

## Governor Rick Scott's Securing Florida's Future Budget

### Introduction from Governor Rick Scott

When I made the decision to run for Governor in 2010, a lot of people doubted that a businessman who had never been in politics could cut taxes and get our state back to work. For years, politicians in Tallahassee had run our economy into the ground through tax increases, frivolous spending and a lack of focus on job creation. I have spent every day since taking office fighting to get Florida on the right track by turning back the harmful policies of past politicians and I am proud of the work we have accomplished to secure Florida's future by creating an environment where Floridians of all ages have the tools they need to succeed in our state.

In the seven years that I have served as Governor, we have consistently invested record funding in what's most important to Florida families. Our hard work for Florida families has made Florida a leader in job creation, education, transportation and environmental protection. Turning around Florida's economy would not have been possible without our hard work cutting taxes and encouraging business to thrive here in the Sunshine State. Since I took office, we have cut taxes 75 times saving Floridians more than \$7.5 billion, paid down \$9 billion in state debt and made government more efficient to save even more taxpayer money. These accomplishments have helped secure future success and prosperity, and have made it possible for more than 1.3 million Floridians to find a job so they can support their families.

Our Securing Florida's Future budget advances Florida's success by securing the resources and funding needed to continue growing our booming economy, keep our neighborhoods safe and families healthy, build upon our world-class education system and make sure our pristine environment is healthy and well protected for generations to come. Our balanced budget also doubles down on our goals of continuing to cut taxes and state debt.

This year, Florida faced the largest and most devastating storm we have seen in decades when Hurricane Irma made landfall on Cudjoe Key the morning of September 10<sup>th</sup>. In the face of this adversity, Floridians from Key West to Pensacola showed true resolve and stood together to help their neighbors through preparation, response and recovery. Florida has the nation's best emergency management professionals and our Securing Florida's Future budget makes critical investments to support our state emergency management for future storms while aiding in our current recovery from Hurricane Irma. This hurricane season, we also saw the incredible, life-saving work of our law enforcement officers. Earlier this year, I was proud to propose and work with the Legislature to approve a five percent pay raise for all sworn state law enforcement officers. Now, to build on that investment, I am recommending \$30 million for Florida's state law enforcement agencies to use for additional pay raises. Florida's state law enforcement officers bravely put their lives on the line every day to protect our families and they deserve to be recognized for their great work.

We've also prioritized spending on our environment by recommending \$1.7 billion to preserve and protect Florida iconic natural resources. This robust proposal includes record funding for our springs, state parks, beaches and the Everglades. We've also advanced our commitment to fix the federal Herbert Hoover Dike surrounding Lake Okeechobee. Earlier this year, I became the first governor in Florida history to approve state funding to address needed repairs to the Dike. Now, I'm proud to go even further and recommend an additional \$50 million investment of state funds to expedite these critical repairs. I am proud to have secured the



commitment of President Trump to accelerate this federal project, which will protect communities and reduce harmful water discharges that have plagued our communities. For decades, Congress has failed to address this problem, so we stepped up and found solutions.

My final recommended budget also prioritizes our students and teachers. For the sixth year in a row, we are recommending historic state funding for K-12 education in Florida. The future success of a child is incredibly important and we are thankful every day for the hard work and selfless dedication of Florida's teachers. This funding will allow every student in Florida the ability to have the tools they need to be successful in the classroom. And to support our teachers who are heroes to the students they teach, we are recommending \$63 million in teacher supply grants. Far too often, teachers have to dip into their own pockets to buy supplies for their classroom and we must fix this. These grants will provide an additional \$100 for every teacher to ensure they have the tools they need to help our students achieve.

Finally, to return more money to Florida taxpayers, we are proposing \$180 million in tax cuts. This includes rolling back fee increases for Floridians when they are obtaining and renewing their driver's licenses. We are also proposing a 10-day back to school tax holiday so students can be prepared for the school year without the burden of sales tax, and three weeks of tax-free disaster-supply holidays so Floridians can replenish their preparedness kits after 2017's active hurricane season.

As I've traveled our state over the past seven years, I haven't met anyone that wants to pay more in taxes and that's why we need to make sure that all of our hard work to cut taxes and keep Florida's economy booming isn't undone by future politicians. To prevent future politicians from unfairly raising taxes, I am fighting for an amendment to Florida's Constitution that would impose a super-majority requirement on any vote of the Florida Legislature to raise a tax or fee. It's only fair to Florida families that the raising of a tax or fee is made harder. Requiring a super-majority vote in our state's constitution will ensure future generations can continue to benefit from Florida's low taxes for years to come.

As I enter my last legislative session as Governor, my commitment to every Floridian is that I will fight every day for what's best for Florida families. I will spend every minute of every one of my remaining 419 days as your Governor fighting to make Florida an even better place to raise a family, receive a top-notch education, get a great job and live in a safe community. My recommended budget represents years of fighting to do what's right for Florida families and while we've seen incredible success, we will keep fighting every day to secure Florida's future for every Florida family.

Sincerely,

Governor Rick Scott

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

Florida has shown that cutting taxes, reducing regulations and keeping the cost of living down allows job creators to grow and succeed. Governor Scott has a proven record of cutting taxes and fees to reduce their burden on Florida families. **Since taking office, Governor Scott has championed more than 75 tax cuts, saving Florida families and businesses more than \$7.5 billion.** Expanding on the Governor's ongoing commitment to cut taxes, **the Securing Florida's Future budget proposes to cut taxes and fees by more than \$180 million.**

Governor Scott's **\$180 million** tax 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** from a 10-day back-to-school sales tax holiday; and
  - **\$15 million** 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** saved by reducing the fee for a renewal of regular driver's licenses by more than 58 percent from \$48 to \$20; and
  - **\$21 million** saved by reducing the fee on original regular driver's licenses by more than 43 percent from \$48 to \$27 and the fee on an original or renewal Commercial Driver's License by more than ten 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, for individuals who attend a basic driver improvement school.

