on the Social Services Estimating Conference. However, Governor Scott has been very clear that he wants state flexibility when it comes to Medicaid and he will continue to work with the new administration and Congress to achieve this. If Congress acts and the president signs into law substantive changes, the Governor will work with the Florida Legislature to implement those changes.

Q: Does the Governor's budget include funding for additional staff at the Department of Health to implement Amendment 2?

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends nine additional positions within the department's Office of Compassionate Use.

Q: Why is the Governor recommending that core services funding for CBCs be determined by the Social Services Estimating Conference?

- Current statute already provides a methodology for determining each CBC's proportion of the overall state demand for services. This same methodology can also be used to determine changes in overall state demand for CBC services from year to year. The Social Services Estimating Conference is already used to determine needed levels of funding for the most important and complex programs in the Health & Human Services portion of the state budget. By using the established Social Services Estimating Conference process as a public forum for determining these changes, it will improve the transparency, accountability, and ultimate effectiveness of more than \$600 million that is dedicated annually to enhance the lives of kids who depend on Florida's child welfare system.

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

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget continues to invest more than \$1 billion for individuals with behavioral health needs in Florida. The recommended budget increases mental health and substance abuse funding by \$25 million over current year funding levels.

GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT'S 2017-2018 BUDGET

Fighting for Florida's Future



Q: What does this year's budget include for individuals with mental health and substance abuse needs in the community?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes an investment of more than \$18.7 million in new funding to better coordinate and enhance mental health and substance abuse services in Florida's communities for those in greatest need.
- Community behavioral health funding which supports the Governor's executive orders on mental health includes:
 - \$12.6 million in Community Behavioral Health Services:
 - \$1.5 million for services for high-risk youth, families and adults in Pinellas County.
 - \$750,000 for housing services for severely mentally ill individuals who lack stable housing in Alachua County.
 - \$500,000 for individuals with behavioral health conditions to provide transitional housing, job training and behavioral health clinical services in Broward County.
 - \$1.68 million to provide housing solutions statewide for individuals with behavioral health conditions.
 - \$1.6 million to enhance care coordination statewide for individuals with behavioral health conditions.
 - \$6.6 million for community forensic multi-disciplinary teams and housing support for non-violent offenders with behavioral health conditions.
 - \$3 million to add four additional Community Action Treatment Teams for Children.
 - \$1.8 million to add four additional Family Intensive Treatment Teams.
 - \$1.25 million to add an additional FACT Team (Forensic Assertive Community Treatment Team) in Broward County.

Q: What does this year's budget do for residents at state-run mental health treatment facilities?

- This year, Governor Scott's Fighting for Florida's Future budget will invest more than \$222 million in state-run mental health treatment facilities. This includes a \$6.3 million increase to add 90 new staff for the care and treatment of those in the greatest need who reside in these facilities.
- These additional resources will be used to expand competency restoration services, the amount of active treatment and will also allow staff to maintain closer oversight for residents who are a serious risk of harm to themselves and others. This will improve staff and resident safety.

Q: Why should Florida focus research funds toward infectious disease?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget establishes a new recurring source of \$2.2 million of funding to enhance Florida's competitiveness for more than \$5 billion in funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that is directed toward infectious diseases research. The Governor's recommendation will also enhance the State's preparedness in responding to future outbreaks like Zika.

GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT'S 2017-2018 BUDGET

Fighting for Florida's Future



Q: Does the Fighting for Florida's Future budget include funding to keep Floridians and visitors safe from Zika and other disease outbreaks?

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget provides \$1.9 million for an additional 21 Epidemiologists in the County Health Departments across the state who serve as one of the first lines of defense who protect Floridians and visitors from emerging health threats such as Zika.

Q: Does the budget include any funding for Graduate Medical Education?

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget invests a total of \$197.3 million for Graduate Medical Education. This program has already created more than 1,000 additional slots and 18 new teaching hospitals around the state.

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

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget provides more than \$7.4 million to place approximately 680 additional Floridians into the home and community based waiver program.
- This is the 4th consecutive year that Governor Scott has provided funding to remove everyone off the critical needs waiting list.

Q: Does the Governor's budget include funding for supported employment for individuals with disabilities?

- Yes. Governor Scott knows that the most important step toward independent living is getting a good job. That is why the Fighting for Florida's Future budget provides \$3 million to the Department of Children and Families to provide employment services to more than 5,000 individuals with serious mental illness. This is the first time that employment services including job training and coaching, employment assistance and transportation to and from their place of work will be supported by state funding in the Department of Children and Families.
- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget also includes \$3.3 million in new funding to the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) to provide employment services to more than 2,500 individuals with developmental disabilities who are ready to work.

