

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

General Questions Relating to the Securing 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 1.3 million new jobs in less than seven years, Florida will have a record \$33.8 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 75 times, saving Florida families and businesses more than \$7.5 billion.
- The Governor's proposed budget is \$87.4 billion, which is 2.8 percent above the current \$85 billion budget. The proposed General Revenue budget is \$32.2 billion.

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

- There are savings totaling more than \$144 million in the recommended budget, of which \$20 million represents a savings from general revenue. Major savings include:
 - \$76 million from bond debt service reductions; and
 - \$18 million from administrative and operational efficiencies from across state government.

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

- The Securing Florida's Future budget includes a net increase of 565 positions from the current year. This represents an increase of 827 positions and is off-set by a reduction of 262 positions.
- Most of the position increases are to provide increased security through Florida's public safety and human services agencies, including:
 - 508 at the Department of Corrections;
 - 151 at the Department of Veterans' Affairs for startup operations and staffing for the Lake Baldwin State Veteran Nursing Home, Infections Prevention staffing and Claims Examiners; and
 - 69 at the Department of Children and Families for Child Protection Workforce Stability.

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

- The majority of the 262 positions that are proposed to be reduced are a result of streamlining processes, consolidating duties and administrative and operational efficiencies throughout state government.
- Since Governor Scott took office, the state workforce has decreased by seven percent.

Q: What kind of positions will be eliminated?

- Of the 262 positions being eliminated, 88 percent are currently vacant and more are anticipated to become vacant by July 1, 2018.

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

- Yes. The Securing Florida's Future budget sweeps a total of nearly \$161 million from trust funds to the General Revenue fund. This sweep is a significant reduction from the current year sweep of more than \$448 million.

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

- Yes. The Securing Florida's Future budget includes a savings of more than \$21 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 budget includes a new formulary model for managing state employee's health care prescriptions that will save the state approximately \$54 million annually in prescription drug costs.

Q: Does the budget include funds to implement changes to the state group insurance program that were passed last session as it relates to SB 7022 that was signed into law as Chapter 2017-88?

- Yes. The budget includes additional funding for two new functions relating to health insurance changes to take place in 2018-19.
 - \$115,500 is provided for additional staffing to support a projected increase in calls, emails and correspondence to the Division of State Group Insurance to assist state employees with new products and services that are being offered.
 - \$500,000 is provided for an independent benefits consultant to continue assisting the Department of Management Services, specifically with the implementation of metal tiered health plans.

Q: Is there funding for any other health insurance changes?

- Yes. The budget includes \$1 million to meet the projected increase of participants in the Health Savings Account program.

Q: Why doesn't the Governor's budget include a recommendation for across-the-board pay raises or a bonus proposal?

- All state employees received pay increases of at least \$1,000 effective October 1, 2017. Governor Scott prioritized pay increases for specific critical needs including law enforcement, juvenile detention and probation and forest fire fighters. While Governor Scott has proposed performance-based bonuses in previous years, the Legislature has not supported that approach.

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

- Yes. The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends more than \$38 million in funding for the PALM (Planning Accounting and Ledger Management System) project to replace the antiquated FLAIR system. The multiyear, multiphase PALM project will institute an updated, modernized, advanced statewide accounting system.

Q: Does the budget include funding to address repairs to the Florida House of Representatives parking garage?

- Yes. The Securing Florida's Future budget includes \$30 million for the House parking garage located at the Capitol Complex for repairs, waterproofing efficiencies and life safety issues. The project is scheduled to begin upon the completion of the Senate

Parking Garage in September 2018 and should take approximately two years to complete.

- This is similar to the funding supported by Governor Scott for ongoing repairs to the Senate parking garage.

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

- There is a total of \$5.1 billion set aside for reserves:
 - \$1.4 billion General Revenue;
 - \$1.5 billion Budget Stabilization Fund;
 - \$749 million Lawton Chiles Endowment Fund; and
 - \$1.4 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 Securing 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 minimized based on balances available at the time of project implementation.
- Florida has paid down \$9 billion in debt under Governor Scott's leadership including \$5.5 billion in outstanding bond debt, as well as the \$3.5 billion loan taken out in 2009, before the Governor took office, for the unemployment compensation program. This has resulted in an approximately 28 percent reduction in outstanding debt since Governor Scott took office.

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

- Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement and Stipulation entered into between the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the State of Florida in July 2017, the payments associated with banked card games that the state has held in reserve (\$233.8 million) have been released into General Revenue.
- Future revenue share payments have been treated as non-recurring revenues. These payments are estimated to be \$272.5 million for Fiscal Year 2017-18 and more than \$280 million for Fiscal Year 2018-19.

Q: After 11 years of actuarial surpluses, the FRS Pension Plan has been underfunded for nine consecutive years. As of July 1, 2017, the plan's liabilities exceeded its assets by \$25.7 billion, translating into a funded ratio of 85.4%. How does the proposed budget address this deficit?

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

Keeping Taxes Low for Florida's Future - \$180 Million in Tax Cuts

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

- Governor Scott is committed to reducing the burden of taxes on Florida families and future generations. The Securing Florida's Future budget cuts taxes by \$180 million to allow Florida families to keep more of their hard-earned money.

Governor Scott's \$180 million tax and fee cut package includes:

- **Sales Tax Holidays to Save Families \$88 Million** – The Securing Florida's Future budget includes funding for four sales tax holidays which will save Floridians an estimated \$88 million in the upcoming fiscal year. These sales tax holidays include:
 - \$73 million in savings for Florida families from a 10-day back-to-school sales tax holiday; and
 - \$15 million in savings for Florida families from three one-week disaster preparedness sales tax holidays which would take place in May, June and July.
- **Reduction in Driver's License Fees to Save Floridians \$88 Million** – Governor Scott is proposing to reduce the fees for driver's licenses. These fees were increased in 2009, prior to Governor Scott taking office. These fee cuts include:
 - \$67 million in savings from reducing the fee for a renewal of a regular driver's license by more than 58 percent from \$48 to \$20; and
 - \$21 million in savings from reducing the fee on an original regular driver's license by more than 43 percent from \$48 to \$27 and the fee on an original or renewal Commercial Driver's License by more than 10 percent from \$75 to \$67.
- **Reduction in Traffic Citation Fines to Save Floridians \$4 Million** – Governor Scott is proposing to reinstate the 18 percent reduction of eligible traffic citation fines, which was repealed in 2009 prior to Governor Scott taking office. This cut is for individuals who attend a basic driver improvement school.