## Keeping Florida's Taxes Low for Generations to Come

Governor Scott is committed to continuing to cut every possible tax to help Florida now and in the future. This year, the Governor is proposing a constitutional amendment both through legislation and the Constitution Revision Commission to require a supermajority vote by future Florida legislatures to raise any taxes or fees. This will make it harder for politicians to unfairly raise taxes on future generations. Major tax cuts championed by Governor Scott during his time in office include:

- Cutting the fees for annual vehicle registrations in 2014, saving Florida motorists \$400 million every year;
- Cutting the tax on cell phone and cable bills in 2015, saving Floridians more than \$226 million every year;
- Permanently eliminating the sales tax on manufacturing machinery and equipment in 2016, saving Florida job creators more than \$73 million every year;
- Cutting the tax on commercial leases this year, saving Florida job creators more than \$60 million every year; and
- Eliminating the business tax for 75 percent of businesses over the past few years, saving Florida job creators more than \$50 million every year.

### **1.3 Million Private Sector Jobs Added and Counting**

In the four years before Governor Scott took office, Florida had lost more than 800,000 jobs, taxes were increased by more than \$2 billion and the economy was in freefall. Running on a promise to Florida families to turn Florida's economy around, Governor Scott has spent every day focused on growing business and creating jobs in the Sunshine State. **Today, Florida's economic growth strategy has become a model for the nation and thanks to Governor Scott's focus on creating business-friendly policies, reducing burdensome regulations and cutting taxes, more than 1.3 million private sector jobs have been added since December 2010.** This year, Governor Scott is committed to ensuring Florida's incredible job growth and economic success stretches far into the future.

#### **Securing Florida's Future Economic Success**

Governor Scott fights every day for Florida jobs. Growing up in a family that struggled to make ends meet, the Governor knows how important a job is for a family. That's why since taking office, Governor Scott has promoted policies that encourage job creation and attract companies to relocate to and expand in Florida. Today, Florida is on track for continued growth and Governor Scott is going to keep fighting every day to secure Florida's future success.

**The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends \$85 million in continuation funding for the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund.** This fund provides grants for approved local initiatives 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 for job training and skills enhancement in targeted growth industries. The Governor's recommended budget also proposes more than **\$43 million** to continue and maintain 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 including:

- Qualified Targeted Industry Tax Refund;
- Defense Contractor Tax Refund; and
- Brownfield Redevelopment Tax Refund.

Additionally, the Securing Florida's Future budget invests more than **\$143 million** for Florida's economic development public-private partnerships, including **a record \$100 million in marketing dollars for VISIT FLORIDA, \$19.5 million** for operations and job creation funding for Space Florida and **\$23.7 million** for the operations of Enterprise Florida.

Governor Scott knows that the state's economic development public-private partnerships must always ensure every tax dollar is spent in a transparent manner that has a proven return on investment. Last year, Governor Scott worked with the Legislature to pass comprehensive legislation requiring full financial accountability to Florida's taxpayers, including detailed online disclosure of spending, contracts, financial reports and project performance information.

#### **Securing Florida's Future with Record-Breaking Tourism**

Every year, people from across the world visit Florida to experience all the natural beauty and incredible landscapes that have come to define the Sunshine State. **Florida has welcomed more than 600 million visitors since 2011 with the help of VISIT FLORIDA.** The organization continues to successfully market Florida to the world as the premier

tourism destination and the state's six-straight record breaking years of visitation have directly coincided with the marketing resources and funding championed by Governor Scott since taking office.

To continue this incredible success, the Securing Florida's Future budget includes **\$50 million** to increase total funding for VISIT FLORIDA to **a record \$100 million**. During 2016, Florida broke another record thanks to the more than 112 million people who visited the state, an increase of 5.5 percent from 2015. Florida is continuing to set tourism records by welcoming more than 60 million visitors during the first half of 2017- the highest number of visitors of any six months in the state's history. Visitors to Florida are spending more than \$108 billion and generating more than \$11 billion in state and local tax revenue a year. In addition, **Florida tourism is responsible for nearly 1.4 million jobs that yield more than \$50 billion in income for the Floridians employed in this industry**. For every dollar invested in VISIT FLORIDA, taxpayers see a return of \$3.20. These figures are definitive proof that tourism is not only a massive contributor to Florida's economy, but essential to the success of businesses throughout Florida that rely on millions of visitors to continue to grow and create more jobs.

### **Securing Florida's Future Success in a Global Market**

As Florida's seaports continue a surge of success and growth, the Securing Florida's Future budget continues investments in exports to global markets. The Securing Florida's Future 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 Trade Grants and Export Marketing Plan assistance. These resources are key for Florida to maintain its preeminent position as an economic gateway to Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2016, Latin America and the Caribbean accounted for 56 percent of total Florida merchandise trade. This amount represents 24 percent of all trade between this region and the United States. Florida's top five merchandise export destination are all in Latin America and the Caribbean and include Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Argentina and the Dominican Republic.

As a follow up to the Governor's successful Latin American Summit in October 2017, his budget recommends nearly **\$2 million** for the job creating initiatives of the Latin Chamber of Commerce (CAMACOL) and the Hispanic Business Initiative Fund.

During the past fiscal year, Enterprise Florida provided 118 target sector trade show grants totaling more than **\$475,000**. Eligible small and medium-sized companies can apply for these grants to help offset costs and enable businesses to participate in Enterprise Florida trade shows and select U.S. certified trade exhibitions in target sectors. Participating in such trade shows allows smaller Florida businesses to make vital contacts abroad and lay the foundation for future trading relationships. Assisting Florida businesses to successfully trade in worldwide markets is key to ensuring Florida's long term economic prosperity.