Q: What does the governor's budget include for adoptions and adoption subsidies?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes \$6.2 million to fund the full growth of maintenance adoption subsidies.

Q: Does the budget fund the Home Care for the Elderly program?

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget invests \$4.7 million in new funding to serve more of the frailest individuals on the Home Care for the Elderly program waiting list. This funding provides services to an additional 1,300 seniors to support them continuing to live in their home.
- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes \$3 million in new funding to enroll 249 individuals onto the Alzheimer's Diseases Initiative Program.

GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT'S 2017-2018 BUDGET

Fighting for Florida's Future



- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes \$4 million in new funding to serve an additional 497 individuals in the Community Care for the Elderly Program.

Q: Why does the Fighting for Florida's Future budget expand the County Health Department Dental Sealant Program statewide?

- This program helps low-income children gain better access to quality dental care.
- For every \$1 invested in preventative dental sealants, \$1.88 is saved in costs related to treating decaying teeth.
- Dental sealants are considered the most effective way to prevent cavities in permanent molars, and more than 89 percent of the decays typically occur in children.

Q: What positions were eliminated from the Department of Children and Families?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget will outsource 12 positions by shifting Child Protective Investigations in Walton County to the Walton County Sheriff's Department. This is the seventh sheriff's department to take on these responsibilities. Child protective investigators are responsible for investigating child neglect, child abuse and child abandonment.

GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT'S 2017-2018 BUDGET

Fighting for Florida's Future



Fighting to Keep Florida's Future Generations Safe

Q: What is the recommended budget for public safety?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends more than \$5.1 billion for public safety, which is an increase of \$150.5 million, or three percent, over current year funding.

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

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends \$14.6 million to provide nearly 4,800 sworn state law enforcement officers with a five percent raise in pay.

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

- Yes. Governor Scott is continuing his efforts to improve the prison system and the budget includes nearly \$127 million over the Department of Corrections' current budget, an increase of more than five percent.

Q: Does the budget include any pay increases for correctional and correctional probation officers?

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends a three-pronged pay plan for Correctional Officers and Correctional Probation Officers to address hiring and retention challenges. This plan provides:
 - \$38 million to raise the minimum salaries for Correctional Officers and Correctional Probation Officers;
 - \$5 million to provide a one-time \$1,000 hiring bonus to Correctional Officers hired at institutions that have a sustained vacancy rate over ten percent; and
 - \$2.5 million to increase a Correctional Officer's base pay when the officer is serving in a mental health unit.

Q: Why does the Governor's recommendations include an increase for the inmate health services contracts?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends increasing the Department of Corrections' health care budget by \$22 million to account for the increasing costs associated with medical supplies and services in Florida's prisons.

Q: Does the budget include funding for mental health services for inmates?

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends providing \$16 million to add 104 full-time positions to create a Residential Mental Health Unit at the Wakulla Correctional Institution Annex. This unit will provide a continuum of care for mental health inmates whose mental health needs fluctuate. This funding will also ensure units are appropriately staffed with psychiatric, medical and security personnel.

GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT'S 2017-2018 BUDGET

Fighting for Florida's Future



Q: Does the Governor's budget include any funding for workforce development for inmates?

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends an additional \$5.6 million for workforce development and job placement within the Department of Corrections and Department of Juvenile Justice. The budget provides \$3 million to the Department of Corrections to expand and operate new workforce and technical education programs and post-release support services. The budget provides \$2.6 million to the Department of Juvenile Justice to contract for additional workforce education and job placement programs at existing day treatment and residential programs statewide.

Q: Does FDC have a plan to provide substance abuse services within the institutions, rather than in the community? Is there any funding related to this plan?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget does include substance abuse funding as it has in previous years. However, it does not include additional funding specifically related to FDC's plan to provide services within institutions since the agency is able to serve more inmates with existing funding. Additionally, the Fighting for Florida's Future budget provides \$3 million to expand workforce education programs, which include various post-release services.

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

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes \$35 million to fund various maintenance and repair projects at Department of Corrections' institutions statewide. Furthermore, the budget recommends \$10.2 million to fund various maintenance and repair projects at Department of Juvenile Justice's facilities statewide.

Q: What is the proposed budget for the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice? Is there an increase in funding?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends \$571 million to fund the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice which is an increase of \$16.1 million.

Q: Does the budget increase funding for juvenile delinquency prevention programs?

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget increases prevention program funding by \$5.5 million. Of the \$5.5 million, \$4.7 million of the increased funding will allow the Department of Juvenile Justice to contract for evidence-based prevention programs that have been proven to reduce juvenile delinquency.
- The budget also includes a more than \$765,000 increase for the Florida Youth Challenge Academy to support additional academic and technical course offerings as well as funds for equipment replacement.

GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT'S 2017-2018 BUDGET

Fighting for Florida's Future



Q: How does the budget improve residential services for delinquent youth?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends \$5.3 million to incorporate improved staffing and evidence-based services in residential facilities whose contracts are up for renewal or procurement in order to provide committed youth with better services. Additionally, the budget recommends a realignment of funds to increase the number of contract monitor and contract manager positions responsible for overseeing residential facilities operated by private providers.

Q: Does the budget provide for an increase in the number of residential beds for juveniles?

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget provides \$5.2 million to support 60 additional residential beds. This increase allows committed youth to be placed and receive services sooner. This issue also reduces the waitlist for these programs, which help prevent these youths from committing further crimes while they are awaiting placement.

Q: Does the budget address juvenile detention costs related to detention cost share between the state and the counties?

- Yes. The passage of SB 1322 in the 2016 Legislative Session provided that the state and non-fiscally constrained counties would share 50 percent of the costs of detention. In order to implement the provisions of SB 1322, the Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends \$2.5 million to ensure a continued 50/50 split is maintained.

Q: Why are the budget recommendations for the state courts lower than their legislative budget request?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends more than \$508 million to fund Florida's state courts. Overall, the Governor's budget recommendation for the state courts is consistent with current year funding levels and funds the day to day operations of the courts. The budget also includes nearly \$420,000 for two IT projects which will expand the type of data reported on many cases and expand the case management system used by many specialty courts.

Q: Does the Governor's budget include additional funding for FDLE's crime labs?

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends more than \$62 million in funding between state funds, as well as state and federal grants, to provide FDLE's crime labs with the tools they need to reduce turnaround time for processing evidence. This is a \$1 million increase over current year funding. Recommended funding will also allow FDLE to outsource the processing of additional sexual assault kits and add five positions to manage the growing workload in the Biology/DNA sections statewide. These investments will not only help improve the turnaround times and backlog of crime scene evidence, but will help solve and prevent future crimes.

GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT'S 2017-2018 BUDGET

Fighting for Florida's Future



Q: Does the Governor's budget include funding for counterterrorism resources?

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes \$5.8 million for FDLE to add 46 positions to strengthen counterterrorism and intelligence efforts. The 46 new positions will work with counterterrorism squads in each of the seven FDLE regions alongside local, state and federal intelligence agencies. These positions will serve a critical role in helping to protect Florida families from terrorism.

Q: Does the Governor's budget include funding for human trafficking victim services?

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes \$1.5 million in new funding to the Department of Legal Affairs to contract with a human trafficking victims' services provider to expand programs and services such as outreach, assessment, teen prevention groups and residential housing.

Q: Does the Governor's budget provide any funding for local law enforcement?

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes \$4 million for the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council (VCDCC) which offers financial assistance to local law enforcement agencies to pay for such things as overtime. This funding will allow local law enforcement agencies to respond to emerging crime trends more rapidly. Of the funding, \$2 million must be used for law enforcement investigations related to heroin abuse.

Q: What is the Governor providing for the Florida Highway Patrol?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes \$3.6 million in funding to purchase and replace in-car digital camera kits for the Florida Highway Patrol's pursuit vehicle fleet.
- \$352,490 is recommended for the purchase of emergency aid trauma kits which will be issued to Florida Highway Patrol's sworn members.
- \$370,000 for the replacement of hardware infrastructure supporting the Computer-aided Dispatch and Report Management System used by dispatchers and officers to prioritize calls for service and record incident and arrest reports.

Q: What is the Governor's budget recommending for IT projects at the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends \$9.9 million to continue the Motorist Modernization Phase I Project that will replace the Motorist Services credentialing system for driver license and identification card issuance. This investment will serve customers better by offering additional online services and instantaneous updates to motorist information and driver license data. These improvements will mean shorter transaction times for customers and improved overall quality of the Florida motorist data.
- Additionally, the Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends \$4.1 million for the first year of the Motorist Modernization Phase II Project that will update the existing Florida Real Time Vehicle Information System (FRVIS). When completed, Phases I and II will operate seamlessly to reduce costs and provide significantly greater operational efficiencies for consumers.

GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT'S 2017-2018 BUDGET

Fighting for Florida's Future



Investing in Preparedness to Protect Florida's Future

Q: What is the total recommended budget for the Florida Division of Emergency Management?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends more than \$437 million to fund the Florida Division of Emergency Management to continue to prepare to respond to both manmade and natural disasters. This reflects a 32 percent increase over the current year level of funding of \$331 million.