1.3 Million Private Sector Jobs Added and Counting

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

- The Securing Florida's Future budget invests \$1.2 billion at DEO, which includes more than \$163 million from General Revenue and more than \$1 billion in trust fund dollars. This funding also includes:
 - \$283.4 million for the 24 Regional CareerSource Boards;
 - \$85 million for the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund;
 - \$23.7 million for Enterprise Florida, Inc.;
 - \$50 million for VISIT FLORIDA (\$100 million total);
 - \$19.5 million for Space Florida;
 - \$1 million to focus on international trade and export;
 - \$4.8 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 Securing Florida's Future budget recommends \$85 million in continuation funding for the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund. This transparent fund provides grants for approved local initiatives with a proven return of investment specifically designed to support broad-based economic growth by improving infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and water/wastewater systems. The fund also supports Florida's growing workforce by providing grants to approved local proposals for job training and skills enhancement in targeted growth industries.
- The Securing Florida's Future budget also includes more than \$43 million to continue the incentives for Florida businesses who are meeting their contractual requirements for creating jobs and making capital investments. This funding is provided for economic development programs such as the Qualified Targeted Industry Tax Refund, Defense Contractor Tax Refund and Brownfield Redevelopment Tax Refund.
- The Securing Florida's Future budget invests a record \$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 Securing Florida's Future budget continues the annual investment of \$7.5 million for EFI to aggressively market what Florida has to offer to businesses which will help lead to more job creation and economic diversity. In the wake of Hurricane Irma, it is more important than ever to let job creators know that Florida remains open for business.

Q: When will the current year \$85 million in funding for the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund be spent?

- The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and Enterprise Florida are thoroughly reviewing all projects submitted for the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund to ensure they meet strict return on investment requirements. Projects which meet the transparent and accountable funding criteria will be presented to the Governor for review so that funds may be allocated prior to the end of the Fiscal Year.

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

- The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends more than \$19 million for Space Florida to continue its development of Florida's growing aerospace and commercial space industries. This includes a recommendation of \$7 million in aerospace industry financing.

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

- Yes. The Securing 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 2018-19?

- The Securing Florida's Future budget includes a record \$10.85 billion for the Department of Transportation. Of this amount, a record \$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 112,000 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: Is there anything in Governor Scott's 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 \$1.4 billion on projects for Florida's ports. The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends more than \$171 million for seaport development projects throughout Florida.
- With the continued expansion of Florida seaports, the Securing Florida's Future budget ensures the state's future success by investing in exports to global markets and 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 Trade Grants and Export Marketing Plan assistance. These resources ensure Florida maintains its preeminent position as an economic gateway to Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Building on his successful 2017 Latin American Summit, the Governor is recommending nearly \$2 million in funding to support the work of the Latin Chamber of Commerce (CAMACOL) and the Hispanic Business Initiative Fund.

Q: Why is the Governor specifically recommending funding for CAMACOL and the Hispanic Business Initiative Fund?

- The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends nearly \$2 million for these organizations to support their ongoing work to create jobs and provide opportunities in Florida's Hispanic, Latin American and Caribbean communities.

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

- The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends more than \$186 million for safety projects to improve roadway conditions.



- With 20.7 million residents and more than 112 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.

Securing the Future Success of Florida's Students

Early Learning

Q: What is the recommended budget for early learning?

- The Securing Florida's Future budget includes \$1.1 billion in total funding for early learning programs, an increase of more than \$31 million over Fiscal Year 2017-18.

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

- The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends an additional \$11.6 million for a record total of more than \$408 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 158,000 four and five-year olds for kindergarten.

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

- The Securing Florida's Future budget provides funding 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) – Nearly \$4 million to deliver high quality School Readiness curriculum directly to parents so they may strengthen the cognitive and early literacy skills of at-risk children.

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

- The Securing Florida's Future budget includes an increase of \$7 million in federal funds to move approximately 1,200 additional children into the School Readiness program. Since Governor Scott took office, the School Readiness program has received more than \$48 million in additional federal funding and served more than 8,600 additional children.

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 Securing Florida's Future budget recommends historic funding for K-12 education and proposes an increase of nearly \$770 million in funding, of which more than \$235 million is state funding for K-12 public schools. The total state contribution for the K-12 public schools is nearly \$12 billion – the highest ever, for the sixth year in a row.
- The Securing Florida's Future budget includes \$7,497 in per student funding, which is the highest ever in Florida history. It exceeds the previous record of Fiscal Year 2017-18 by \$200 per student. Governor Scott's budget proposal also includes more than \$21.4 billion in total K-12 education funding, which is the highest level for the fifth year in a row, exceeding the \$20.64 billion that was provided in Fiscal Year 2017-18.

Q: Why did local funds increase in the FEFP?

- The local millage tax rate will not increase and will remain at the Fiscal Year 2017-18 level of 4.308. This means there is no tax increase because the rate will not change.
- The amount of local funding provided in the FEFP calculation primarily increased due to a 6.15 percent, or \$117.1 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.
- While Florida is currently experiencing increased local revenues because property values are rising, the state has also experienced significant reductions in local revenues when property values decline, as it faced during the 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 \$3.2 billion or 36.7 percent, from a total amount of \$8.7 billion in Fiscal Year 2011-12 to \$11.9 billion in the 2018-19 Securing 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 20.8 percent.

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

- The Securing 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.

Q: Why doesn't the Governor's budget recommend pay raises for teachers?