### **Record Funding for Florida Flex (Quick Response Training)**

The Securing Florida's Future budget invests an additional **\$11 million in Florida Flex for a record total of \$20 million** to help continue diversifying Florida's economy. This increase will build on the program's success by providing businesses, both large and small in targeted industries, with matching funds related to specific training activities for workers who will be moving into new jobs created in Florida.

### Securing Florida's Future Workforce

Governor Scott is committed to making Florida the best state in the nation for workforce development so Florida's economy can continue to diversify and attract more businesses. Since 2011, Governor Scott has directed investments of nearly **\$2 billion** for communities to ensure the best workers are available to Florida's job creators.

The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends more than **\$283 million** for Florida's 24 Regional CareerSource Boards responsible for providing workforce services directly linked to job seekers and businesses. This includes job placement, recruitment assistance and skills training. The Florida workforce system helped place more than 413,000 Floridians in jobs during 2016, including more than 16,800 Florida veterans.

### Securing the Future of Florida's Rural Communities

Governor Scott understands the enormous potential for job growth and economic development within Florida's rural communities. **That's why he is recommending to double the funding for the Rural Infrastructure Program to \$3.2 million**, so that additional rural areas in Florida can access the funding needed to be successful in today's competitive job marketplace.

### Securing Great Transportation for Florida's Future with Record Funding

The Securing Florida's Future budget **invests a record \$10.1 billion** for the Florida Department of Transportation's Work Program to ensure that more than 20.7 million residents and more than 112 million visitors are able to move safely and effectively throughout the state. The Securing Florida's Future budget makes the following transportation investments:

- **\$1 billion** to expand transportation system capacity, which includes adding 269 new lane miles;
- **\$1 billion** for maintenance and operation;
- **\$616 million** for resurfacing more than 1,962 lane miles;
- **\$568 million** for transit program improvements;
- **\$167.7 million** for scheduled repairs of 63 bridges and replacement of 18 bridges;
- **\$359 million** for aviation improvements;
- **\$171.6 million** in seaport infrastructure improvements;
- **\$186.1 million** for safety initiatives; and
- **\$151.3 million** for bike and pedestrian trails.

### Investing in Florida's Transportation Infrastructure

Florida is the fourth fastest growing state in the nation with a population of more than 20.7 million. As the nation's third largest state, transportation infrastructure continues to be vital to the support of Florida's growing population and a driver to Florida's rapidly growing economy.

Florida remains at the leading edge of transportation innovations and has been recognized for inventive funding solutions to enhance capacity of transportation infrastructure. Since 2011, Governor Scott has overseen the investment of **\$85 billion** in funding for roads, bridges, airports and seaports. This includes priority investments in Florida's seaports exceeding **\$1.4 billion**. Port infrastructure investments support and build on the more than 107 million tons of cargo worth **\$50 billion**, and the 15.5 million cruise passengers that passed through the state's ports in 2016.

Florida's proximity to Latin America and the Caribbean remains critical to the state's major role in the nations' trade, accounting for 25.3 percent of all U.S. waterborne exports and 19.7 percent of all U.S. waterborne imports to and from this growing region in 2016. Improvements such as completing the deepening of the Port of Miami and planned deepening at JAXPORT are vital to Florida being able to accommodate the large cargo ships traveling through the recently widened Panama Canal. To date, Florida's ports investments have resulted in an economic value of more than **\$117 billion** – a **\$15 billion increase** since 2012.

## Securing Government Efficiency for Florida's Future

The Governor's total recommendation in the Securing Florida's Future budget for Fiscal Year 2018-19 is **\$87.4 billion**. The General Revenue portion is **\$32.2 billion**. The General Revenue funds available for the Fiscal Year 2018-19 budget year **increased \$1.3 billion** from the previous fiscal year, a **four percent increase**. Florida's total reserves are **\$5 billion**. This increase is a continued indication that Florida's economy is strong.

### **Budget Savings**

The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends more than **\$144 million in savings** as a result of state agencies' continued efforts to become more efficient and save tax dollars.

### **Contract and Lease Renegotiations**

Savings resulting from contract and lease renegotiations have generated a statewide savings of more than **\$58 million** since Fiscal Year 2012-13. This includes savings in the Securing Florida's Future budget of **\$6 million**. Savings will continue to grow as additional contracts are identified and renegotiated to provide the best return on investment for Florida families.

### **Reduction in Debt Service**

Because Florida continues to pay off debt, Florida taxpayers are saving money. The Securing Florida's Future budget realizes a savings of **\$76 million** due to reduced debt service obligations and State Board of Administration fees associated with the issuance of bonds for public schools, Florida colleges, state universities, and state facilities.

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**. Florida has significantly less debt per capita than New York, Illinois and California. In fact, California and Illinois have more than double the debt per capita of Florida and New York has triple the debt per capita. Over the last seven fiscal years, refinancing activity has generated gross debt service savings of approximately **\$2.6 billion**. Refunding transactions executed over that period total approximately **\$13.1 billion** – lowering the interest rate on nearly 58 percent of Florida's total outstanding debt. With historically low interest rates and Florida's AAA credit ratings, Florida has saved an additional **\$177.1 million** in gross debt service thus far in Fiscal Year 2017-18. The state has maintained its AAA credit ratings.

### **State Employee Health Coverage Savings**

The Securing Florida's Future budget saves taxpayers more than **\$21 million** by proposing that all employees pay equally for health insurance coverage - \$50 per month for individual coverage and \$180 per month for family coverage. This reduces employer contribution for health insurance coverage for employees in Senior Management Service and Selected Exempt Service systems. The Governor has proposed this plan every year since taking office.