Q: What is the Governor recommending in Federally Declared Disasters funding?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes a total of \$355.6 million to provide funding for communities for disaster response and rapid recovery related activities. This is the highest level of funding since Governor Scott took office.

Q: Has the Governor recommended any funding to help the special needs community during disasters and other emergencies?

- Yes. Governor Scott is recommending \$3.5 million to continue the emergency Statewide Notification System and \$3 million for emergency management related activities at the state and local levels.

Q: Has the Governor recommended any funding to address the ongoing need for many Florida residences to be strengthened against the potential impacts of hurricanes and other disasters?

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends an additional \$4 million for residential construction mitigation, which will improve the ability of many Florida homes to better withstand the force of disasters like hurricanes.

GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT'S 2017-2018 BUDGET

Fighting for Florida's Future



Fighting for Veterans' Future in Florida

Q: What does the Governor's budget propose to support active military, veterans and their families?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends \$102 million in total funding to support active military, veterans and their families. This funding includes \$24 million for the following:
 - \$2 million for the Florida Defense Support Task Force;
 - \$3.2 million for the Defense Infrastructure Program;
 - \$3 million for military base protection, including additional security measures for National Guard armories;
 - \$6 million for National Guard armories;
 - \$3.4 million for armory maintenance;
 - \$750,000 to support Florida National Guardsmen seeking higher education degrees; and
 - \$5.8 million to support scholarships for children and spouses of deceased or disabled veterans.

Q: How many additional counties will be served by expanding Crisis Center Support Services for Veterans?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget invests more than \$350,000 to serve an additional 4,300 veterans in all 67 counties. This is the first time these critical services will be available in all Florida counties. Governor Scott also recommend this funding in his 2016-2017 Florida First budget.

Q: What is the Governor doing for the wellbeing of our armed forces?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes \$2 million to support securing the Florida National Guard armories and recruitment centers.
- The budget also includes an additional \$750,000 to support Florida National Guardsmen's demand for higher education degrees for a total of \$4,256,900 in tuition assistance.

Q: Does the budget include funding for the continued revitalization of Florida's armories?

- Yes. The Fighting for Florida's Future budget provides \$6 million for the Florida Armory Revitalization Program (FARP). The FARP program is used to ensure Florida's National Guard Armories are maintained to the highest Federal standing. Florida's success was accentuated in the Readiness Center Transformation Management Plan (RCTMP) Final Report to Congress in 2014, which shows Florida is the largest state with predominately state funded armories meeting federal requirements.

GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT'S 2017-2018 BUDGET

Fighting for Florida's Future



Q: Does the Governor's budget propose funding to help veterans find jobs?

- Yes, the Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends \$2.5 million to support veterans looking to obtain employment or start their own businesses and make Florida their home. This funding includes:
 - \$1 million to assist Florida businesses in training and hiring veterans;
 - \$500,000 to support universities offering veteran entrepreneur training to create or sustain veteran-owned businesses; and
 - \$1 million so that Florida is for Veterans can market Florida worldwide as the most veteran friendly state in the nation.

Q: What does the Governor's budget propose for the Ardie R. Copas State Veterans' Nursing Home in Port St. Lucie?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends \$20 million for the construction of this facility using the original traditional nursing home model.

GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT'S 2017-2018 BUDGET

Fighting for Florida's Future



Ensuring Florida's Communities are Strong for the Future

Q: Does the Governor recommend funding for affordable housing?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget includes \$120.8 million for affordable housing. This recommendation includes \$90.8 million for the State Apartment Incentive Loan program, with a minimum 20 percent of the housing units developed through this funding to be set aside for persons with special needs, persons with developmental disabilities and the elderly.
- Also included is a \$30 million recommendation for the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program, with 70 percent of the funding provided to local governments for first time home buyer down payment assistance, and the remaining 30 percent for low income families for either down payment assistance or housing rehabilitation.

Q: What are some of the major items for the Department of State in the recommended budget?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget recommends the following items to benefit Florida's communities:
 - \$25.3 million - State aid to libraries;
 - \$5.8 million - Library cooperative grants and other library resources; and
 - \$9.1 million - Cultural, museum, and historical preservation grants.

Q: What is the Governor proposing in the budget for elections?

- The Fighting for Florida's Future budget's recommendation for the Department of State's Division of Elections totals \$13.7 million. This includes:
 - \$4.8 million for the Statewide Voter Registration Database and other election activities funded under the Federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA);
 - \$800,000 to assist individuals with disabilities;
 - \$525,000 for voting system assistance;
 - \$1.23 million to assist local governments with special elections; and
 - \$445,379 for election fraud prevention.