- Instead of pay raises, like he proposed in 2013, Governor Scott is proposing a total of more than \$63 million in funding for the Teacher Classroom Supply Assistance Program.
- This proposal is an increase for the program of nearly \$18 million, or \$100 additional dollars per teacher. These annual grants are used by educators to purchase classroom supplies needed for the school year. Currently, Florida teachers receive \$250 annually for classroom supplies. The Governor's proposal will increase this funding to \$350 annually.

- Additionally, the FEFP includes an increase of more than \$596 million in base funding which school districts may use to provide raises to teachers.

Q: Does the Governor's budget account for the current lawsuit against HB 7069?

- The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends maintaining current year recurring funding for the programs within HB 7069 including Best and Brightest and Schools of Hope.

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

- Yes. The Securing Florida's Future budget maintains Fiscal Year 2017-18 funding of \$140 million for the Schools of Hope program.

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

- Yes. The Securing Florida's Future budget maintains current year funding of \$234 million for the Best and Brightest Teacher and Principal program.

Q: Does the Governor's budget recommendation include any initiatives that focus on providing students who are learning the English language an opportunity to receive additional instruction?

- Yes. The Securing Florida's Future budget includes \$12 million in funding to establish the English Language Learners (ELL) Summer Academics program. This is a brand-new program proposed by Governor Scott. The program emphasis will be on reading improvements and students displaced by Hurricane Maria will have access to participate in the summer academies.
- Florida's ELL student population is nearly 292,000 (approximately ten percent of the total Florida student population). This proposal establishes Summer Academies for ELL students in grades 4-8 not meeting grade-level expectations.

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

- Yes. The Securing Florida's Future budget includes \$74.5 million, an increase of \$10 million or 15.5 percent over Fiscal Year 2017-18, for the safe schools component of the FEFP.

Q: Why is the Governor only proposing security funding for Jewish Day Schools?

- The Governor proposes \$1 million in security funding for Jewish Day Schools in his Securing Florida's Future budget – an increase of more than \$345,000 over current year funding. After Florida's Jewish community received hateful threats this year, Governor Scott saw the need to provide additional security so the children that attend Jewish Day Schools can learn in a safe environment. This funding would be available to all Florida Jewish Day Schools to help provide security and counter-terrorism upgrades such as video cameras, fences, bullet-proof glass, alarm systems and other safety equipment.
- Governor Scott is focused on the safety of all of Florida's school children and teachers and is recommending more than \$74 million, an increase of \$10 million over current year funding, for public school safety statewide so that every student in Florida is able to learn in a safe, comfortable environment.



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

- Yes. The Securing 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.

Q: Does the Governor's budget recommendation include funding to help students in STEM fields?

- Yes. The Securing Florida's Future budget includes \$15 million in funding to expand opportunities for middle and high school students to learn coding and computer science. The initiative will phase in a requirement for school districts to offer coding courses taught by teachers with coding credentials in at least ten percent of their public middle and high school classrooms, with special accommodations made for small school districts.
- Funding will be used to:
 - Pay for the training and credentials for public school teachers, including teachers at charter schools;
 - Provide a one-time \$3,000 bonus to teachers who earn a state certification in Computer Science, or a one-time bonus of \$1,500 to teachers who earn an applicable industry certification; and
 - Provide the Department of Education the authority to award high-need school districts with technology grants to purchase hardware and software for coding or computer science courses.

Higher Education

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

- The Securing Florida's Future budget includes historic state operating funding for higher education totaling \$3.71 billion for Florida's state colleges and universities.

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

- No. Governor Scott remains 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. The Governor and Florida Legislature have successfully held the line on tuition for five years.

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

- The Securing Florida's Future budget provides \$1.24 billion in historic state operating funding for state colleges, an increase of nearly \$32 million over current year state operating funding. The highlights include:
 - Performance funding – a record \$120 million, which consists of an additional \$30 million from the Florida colleges' base funding, as well as an increase of \$30 million in the state investment, to be allocated based on performance metrics including graduation rates, retention rates, post-graduation employment, wages and continuing education for recent graduates.
 - Performance funding for industry certifications earned – provides \$14 million, an increase of \$4 million over current year funding, for state colleges to be allocated based on students earning industry certifications in high-demand areas.

Q: Does the Governor's budget restore cuts made by the Legislature to Florida colleges last session?

- Yes. The Securing Florida's Future budget proposes \$30 million to restore funding cuts to Florida colleges made by the Legislature last session. This funding will be allocated based on performance metrics including graduation rates, retention rates, post-graduation employment, wages and continuing education for recent graduates.

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

- The Securing Florida's Future budget provides \$2.46 billion in historic state operating funding for the State University System. The major components include:
 - Performance funding – a record \$670.6 million to be allocated based on the Board of Governors' performance funding model. This recommendation is comprised of the following:
 - \$245 million in FY 2017-18 state investment;
 - \$275 million in FY 2017-18 institutional (base) investment;
 - An additional \$15 million state investment and \$15 million institutional investment;
 - \$70.6 million redirected from the World Class Faculty and Scholar Program towards state investment; and
 - \$50 million redirected from the State University Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program towards state investment.
 - \$2 million for the Lastinger Center Algebra Nation.

Q: Does the Governor's budget propose funding for the World Class Faculty and Scholar Program?

- No. The Securing Florida's Future budget redirects the more than \$70 million previously allocated for the World Class Faculty and Scholar Program into a record \$670.6 million investment in performance funding for the State University System.
- In his July 19th letter to the Presidents of the State University System institutions, Governor Scott urged that this funding be spent judiciously on initiatives that help students graduate in four years with less debt and the ability to get a great job.

Q: Does the Governor's budget propose funding for the State University Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program?

- No. The Securing Florida's Future budget redirects the \$50 million previously allocated for the State University Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program into a record \$670.6 million investment in performance funding for the State University System.
- In his July 19th letter to the Presidents of the State University System institutions, Governor Scott urged that this funding be spent judiciously on initiatives that help students graduate in four years with less debt and the ability to get a great job.