### **Formulary Management**

The Securing Florida's Future budget implements a new model for managing Florida's employee health insurance prescription drug program. This model improves efficiency in the prescription drug program, saving the state approximately **\$54 million** annually and has been



successfully implemented in twelve other states and six local government entities across the country.

**Keeping Florida's State Pension Plan Strong**

For the past five years, Florida has fully funded both the normal cost and the unfunded actuarial liability associated with the Florida Retirement System Pension Plan. At the recommendation of Milliman, Florida's independent actuary, Governor Scott's Securing Florida's Future budget fully funds both the normal cost and the unfunded actuarial liability to make sure Florida continues to have one of the strongest and best funded pension plans of the largest states in the nation.

## Securing the Future Success of Florida's Students

Governor Scott knows that Florida's future is in the hands of students in our classrooms today. In fact, it is a quality public education that allowed Governor Scott and his wife, Ann, to live their dreams. The Governor is absolutely committed to continuing investments in Florida's teachers and students at every grade level so they have every resource and tool needed to ensure success. That is why, for the sixth straight year, Governor Scott is recommending historic funding for education. The Securing Florida's Future budget invests historic amounts of funding in voluntary pre-kindergarten, K-12, state colleges and universities to ensure every student has the opportunity to succeed in the Sunshine State.

Historic Areas of Funding	Funding Amount
Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten - State Funding	\$408.4 million
K-12 Public Schools – Total Funding	\$21.41 billion
K-12 Public Schools – State Funding	\$11.91 billion
K-12 Public Schools – Per-Student Funding	\$7,497
Florida College System – State Operating Funding	\$1.24 billion
State University System – Total Operating Funding	\$4.26 billion
State University System – State Operating Funding	\$2.46 billion

Florida's teachers and students have made outstanding achievements over the last year as evidenced by the following rankings:

### K-12 Public Schools

- Florida is 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation in Advanced Placement (AP) exam participation for the 2016 graduating class, 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation for improvement over the last decade, and 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation for their performance.
- Florida's graduation rates are at a 13-year high – increasing 21.5 percentage points since 2003-04.
- Florida ranks 11<sup>th</sup> in the nation for K-12 achievement according to the Quality Counts report.
- According to The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP):
  - Florida's 4<sup>th</sup> grade students outperform the nation in both reading and math.
  - Florida's 4<sup>th</sup> grade Hispanic students led the nation in reading.
  - Florida's 4<sup>th</sup> grade Hispanic students' average mathematics score ranked second among the 50 states.
  - In 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading and mathematics, Florida's students with disabilities average score ranked second among the 50 states.
  - Florida's economically disadvantaged students led the nation in 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
  - Florida's 8<sup>th</sup> grade students led the nation in closing the achievement gap between African American and white students from 2003- 15 in reading.

### Florida College System

- U.S. News & World Report ranked Florida first in the country for Higher Education.
- WalletHub ranked the Division of Florida Colleges as the 4<sup>th</sup> best community college system in the country.

- Broward College and Indian River State College were named as finalists for the 2017 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.
- Fourteen Florida Colleges were named to the Top 150 list of U.S. Community Colleges and are eligible to compete for the 2019 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.
- Miami Dade College awarded more associate degrees to minority and Hispanic students than any other college in the nation according to Community College Week 2016 Top 100.
- Florida is the number one producer of certificates and associate degrees in the Southeast Region.
- According to Community College Week 2016 Top 100:
  - Fourteen Florida College System institutions ranked in the top 100 colleges nationwide for the total number of associate degrees awarded.
  - Eleven Florida College System institutions placed in the top 100 colleges nationwide for the number of associate degrees awarded to minority students.
  - Eleven Florida College System institutions are among the top 100 colleges in the nation for the number of associate degrees awarded to African American students.
  - Eight Florida College System institutions ranked in the top 100 colleges nationwide for the number of associate degrees awarded to Hispanic students.

### **State University System**

- The State University System of Florida produces more degrees in business and health professions at both the bachelor's and graduate levels than any other discipline.
- STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) degree production increased more than non-STEM degree production during the past four years for both baccalaureate degrees and graduate degrees.
- Florida's preeminent universities are leading the way, each vaulting five slots from last year:
  - U.S. News & World Report ranked the University of Florida as 9<sup>th</sup> among all public national universities.
  - U.S. News & World Report ranked Florida State University as 33<sup>rd</sup> among all public national universities.



## Early Learning – Budget Recommendation Totaling \$1.1 Billion

As a father and a grandfather, Governor Scott understands how critical early learning is to the success of a child's education. The Securing Florida's Future budget invests in initiatives that are focused on results, ensure early learning providers are effective and increase access for more children. **Governor Scott recommends \$1.1 billion in funding for early child education. This is a more than \$31 million increase over current year funding.**

### Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK)

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, a quality free education initiative, which serves more than 158,000 four and five-year olds. VPK prepares each child for kindergarten by building a strong foundation for school and focusing on early literacy skills.

### School Readiness

The Securing Florida's Future budget includes an increase of **\$7 million** in federal funding to allow access to more than **1,200 additional children** into School Readiness programs. 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.

The Securing Florida's Future budget provides funds in Fiscal Year 2018-19 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; and
- 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.

### Performance Funding

Governor Scott is a steadfast proponent of performance funding at all levels of education to ensure students are getting the best results and are prepared for future careers. The Securing Florida's Future budget maintains **\$15.5 million** in performance funding for child care providers and instructors who demonstrate successes in school readiness, professional development and access to high-need populations.