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

- Yes. The Securing Florida's Future budget includes performance funding in the following areas:
 - \$6 million in funding for district workforce programs to be allocated based on students earning industry certifications in high-demand areas;
 - An increase of \$4 million, for a total of \$14 million, in funding for state colleges to be allocated based on students earning industry certifications in high-demand areas;
 - \$120 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; and
 - More than \$670 million for the State University System. Performance will be based on 10 metrics including: percent of graduates employed or continuing education, average wages of employed graduates and graduation rates.

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

- Governor Scott is proposing more than \$4.26 billion in historic state and total operating funding for the State University System. Universities have the discretion to utilize the funding they receive as they see fit and may allocate funding to support these initiatives.

Q: Why are the Florida College System and State University System not receiving operating funding for new facilities?

- The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends \$50 million for state university maintenance and repair needs and \$50 million for state college maintenance and repair needs to existing facilities. Prior to constructing a new facility, institutions should take into account the costs of maintenance and operations and utilize their campus to maximize building efficiency.

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

- The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends \$124 million for the Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG) and more than \$6 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: Why does the Governor's budget include a decrease in funding for the Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG)?

- The Securing Florida's Future budget's funding for FRAG is based on the August 2, 2017 estimating conference, which projects a decrease of 435 students for the program.

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

- The Securing Florida's Future budget's funding for ABLE is based on the August 2, 2017 estimating conference, which projects a decrease of 101 students for the program.

Q: Why does the Governor's budget include a decrease in funding for the Florida National Merit Scholars Incentive Program?

- The Securing Florida's Future budget's funding for the National Merit Scholarship Program is based on the August 2, 2017 estimating conference, which projects a decrease of 37 students for the program.

Q: What comprises the net increase of \$3.5 million for the Student Financial Aid?

- The Securing Florida's Future budget's funding for this initiative is based on the August 2, 2017 estimating conference, which specifies the following programs:
 - Florida Student Assistance Grant - Public Full and Part Time: \$239.5 million, an increase of \$31.5 million over current year, due to a projected increase of 20,075 students.
 - Florida Student Assistance Grant – Private: More than \$21 million, a decrease of \$12 million under current year, due to a projected decrease of 11,075 students.
 - Florida Student Assistance Grant – Postsecondary: More than \$9 million, a decrease of \$13.8 million under current year, due to a projected decrease of 12,367 students.
 - Florida Student Assistance Grant - Career Education: More than \$3 million, a decrease of \$1.5 million under current year, due to a projected decrease of 2,445 students.
 - Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans: Nearly \$5.7 million, a decrease of \$97,787 under current year, due to a projected decrease of 12 students.
 - Florida Work Experience: Maintains current year funding of \$1.6 million.
 - Rosewood Family Scholarships: Maintains current year funding of \$256,747.
 - Honorably Discharged Graduate Assistance Program: Maintains current year funding of \$1 million.



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

- The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends investing more than \$23 million for Bright Futures scholarships and ensures the Bright Futures Academic Scholars award will continue to cover 100 percent of tuition and fees for all semesters, including summer, for all eligible students.

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

- The August 11, 2017 Revenue Estimating Conference identified the amount available for appropriation from the PECO Trust Fund for Fiscal Year 2018-19 to be \$343.5 million.
- The PECO program addresses educational facility construction and fixed capital outlay needs for school districts, state colleges, state universities and other public education programs.
- The Securing Florida's Future budget includes a total of more than \$335 million from PECO funds:

	PECO Funding	Purpose
K-12 Public Schools	\$50 million	Maintenance/Repair/Renovation/Remodel
Charter Schools	\$50 million	Maintenance/Repair/Renovation/Remodel
Special Facilities Construction	\$48.9 million	Special Facility Construction Projects in Taylor, Bradford, Gilchrist, Jackson and Liberty Counties
Florida Colleges	\$34.4 million	Capital Projects
Florida Colleges	\$50 million	Maintenance/Repair/Renovation/Remodel
State Universities	\$34.4 million	Capital Projects
State Universities	\$50 million	Maintenance/Repair/Renovation/Remodel
Lab Schools	\$14.1 million	Represents local millage equivalent used for Maintenance/Repair/Renovation/Remodel and additional funding for FAU Lab Schools
Florida School for the Deaf and Blind	\$3.4 million	Preventative maintenance projects and construction

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

- No. The Securing 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 do to help small school districts with facility needs?

- The Securing Florida's Future budget provides nearly \$49 million in funding for five small school districts for critical construction needs through the Special Facilities Program (Jackson, Taylor, Liberty, Bradford and Gilchrist Counties).

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

- Yes. Lab schools are traditional K-12 schools that, like charter schools, cannot levy taxes. The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends a total of more than \$6 million for maintenance for all lab schools.
- The Securing Florida's Future budget also includes nearly \$8 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.

Securing the Protection of Florida's Pristine Environment

Q: What is the recommended budget for environmental protection?

- The Securing Florida's Future budget invests more than \$3.8 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 Securing 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. In addition, the transfers from General Revenue to Land Acquisition Trust Fund for Salaries and Benefits included in the budget when Amendment 1 was initially implemented, were reversed to free up those dollars to be put toward Florida Forever, which was funded at \$50 million.

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

- The Securing Florida's Future budget provides more than \$355 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;
 - \$173.8 million for Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan projects, including the C-43 Reservoir and land acquisition required to move additional projects forward;
 - \$36 million for dispersed water management and public private partnerships to provide additional water storage;
 - \$64 million to the South Florida Water Management District for the EAA Reservoir (Senate Bill 10); and
 - \$50 million to accelerate repairs to the federally-operated Herbert Hoover Dike.

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

- The Securing Florida's Future budget proposes \$50 million for a Water Infrastructure Investment Program, which may be used to convert septic tanks to sewer systems in order to curb pollution entering the Indian River Lagoon and Caloosahatchee River.
- Additionally, this funding may be used for stormwater projects to improve water quality and reduce sources of pollution entering the Indian River Lagoon and Caloosahatchee River.
- The \$355 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 \$105 million for the continued investment in the C-43 reservoir, which will provide 55 billion gallons of water storage east of Lake Okeechobee once complete.
- The budget also includes an additional \$50 million to accelerate repairs to the federally-operated Herbert Hoover Dike. This investment will build on this year's \$50 million in funding for critical Dike repairs and is complemented by the commitment of President Trump to Governor Scott for federal support and his instruction to accelerate the completion of repairs.