## Investing Record Funding in K-12 Public Education

Governor Scott works every day to make sure Florida's students have access to a world-class education and knows that K-12 education is the critical foundation upon which a student grows and succeeds. To build upon five years of historic investments in K-12 education championed by Governor Scott, the Securing Florida's Future budget makes significant investments in K-12 teachers and students. The budget also prioritizes initiatives that ensure all teachers have the tools they need, and ensures that students are college or career ready upon graduating from high school.

### Historic Funding for the Florida Educational Finance Program (FEFP)

With increasing graduation rates and policies that rank among the best in the nation, the Securing Florida's Future budget invests more than **\$21.4 billion** in state and local funding for Florida's K-12 public schools. This historic funding equates to **\$7,497 per student – an increase of \$200 per Florida student – the highest total funding, state funding and per-student funding for K-12 in Florida's history.**

Governor Scott has made record investments in state funding for K-12 for the past five years and this **historic high of \$21.4 billion in total funding is an increase of nearly \$770 million in state and local funds over Fiscal Year 2017-18.**

The increase of nearly **\$770 million** in total funds includes:

- More than **\$198 million** to fund new student growth of more than 27,000;
- More than **\$5 million, for a total of more than \$58 million**, in funding for the Sparsity Supplement, which provides funding to assist rural districts with sparse student populations (24,000 or fewer students);
- **\$10 million, for a total of \$74.5 million**, in funding for school safety initiatives that promote a safe learning environment;
- Nearly **\$18 million, for a total of more than \$63 million**, in funding for the Teacher Classroom Supply Assistance Program; and
- **\$538 million** for various education initiatives included in the FEFP, such as transportation, reading allocation and instructional materials.

Since Governor Scott took office, 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 nearly **\$12 billion** in the 2018-19 Securing Florida's Future budget. During this same period, the local contribution to the FEFP has risen at a slower pace, increasing by \$1.6 billion or 20.8 percent.

### Supporting Florida's Teachers

Governor Scott recognizes the positive impact great teachers have on today's students and generations of students to come. As part of the state's investment this year, Governor Scott proposes 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.

### Teacher of the Year Program

The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends **\$770,000** for monetary awards to Florida's highest performing teachers through the Teacher of the Year Program. Under Governor Scott's recommendation, and combined with private funds from Macy's, the award amounts will be a minimum of **\$10,000** for district participants, a minimum of **\$15,000** for finalists, and a minimum of **\$20,000** for the Teacher of the Year.

### Protecting Florida's Jewish Day Schools

Governor Scott believes every Florida student deserves to have the opportunity to learn in a safe and comfortable setting. After Florida's Jewish community received hateful threats recently, Governor Scott saw the need to provide additional security so the children that attend Jewish Day Schools can learn in a safe environment. Last year, Governor Scott approved more than \$650,000 for security at Jewish Day Schools. This year, Governor Scott is proposing **\$1 million in security funding for Jewish Day Schools – an increase of more than \$345,000 over current year funding**. This funding will be available to all Florida Jewish Day Schools to help provide security and counter-terrorism upgrades such as video cameras, fences, bullet-proof glass, alarm systems and other safety equipment.

### Securing Florida's Future Workforce Through Coding and Computer Science Programs

Governor Scott knows that growing Florida's future workforce starts with ensuring successful science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs are promoted in Florida's schools. The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends **\$15 million** for a brand-new program to expand opportunities for middle and high school students to learn coding and computer science. This funding will jumpstart a phased-in initiative requiring school districts to offer coding and computer science courses taught by teachers with coding credentials in at least ten percent of each district's public middle and high school classrooms.

- The **\$15 million** in funding will:
  - Provide funds to train 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.

### Supporting Florida's English Language Learners Students

Florida is an incredible melting pot with an English Language Learners (ELL) student population of more than 290,000 (approximately ten percent of the total Florida student population). Governor Scott is proud of Florida's incredible diversity and is working to ensure ELL students have every resource they need to succeed. That's why the Securing Florida's Future budget includes **\$12 million** in funding to establish the English Language Learners Summer Academics program for students in grades 4-8. The program emphasis will be on reading improvements and making sure students displaced by Hurricane Maria have access to summer academies.

## Investing Historic Funding in Higher Education

Since taking office, Governor Scott has challenged Florida's higher education institutions to become more affordable and prepare students for jobs. A few of his challenges include:

Challenge	Challenge Criteria	Result
<b>Ready, Set, Work State College Challenge</b>	Challenged Florida's 28 state colleges to graduate 100 percent of their full-time students to attend a four-year university or get a job that leads to a great career.	All 28 state colleges accepted Governor Scott's challenge and increased the three-year graduation rate from 49 percent to 54 percent based on the FCS Performance Funding Model calculation for completion.
<b>Ready, Set, Work State University Challenge</b>	Challenged Florida's 12 state universities to get 100 percent of their graduates (not going on to graduate school) full-time employment within a year for those receiving each university's two most popular degrees.	All 12 state universities accepted Governor Scott's challenge and have implemented strategies such as increased advising and mentorship opportunities to place students with jobs.
<b>Ready, Set, Work Technical College Challenge</b>	Challenged Florida's 48 Technical Colleges and Centers to issue a guarantee to businesses that their workers are ready to work on the very first day on the job, or they will be retrained at no cost to the business or the student.	All 48 Technical Colleges and Centers accepted the challenge and are working to meet community workforce needs.
<b>Finish in Four, Save More Challenge</b>	Challenged Florida's state colleges and universities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove all fees for online classes;</li> <li>• Inform incoming freshmen of the amount of money they will save if they graduate in four years;</li> <li>• Urge the Legislature to expand Bright Futures to cover summer classes;</li> <li>• Ensure students get credit for college and AP courses taken during high school; and</li> <li>• Make it easier for students to get class credit for internships in their fields.</li> </ul>	All of Florida's state colleges and universities accepted Governor Scott's challenge and are examining ways their institutions can make college more affordable. Several state universities have created programs designed to keep students on track to graduate in four years.
<b>\$10,000 STEM Degree Challenge</b>	Governor Rick Scott challenged Florida's 28 state colleges to offer a bachelor's degree in a STEM field at a cost of \$10,000.	All 28 state colleges accepted the Governor's challenge. Nearly all institutions that offer bachelor's degrees now offer a \$10,000 degree.

Governor Scott knows that ensuring Florida has a strong higher education system is the best way to make Florida a global destination for jobs and ensure highly educated and skilled workers are ready for a great job upon graduation. The Securing Florida's Future budget includes historic funding for higher education including **record state operating funding for Florida's higher education system of more than \$1.2 billion for Florida colleges, and more than \$2.4 billion for Florida universities.**

### Performance Funding

Governor Scott has been a champion for performance-based incentives throughout his administration. The past five years have demonstrated the positive impact performance-based funding has had on Florida's 12 state universities. Eighty-seven new advisors have been hired to focus on student retention and graduation, seven career service centers have been revamped to focus on student advising and establishing partnerships with local businesses, and 408 additional faculty have been hired in high-wage, high-need areas.

To ensure all of Florida's higher education institutions are focused on the same goals, the Securing Florida's Future budget includes the following performance funding at career technical centers, state colleges and state universities:

- Career Technical Centers
  - Provides **\$6 million** for students earning industry certifications in high-skill, high-demand areas at career technical centers.
- Florida College System
  - **A record \$120 million in performance funding for the 28 state colleges in the fourth year of performance funding.**
  - The recommended budget also provides **an increase of \$4 million, for a total of \$14 million,** for students earning industry certifications in high-skill, high-demand areas at Florida colleges.
- State University System
  - The Securing Florida's Future budget includes a **record \$670.6 million, an increase of more than \$150 million over current year funding** in performance funding for state universities to continue the trend of getting students into great jobs with less debt.

### Securing Affordable Higher Education for Florida's Future

Governor Scott remains a strong advocate for affordable higher education. Skyrocketing tuition rates and mountains of student debt are unfair burdens that no student should experience. **That is why there are NO tuition increases in the Securing Florida's Future budget.**

Governor Scott continues to fight for affordable higher education by holding the line on tuition. 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.



## Investing in Education Infrastructure

The Securing Florida's Future budget builds upon Governor Scott's work to ensure students and teachers have safe facilities that foster a creative learning environment. Governor Scott believes that it is critical to maintain existing buildings before constructing new facilities. Governor Scott also continues to be a champion for schools that have urgent construction needs but lack the ability to provide sufficient local resources to fund these needs due to a shortfall in local financial resources.

### Maintenance

- **\$50 million** for public school maintenance;
- **\$50 million** for charter school maintenance;
- **\$6.2 million** for lab school maintenance;
- **\$3.4 million** for Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind maintenance;
- **\$50 million** for Florida College System maintenance; and
- **\$50 million** for State University System maintenance.

### Construction

- Nearly **\$49 million** for Special Facility Construction projects. This funding is for critical infrastructure needs in Taylor, Bradford, Gilchrist, Jackson and Liberty counties;
- Nearly **\$8 million** for renovation and construction of A.D. Henderson University School and FAU High. Funds require a dollar for dollar match from Florida Atlantic University, the lab school's affiliated state university;
- More than **\$34 million** to complete Florida College System construction projects. Funding requires a dollar for dollar match and will be distributed first to institutions that have received a previous allocation and can complete the project in Fiscal Year 2018-19;
- More than **\$34 million** to complete State University System construction projects. Funding requires a dollar for dollar match and will be distributed first to institutions that have received a previous allocation and can complete the project in Fiscal Year 2018-19; and
- **\$40 million** in budget authority to the State University System to spend collected student fees on a list of student-approved facility projects.

## Securing the Protection of Florida's Pristine Environment

People from across the world come to Florida because of the state's natural beauty. From the rolling hills of North Florida, to the swaying sawgrass of the Everglades and pristine Florida Keys, Florida's classic landscapes have come to define the Sunshine State around the world as a place of true natural treasure. Since taking office, Governor Scott has championed record funding and investments in the Everglades, Florida's springs, beaches and state parks while supporting the state's vital produce and agricultural industries.

**To continue protecting Florida's world-class beaches, award-winning and nationally acclaimed state parks, renowned springs and iconic Everglades, Governor Scott is recommending more than \$3.8 billion, including historic and record funding, to preserve Florida's environment and keep the state beautiful for generations to come.**

### **Improving Water Quality & Ensuring a Sustainable Water Supply in Florida**

Under Governor Scott's leadership, Florida established the most comprehensive nutrient pollution standards in the nation and became the first state to adopt complete nutrient standards protecting all lakes, rivers, streams, springs and estuaries. This outstanding achievement has undoubtedly worked to protect water quality in Florida for generations of Floridians – but more must be done. Governor Scott expects Florida to have the best water quality programs in the nation and the Securing Florida's Future budget makes critical investments of more than **\$460 million** in water resource programs to safeguard the iconic waterways that are so important to the future of Florida.

### **Protecting Florida's Estuaries, Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades**

Governor Scott is focused on protecting and restoring the Florida Everglades and under his leadership more than **\$1.8 billion** has been invested by the State of Florida in restoring the Everglades. This includes **\$32 million in recurring state funding** as a part of the **Governor's \$880 million Everglades water quality plan**. Under the Governor's direction, the state has made historic progress with restoration projects that will provide billions of gallons of water storage and clean water for the Everglades and local communities.