**Q: How much did the Governor fund Florida Forever?**

- The Securing Florida's Future budget provides \$50 million for Florida Forever projects to be administered by the Division of State Lands within the Department of Environmental Protection.
- The Division of State Lands through the Acquisition and Restoration Council is best able to accomplish the needs of the state through a comprehensive, statewide review that is open to the public. This process is the most responsive to the public and is able to accomplish the goals of all groups listed in the Florida Forever statute in a way that not only protects our natural resources, but also best serves the public and future generations.
- In total, the budget includes more than \$172 million for land acquisition and statewide land management activities, including:
 - \$50 million for Florida Forever;
 - \$10 million for Water Management District Land Management; and
 - \$112 million for base land management funding across all four state agencies that manage land (Department of Environmental Protection, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and Department of State).

Q: Is the Governor fulfilling his promise to fund \$150 million annually for land acquisition and management?

- Yes. The Securing Florida's Future budget includes more than \$172 million for land acquisition and statewide land management activities.

Q: What does the Governor's budget provide for water storage around Lake Okeechobee?

- The budget includes more than \$215 million for several water storage projects, many of these around Lake Okeechobee, which will provide nearly 300 billion gallons of water storage once completed. Examples of these projects include:
 - \$105 million to continue the C-43 reservoir, which will provide 55 billion gallons of water storage to protect estuaries.
 - \$11 million for the C23/C24 project, including targeted land acquisition for the project, which will provide nearly 30 billion gallons of additional water storage once complete.
 - \$36 million for dispersed water management, which will provide more than 130 billion gallons of water storage when projects are operational.
 - \$64 million for the EAA Reservoir (SB 10), which will provide a minimum of 78 billion gallons of water storage when complete.

Q: How much did the Governor fund beach restoration?

- The budget includes a record total of \$100 million for beach restoration. This includes:
 - \$50 million for annual beach restoration projects, and
 - \$50 million for the state's share of hurricane related beach restoration.

Q: What does the Governor's budget do to address environmental impacts from Hurricane Irma?

- The budget includes \$50 million for the state's share of hurricane-related beach restoration.

- The budget also includes \$10 million for citrus research - an increase of \$2 million from current year funding. This increase will support additional research to find solutions to citrus greening, including supporting any federal programs that may become available in light of the devastation caused by Hurricane Irma.
- Governor Scott is also recommending \$7 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 able to replant healthy citrus trees that were destroyed by Hurricane Irma, and minimizing the spread of citrus greening.

Q: How much did the Governor fund state parks?

- The Governor recommends a record of more than \$161 million for the award-winning Florida State Park system. This includes:
 - A record \$50 million, for State Park Facility improvements;
 - \$4 million for ADA accessibility improvements; and
 - \$750,000 for Partnership in Parks.

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

- Yes. The Securing Florida's Future budget provides a record \$50 million for improvements to state park facilities, with a focus on enhancing visitor experience. Also, the budget provides \$4 million for ADA accessibility improvements in state parks.

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

- The Securing Florida's Future budget includes the following for waste management:
 - \$8.5 million – Dry Cleaning/Site Cleanup
 - \$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?

- Yes. The Securing Florida's Future budget provides a record \$55 million for springs. The proposed funding will help protect water quality through proper wastewater 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 infrastructure needs?

- The Securing Florida's Future budget provides \$50 million to address statewide water infrastructure needs based on the greatest need. This program will specifically focus on septic to sewer conversions, alternative water supply and stormwater management projects.

Q: What is the Governor proposing to support the citrus industry's recovery after Hurricane Irma?

- Governor Scott activated a \$25 million Florida Citrus Emergency Loan Program to provide short-term loans to citrus growers that experienced damages during the storm to "bridge the gap" between the time Hurricane Irma hit and when growers receive payments on insurance claims and/or federal disaster assistance.
- The Securing Florida's Future budget includes \$4 million support Department of Citrus consumer awareness efforts to support the market for Florida citrus and orange juice.

- Additionally, the budget includes \$10 million for citrus research - an increase of \$2 million from current year funding. This increase will support additional research to find solutions to citrus greening.
- The budget also includes \$7 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 able to replant healthy citrus trees that were destroyed by Hurricane Irma, and minimizing the spread of citrus greening.
- Governor Scott personally advocated in Washington D.C. for Congress to pass a disaster relief package in the full amount of \$2.5 billion for Florida agriculture, including more than \$760 million for the citrus industry.

Q: What does the budget provide to address the wildfires earlier this year?

- The Securing Florida's Future budget provides \$2.4 million for a 10 percent raise for all Florida Forest Service firefighters. Additionally, \$500,000 is provided for a new community wildfire mitigation program that will specifically focus on those counties that were most threatened by wildfires this year.

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

- Governor Scott recommends \$3.6 million for a new Florida Resilient Coastline Initiative within the Department of Environmental Protection, which will assist local governments with sea level rise planning and coastal resilience projects, in addition to protection of coral reef health.
- Governor Scott also remains committed to funding coastal protection projects, including:
 - \$100 million for beach restoration projects, including hurricane-related restoration;
 - \$832,000 for Florida's Coastal Zone Management Program; and
 - \$1 million for removal of waste tires currently posing a threat to coral reefs.

Q: Does the Governor's budget include funding to help prevent conflicts with bears and other non-native or conflict species?

- Yes. The Securing 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.
- Additionally, the budget includes \$1.5 million to address both conflict species and non-native invasive species in Florida, such as the lionfish, tegu lizards, and pythons, based on the greatest need to the state.

Securing a Healthier Future for Florida

Q: Does the Governor's budget fund the Low Income Pool?