However, Governor Scott knows that work to protect Florida's environment must continue and that even more must be done to complete critical water resource projects. That is why the Securing Florida's Future budget recommends **a record \$355 million** for Everglades restoration related projects. More than **\$215 million** of this investment will contribute to water storage projects, which will collectively provide nearly 300 billion gallons of water storage when complete and operational. This includes **\$105 million** for the C-43 Reservoir, which alone will provide 55 billion gallons of water storage when complete. This also includes **\$4 million** for targeted land acquisition necessary to move two key Everglades restoration projects forward.

This year, during the past Special Legislative Session, Governor Scott fought for and secured **\$50 million** in state funding to speed up repairs to the Herbert Hoover Dike – becoming the first Florida governor to invest state dollars to expedite repairs to this federal project. To build on this investment, and with the commitment of President Trump to accelerate the completion of repairs, the Securing Florida's Future budget recommends investing an additional **\$50 million** of state funds to expedite this process. Completing this project is critical not just for the safety of South Florida residents, but also for the health of the greater Everglades system and Florida's

coastal estuaries. With this recommendation, the state's total investment would grow to **\$100 million**.

### **Record Funding for Florida's Springs**

The Governor has also fulfilled his promise to establish a dedicated funding source to protect the future of Florida's springs. Florida contains more first-magnitude springs than anywhere else in the nation. In addition to being critical habitat for numerous species, these natural treasures bring families, visitors and jobs to Florida. Recognizing the value of this resource, the Securing Florida's Future budget includes **a record \$55 million in state funding for springs restoration**. Working with local partners, Governor Scott has already invested a **historic \$365 million** in Florida's springs over the last seven years.

### **Record Funding for Florida's Beaches**

Governor Scott recognizes the importance of protecting communities along Florida's 1,300 miles of coastline and preserving the state's world-class beaches and coral reefs. Florida's beaches not only attract millions of visitors who support more than 1.4 million Florida jobs, they also are home to abundant wildlife and have helped create the picturesque "Sunshine State" Florida is known as around the world. In addition to the historic investments this budget makes in water quality and protection of Florida's natural lands, the Securing Florida's Future budget invests a **record \$100 million in beach restoration**. This includes **\$50 million** for statewide beach and dune restoration, beach re-nourishment and other coastal restoration projects, and **\$50 million** toward the state's share of beach restoration needed due to damages from Hurricane Irma. **Governor Scott's recommendation is the highest ever level of funding for beach restoration**. Additionally, the Securing Florida's Future budget invests **\$3.6 million** in the Department of Environmental Protection's new Florida Resilient Coastline Initiative, which will assist local governments with sea level rise planning and coastal resilience projects, in addition to protection of coral reef health.

### **Record Funding for Florida's Parks**

Under the Governor's leadership in 2013, Florida's State Park System won its third National Gold Medal for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management, the first of any state to do so. In fact, no other state has even won two. This year, Governor Scott is recommending **a record \$161 million** for our State Park System to help Florida win an unprecedented fourth Gold Medal. The Governor is committed to continuing improvements and investments in Florida's parks, greenways, wildlife management areas, beaches and other natural lands to ensure current and future generations can enjoy these beautiful areas.

The Securing Florida's Future budget record investment in Florida's State Park System includes **a record \$50 million** in State Park Facility Improvements, focused on enhancing visitor experiences in our state parks, **\$4 million** to improve ADA accessibility and **\$750,000** to partner with our friends of parks organizations to further the success of our award-winning state parks.

### **Keeping Florida's Parks Safe**

The Securing Florida's Future budget provides more than **\$5.5 million** for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to hire **25 new law enforcement officers** for Florida's award-winning state parks.

### **Investing in Florida's Water Infrastructure**

The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends **\$50 million** in a new Water Infrastructure Investment Program to improve water quality and ensure a sustainable water supply for Florida. These funds will provide grants for alternative water supply projects, to offset homeowner costs for septic to sewer conversions, and for stormwater management projects that will be awarded each year based on the areas of greatest need and projects with the greatest benefit. Key areas for Fiscal Year 2018-19 are expected to include the Indian River Lagoon, Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Estuaries, Keystone Heights area, and the Central Florida Water Initiative and North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership.

### **Protecting Florida's Natural Lands**

Governor Scott understands that maintaining Florida's natural beauty means preserving natural lands for families and visitors to enjoy for years to come. The Securing Florida's Future budget includes more than **\$172 million** for land acquisition and management statewide. **This includes \$50 million for Florida Forever for the acquisition of rare and sensitive lands to ensure these resources are protected now and in the future.** The remaining funds proposed for land management, combined with record investment in our state parks, will continue the stewardship of state-owned lands now and in the future with the additional investment in Florida Forever.

### **Keeping Florida's Families Safe from Wildfires**

Earlier this year, Florida experienced dangerous wildfires, but our brave firefighters, first responders and law enforcement worked together to help protect Floridians. To recognize the hard work and selfless commitment of Florida's state firefighters, Governor Scott is recommending **\$2.4 million for a 10 percent raise** for all Florida Forest Service firefighters.

Governor Scott also understands the importance of protecting Florida families and business from the threat of wildfires through community programs. The Securing Florida's Future budget invests **\$500,000** in a new community wildfire mitigation program. This program will be specifically focused on those counties that were threatened by wildfires earlier this year and will work to clear brush and other wildfire hazards that could endanger the safety of communities and fuel wildfires.