- Yes. The Securing Florida's Future budget provides more than \$1.5 billion annually over five years for the federal government and local hospital districts to fund the low income pool (LIP), in the event hospital districts decide to contribute the necessary matching funds. It is incumbent on the hospital districts to partner with the federal government to draw down these funds. The LIP program is a federal matching program that provides federal funds to Florida hospitals to cover costs for the state's most vulnerable patients. This year, Governor Scott worked with the federal government to secure this critical funding. This funding is an increase of more than \$892 million over what was provided by the Obama Administration.

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

- The Securing Florida's Future budget provides more than \$18 million to add approximately 900 individuals from the waiting list who are in crisis onto the APD waiver program.
- This is the sixth year that Governor Scott has provided funding to enroll individuals onto the APD waiver program to help them live, learn and work in their communities.

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

- The Securing Florida's Future budget provides \$53 million to fight the opioid epidemic in Florida which includes:
 - \$15 Million for enhancements to the substance abuse system of care. This funding will provide for 53 additional residential treatment beds, outpatient treatment and case management, emergency room treatment and follow up, peer recovery and targeted outreach for pregnant women with substance abuse disorders;
 - \$5 million for Naloxone for first responders;
 - \$27 million in federal funding from the Opioid State Targeted Response Grant;
 - \$1.2 million to enhance the Prescription Drug Monitoring System;
 - \$4 million for the Florida Violent Crime and Drug Control Council to assist local law enforcement; and
 - More than \$885,000 for handheld narcotic analyzers for the Florida Highway Patrol to keep officers in the field safe.

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

- Yes. The Securing Florida's Future budget includes the following increases for behavioral health funding:
 - Nearly \$3 million for the expansion of three new community multidisciplinary teams and housing support located in Leon, Polk and Pinellas counties to provide behavioral, medical and housing assistance for non-violent offenders with behavioral health needs;
 - More than \$2 million for three new coordinated specialty care treatment teams located in Duval, Hillsborough and Orange counties targeting youth and young adults ages 15-30 with serious mental illnesses, especially first episode psychosis with an emphasis on facilitating a stable living environment;

- More than \$9.7 million to continue competitively awarding central receiving system programs. These facilities assess, evaluate, treat and triage individuals with behavioral health needs serving as a single point of entry for individuals needing evaluation and stabilization; and
- More than \$7 million to make improvements to and ensure ADA and life-safety compliance at state mental health treatment facilities.

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

- The Governor's recommended budget invests more than \$198 million, a more than \$2 million increase over current year funding, for maintenance adoption subsidies for children who are adopted from foster care and provides post adoption services for more than 37,000 children.
- Since taking office, Governor Scott has championed investments for the adoption of more than 20,000 children from Florida's child welfare system.

Q: Does the Governor's budget continue the current level of funding for the federal Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP)?

- The Governor's budget continues the current level of funding for CHIP. The state expects Congress to reauthorize funding for this program that serves low-income children.

Q: The Governor supports an extension of the federal Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP), isn't this supporting Medicaid expansion?

- CHIP was established in 1997, more than 10 years prior to the expansion of Medicaid under Obamacare. The continuation of CHIP, which provides health insurance to low-income children, is not Medicaid expansion. These are two separate programs.

Q: What does the Governor's budget recommend for improvement in Florida's child welfare system?

- Governor Scott believes that every child deserves a bright future and that the state must do everything to ensure that all children are given the best opportunity to succeed. The Securing Florida's Future budget invests nearly \$1.3 billion in total funding for Florida's Child Welfare System.
- The budget invests \$10.1 million to add 130 Child Protective Investigator and Florida Abuse Hotline Counselor positions to address statewide child protection retention and workload issues.
- The budget also recommends an investment of nearly \$30 million in additional funding to provide core services to children who depend on Florida's child welfare system and funding for non-relative care givers and foster parents of youth.

Q: Why is the Governor not recommending the request from the Department of Children and Families for \$59 million to fund the Guardianship Assistance Program?

- Currently, the Department of Children and Families has a federal IV-E waiver which provides flexibility in the delivery of child welfare services. The Securing Florida's Future budget does not recommend this funding as the federal IV-E waiver is still in effect and the Guardianship Assistance Program is not needed at this time.

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

- Yes. The Securing Florida's Future budget invests more than \$2 million in new funding to expand in-home treatment through community wraparound services, specialized therapeutic foster care and an emergency shelter that provides one-on-one staff supervision for victims of commercial sexual exploitation in conjunction with the Department of Juvenile Justice.

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

- The Securing Florida's Future budget will outsource 12 positions by shifting Child Protective investigations in Walton County to the Walton County Sheriff's Office. This is the seventh sheriff's office to request taking on these responsibilities. Child protective investigators are responsible for investigating child neglect, child abuse and child abandonment.

Q: Does the Governor's budget support funding services for frail seniors?

- Yes, the Securing Florida's Future budget invests \$3 million in new funding to enroll approximately 264 individuals into the Alzheimer's Disease Initiative Program.
- The Securing Florida's Future budget includes, \$5 million in new funding for Community Care for the Elderly Program to enroll approximately 607 individuals into the program and also includes \$1 million for Home Care for the Elderly Program to enroll approximately 268 individuals into the program.

Securing a Safe Future for Florida Families

Q: What is the recommended budget for public safety?

- The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends \$5.3 billion for public safety, which is an increase of nearly \$200 million, or nearly four percent, over current year funding.

Q: Does the Governor's budget provide support to state sworn law enforcement?

- Yes. The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends \$30 million for our law enforcement agencies to use for officer recruitment and retention. These funds will help ensure state agencies can continue to recruit and retain highly qualified and dedicated officers.

Q: How will the Governor's \$30 million proposal for state law enforcement recruitment and retention be allocated?

- Each agency may provide to the Executive Office of the Governor (EOG) a proposal to address recruitment and retention for sworn law enforcement positions unique to their agency. Funds are distributed after agencies have identified and submitted documentation for the sworn law enforcement salary adjustments.

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

- Yes. The Securing Florida's Future budget includes \$1.3 million for incident command vehicles and emergency ordinance disposal vehicles to strengthen counterterrorism and intelligence efforts. These vehicles will serve a critical role in helping to protect Florida families from terrorism.

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

- Yes. The Securing 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 respond to the emerging crime trends more rapidly. These funds must be used for law enforcement investigations related to opioid abuse.

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

- Yes. The Securing Florida's Future budget builds on this year's \$75 million increase in investment in the Department of Corrections by recommending an additional \$169 million to enhance FDC's mental health and medical services, services to inmates with disabilities and improvements and repairs to correctional facilities.

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

- Yes. The Securing Florida's Future budget includes more than \$78 million and 476 positions to enhance mental health services to inmates. The funds will be used to better staff mental health facilities with medical and security staff, improve those facilities to be more conducive to mental health treatment, and continue funding for the Residential Mental Health Unit at the Wakulla Correctional Institution.

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

- Yes. The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends \$6.5 million and 12 positions to improve services to inmates with disabilities. These funds will allow FDC to improve facilities housing these inmates to make them ADA compliant and will also be used to

purchase hearing aids and provide sign language interpreters for inmates with hearing impairments.

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

- Yes. The Securing Florida's Future budget includes more than \$20 million to fund various maintenance and repair projects at correctional facilities, and more than \$10 million to fund such projects at juvenile facilities.

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

- Yes. The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends a two-pronged pay plan for juvenile detention and probation officers to address hiring and retention challenges. The plan provides more than \$8 million to provide current juvenile detention and probation officers a 10 percent pay raise and to increase the base rate of pay for the juvenile detention and probation officer by 10 percent.

Q: Does the budget fund juvenile prevention programs?

- Yes. The Securing Florida's Future budget includes a total of more than \$9 million in DJJ prevention funding, which will allow DJJ to continue and expand evidence-based prevention programs.

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

- Yes. The Securing Florida's Future budget provides \$14 million to support 140 additional residential beds. This increase includes 84 beds in non-secure residential facilities, 28 intensive mental health beds in non-secure residential facilities, and 28 beds in secure residential facilities. These beds will assist in reducing the waitlist for these programs.

Q: Does the budget provide funding for the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice's Office of Youth and Family Advocacy?

- The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends \$317,000 and three positions for the creation of the Office of Youth and Family Advocacy (OYFA) within DJJ. The Chief of OYFA will report directly to the Secretary of DJJ. Each region under DJJ will have a Regional Advocate who is tasked with providing greater transparency and accountability to DJJ by ensuring in-custody youth are provided with a safe environment.

Q: Does the Governor's budget include additional funding for the Guardian ad Litem Program?

- The Securing Florida's Future budget recommendation for the GAL Program is consistent with current-year funding levels of nearly \$51 million. This represents an increase of over \$20 million, or 69 percent, over Governor Scott's term.

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

- The Securing Florida's Future budget recommendation for the state courts is largely consistent with current-year funding levels and does include a recommendation to fund 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: Do the budget recommendations address the needs of the state attorneys or public defenders?

- Yes. The Securing Florida's Future budget recommendation includes \$2.3 million in funding and 45 positions to the state attorney offices to address their additional workload related to the increased use of body cameras and public records requests.
- Additionally, the Securing Florida's Future budget recommends tasking OPPAGA with the development of a weighted caseload model and workload assessment study to determine whether the State Attorney and Public Defender Offices are adequately staffed.

Q: Why are you recommending sweeping the State Attorney and Public Defender trust funds?

- State Attorney and Public Defender Offices largely fund their operations from General Revenue, and several circuits have large unencumbered cash balances.

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

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

Q: Is there any funding for new judges?

- At the time of the budget development, the Supreme Court's Certification of Additional Judgeships had not been released.

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

- The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends \$286 million in total funding for the Florida Highway Patrol.
- The Governor's recommended funding for the Florida Highway Patrol includes:
 - \$885,000 for hand-held narcotics analyzers;
 - Nearly \$3 million for an Active Shooter training facility at the Patrol's Public Safety Institute Campus; and
 - \$3.4 million for renovation of the Patrol's Academy dormitories.

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

- The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends \$7.5 million to continue the Motorist Modernization 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 Securing Florida's Future budget recommends \$5 million for the second year of the second phase of the Motorist Modernization Project that will update the existing Florida Real Time Vehicle Information System (FRVIS). When completed, these projects will operate seamlessly to reduce costs and provide significantly greater operational efficiencies for consumers.

Securing Florida as the Most Military and Veteran Friendly State in the Nation

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

- The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends \$178 million in total funding to support active duty military, veterans and their families. This funding includes more than \$18 million for the following:
 - \$2 million for the Florida Defense Support Task Force;
 - \$1.6 million for the Defense Infrastructure Program;
 - \$3 million for military base protection, including additional security measures for National Guard armories;
 - \$1.7 million for armory maintenance;
 - \$4.2 million to support Florida National Guardsmen seeking higher education degrees;
 - \$5.7 million to support scholarships for children and spouses of deceased or disabled veterans;
 - \$70,000 for search and rescue vessels for National Guardsmen to use during storm-related missions and duties; and
 - \$130,000 for protective equipment to be used by National Guardsmen during deployment.

Q: Does the Governor's budget continue statewide support for Crisis Center Support Services for Veterans?

- Yes. Last year, Governor Scott recommended and the Legislature funded the statewide Crisis Center Support Line for Veterans. The Securing Florida's Future budget provides \$400,000 to continue the statewide dedicated telephone line (1-844-MYFLVET) that helps veterans in need by connecting them with local call centers where they can receive referrals to community health services and other community resources. This includes employment, financial, legal, transportation, housing and other assistance.

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

- The Securing Florida's Future budget includes \$2 million to support securing the Florida National Guard armories and recruitment centers.
- The budget also includes \$1 million in new funding to support tuition assistance for Florida National Guardsmen for a total of \$4.2 million in tuition assistance.

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

- Yes. The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends \$2.75 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;
 - \$750,000 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: Does the Governor's budget include funding for State Veterans' Nursing Home?

- Yes. The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends \$7.9 million to begin operations at the Lake Baldwin State Veteran Nursing Home. This funding will allow the Lake

Baldwin State Veteran Nursing Home to open to serve more than 110 veterans in the coming year.

- The Securing Florida's Future budget also recommends an additional more than \$4 million for capital improvements, updating equipment, essential nursing home staff and start up activities at the Ardie R. Copas State Veteran Nursing Home.
- This year, for the first time, all six state veteran nursing homes achieved a Five-Star Quality Rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Securing a Strong Future for Florida's Communities**Q: What is the total recommended budget for the Florida Division of Emergency Management?**

- The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends more than \$1.4 billion to fund the Florida Division of Emergency Management to continue to prepare for and respond to both manmade and natural disasters. This reflects a 257 percent increase over the current year level of funding of \$390.6 million.

Q: How much does the state spent anticipate spending on Hurricane Irma preparedness, response and recovery?

- State agencies report estimated costs to the Division of Emergency Management daily. As of November 7, 2017, the state has spent more than \$680 million. However, following anticipated reimbursements from FEMA of \$628.7 million, it is expected that the state's cost will be reduced to approximately \$50 million, with less than \$20 million of that being from General Revenue.

Q: How does Governor Scott's budget account for spending due to Hurricane Irma?

- State agencies prepared for and responded to Hurricane Irma with a combination of existing budget authority and emergency appropriations approved by the Governor in accordance with his Emergency Executive Order.
- The Securing Florida's Future budget includes a total of \$1.4 billion to provide funding for communities and state operations for disaster response and rapid recovery related activities due to Hurricane Irma and other prior storms. This is the highest level of funding since Governor Scott took office.

Q: What additional Hurricane-related costs are accounted for in the Governor's budget?

- The state is responsible for 25 percent of "other needs assistance" and transitional shelter assistance payments. As of November 7, 2017, FEMA has authorized \$274 million through the other needs category, therefore, the state will be billed at least \$69 million for the state's share of that program. Likewise, FEMA has authorized \$1.5 million for transitional shelter assistance which the state will be billed at least \$385,000. These totals will continue to increase as additional FEMA payments are made to individuals.

Q: What are the total Hurricane adjustments as shown on the Governor's proposed General Outlook Statement:

- As of November 7, 2017, a net total of more than \$177 million in General Revenue is reflected on the General Revenue Outlook Statement to account for budget amendments processed or anticipated to be processed for Hurricane related activities. This includes:

Projected Expenditures (\$576 million)

- \$103.8 million for Hurricane Irma State Agency Public Assistance (Actual Processed Budget Amendments);
- \$258.2 million for Hurricane Irma State Agency Public Assistance (Projected GR needed);
- \$69 million for projected Individual Assistance/Other Needs Assessment payments;
- \$100 million reserved for additional Hurricane Impacts, including state match for potential local government costs;

- \$20 million for Hurricane Irma Bridge Loan Payments; and
- \$25 million for Hurricane Irma Citrus Loan Program Payments.

Projected Reimbursements (\$398.1 million)

- \$343.7 million Hurricane Irma expected reimbursements from FEMA;
- \$18 million Hurricane Irma Bridge Loan reimbursements; and
- \$36.4 million Hurricane Hermine and Mathew reimbursements from FEMA.

Q: Does the Governor's budget recommend funding to address costs associated with displaced individuals from Puerto Rico coming to Florida?

- The Host State Agreement that Governor Scott requested and FEMA approved will provide 100 percent reimbursement for emergency management costs. It is too early to determine total fiscal impacts for education, health care and other services since it is unknown whether individuals will remain in Florida and what services they will receive.
- As cost information becomes available over the coming months, federal funding will be requested as necessary, similar to the federal response provided to states following Hurricane Katrina.

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

- Yes. The Securing Florida's Future budget includes more than \$130 million for affordable and workforce housing. This recommendation includes more than \$96 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. Further, of the more than \$96 million for SAIL, the Governor is recommending \$20 million for workforce housing projects in the Florida Keys.
- Also included is a \$34 million recommendation for the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program.
- Finally, the Governor is recommending \$100 million in new funding for a targeted program to directly address the affordable and workforce housing needs of Floridians impacted by Hurricane Irma.

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

- The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends the following items to benefit Florida's communities:
 - More than \$28 million for state aid to libraries;
 - \$5.8 million for library cooperative grants and other library resources;
 - \$8.5 million for cultural, museum, and historical preservation grants; and
 - \$12 million for an updated Commercial Registry Solution to replace the current system that is over 20 years old.

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

- The Securing Florida's Future budget proposes nearly \$2.5 million and five positions to enhance cyber security at the Department of State's Division of Elections.

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

- The Securing Florida's Future budget's recommendation for the Department of State's Division of Elections totals \$21 million. This includes:
 - \$488,000 and 5 positions for cyber security staff support;
 - Nearly \$2 million funded under the Federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) for cyber security grants to counties;
 - \$800,000 to assist individuals with disabilities;
 - \$525,000 for voting system assistance;
 - \$3.4 million to assist local governments with special elections; and
 - More than \$445,000 for election fraud prevention.

Q. Why is the Governor proposing to sweep \$91.8 million from the Florida Housing Trust Funds?

- Governor Scott believes that his recommendations in the Securing Florida's Future budget address the continuing need to ensure there is adequate affordable and workforce housing available to Floridians. The Governor is recommending a total of \$230 million with more than \$130 million for affordable housing including more than \$96 million for the State Apartment Incentive Loan program and \$34 million the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program. As a part of that total, Governor Scott is recommending \$100 million for a targeted program to directly address the affordable and workforce housing needs of Floridians impacted by Hurricane Irma. The proposed sweep is \$132 million less than the proposed sweep was for the current year.

Q. Why has the Governor not recommended funding for the Department of State's Culture Builds program or the Florida Humanities Council?

- The Governor's budget recommendations in this area prioritize applying such funding as efficiently and effectively as possible. That is why the Securing Florida's Future budget recommends \$8.3 million in funding for the Department of State's longstanding cultural, museum, and historical preservation grant programs.