### **Securing the Future of Agriculture in Florida**

Florida ranks highest in the nation in value of production for watermelons, sugarcane, grapefruit and oranges. Florida accounts for 57 percent of total U.S. citrus production and Florida agriculture supports two million jobs and contributes more than \$120 billion annually to the state's economy. Florida has 47,300 commercial farms, occupying a total of 9.45 million acres. In order to ensure Florida's citrus and other agriculture industries continues to lead the nation, the Securing Florida's Future budget dedicates **\$1.7 billion for agriculture.**

### **Securing a Strong Future for Florida's Iconic Citrus Industry**

Governor Scott is 100 percent committed to helping citrus growers recover from the devastating impacts of Hurricane Irma. After Irma, Governor Scott went to Washington, D.C. to personally advocate on behalf of Florida's citrus growers. Even before urging 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, Governor Scott activated a **\$25 million Florida Citrus Emergency Loan Program.** This program provides 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. Still, Governor Scott believes more can be done. That’s why the Securing Florida’s Future budget proposes a more than **\$21 million** investment in Florida’s citrus industry which includes:

- **\$10 million** – an increase of **\$2 million** over current year funding – for citrus 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.
- **\$4 million** to support Department of Citrus consumer awareness efforts to support the market for Florida citrus and orange juice.
- **\$7 million** for the Citrus Health Response Program, which helps ensure that growers are able to replant healthy citrus trees that were destroyed by Hurricane Irma, and helps minimize the spread of citrus greening.

## Securing a Healthy Future for Florida

Since taking office, Governor Scott has fought relentlessly to ensure the health of Florida families and protect patients against medical price gouging. The Securing Florida's Future budget continues Florida's work to combat the national opioid epidemic, bolstering community-based care including mental health services, supporting Floridians with developmental disabilities, strengthening Florida's child welfare system and adoption services to protect children and caring for Florida's seniors. Governor Scott knows that raising a family begins with ensuring good health and the Securing Florida's Future budget makes important investments that will keep Florida families healthy for years to come.

### **Combatting the National Opioid Epidemic**

On May 3, 2017 Governor Scott directed a statewide public health emergency for the opioid epidemic allowing the state to immediately draw down more than **\$27 million** in federal grant funding from the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Opioid State Targeted Response Grant. This critical funding was awarded to Florida on April 21, 2017 to provide prevention, treatment and recovery support services. The order also ensured that first responders have immediate access to lifesaving drugs to respond to opioid overdoses.

Governor Scott is continuing his commitment to do everything possible to support Florida's communities in the fight against the national opioid epidemic. The Securing Florida's Future budget provides **\$53 million** to support Florida's fight against opioids 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 support services 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; and
- **More than \$885,000** for handheld narcotic analyzers for the Florida Highway Patrol to keep officers in the field safe.

Additionally, through the Securing Florida's Future budget, Governor Scott continues his support to ensure local communities have the resources they need to respond to emerging crime trends, specifically related to the opioid crisis. As part of Governor Scott's **\$53 million** investment to combat the opioid epidemic in Florida, the Securing Florida's Future budget provides **\$4 million** to the Florida Violent Crime and Drug Control Council, which provides financial assistance to local law enforcement agencies to conduct investigations related to opioid abuse.

Recommendations in the Securing Florida's Future budget to address the national opioid epidemic in Florida are complemented by legislation Governor Scott proposed to limit the chance of drug addiction, reduce the ability for dangerous drugs to spread in Florida's communities and give vulnerable Floridians the support they need.

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

Governor Scott knows that supporting Floridians with mental illness begins with investing in a comprehensive system which aligns services to meet the needs of these individuals in their communities. The Securing Florida's Future budget continues the state's investment of more

than **\$1 billion** in funding to better coordinate mental health and substance services in Florida's communities and continues to build on the best management practices based on the Executive Order 15-175 signed by Governor Scott in July 2015.

Additional funding to address the behavioral health needs include:

- 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.

### **Supported Employment for Floridians with Behavioral Health Needs and Persons with Disabilities**

Supported employment services is an important step toward independent living. That's why Governor Scott continues his commitment to supported employment services for those with behavioral health needs and persons with disabilities. The Securing Florida's Future budget provides **\$2 million** to the Department of Children and Families and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to provide employment services to approximately **1,200 individuals** with behavioral health needs and those with developmental disabilities who are ready to work.

### **Protecting Florida's Children Through Investments in the Child Welfare System**

The Securing Florida's Future budget invests nearly **\$1.3 billion** in total funding for Florida's Child Welfare System to provide services to vulnerable children. Governor Scott believes that every child deserves a bright future and that we must do everything we can to ensure that all children are given the best opportunity to live happy, healthy lives.

The Securing Florida's Future budget invests more than **\$10 million** for an additional **130 Child Protective Investigator and Florida Abuse Hotline Counselor positions**. Under Governor Scott, the number of CPIs has increased by nearly 300 and the number of Florida Abuse Hotline counselors has increased by nearly 50. These positions will help reduce workload and provide greater protection to vulnerable children. In 2012, Governor Scott approved a pay raise for child protective investigators which boosted pay by more than \$3,700 per employee. Governor Scott is also recommending an investment of an additional nearly **\$30 million** 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. The Securing Florida's Future budget also provides **\$60 million** in funding for seven counties where local sheriff's offices around the state conduct child protective investigator services.

### **Supporting the Adoption of Florida's Children in Foster Care**

Governor Scott has advocated for adoption and adoptive families during his entire time in office. This year, he is recommending more than **\$198 million, a more than \$2 million increase over**



**current year funding**, for maintenance adoption subsidies which provide funding for the families of children who are adopted from foster care to receive the services they need. This funding will also provide critical 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.

### **Combatting Human Trafficking**

The Securing Florida's Future budget invests an additional more than **\$2 million** in new funding for the expansion of human trafficking services by expanding in-home treatment through community wraparound service teams, specialized therapeutic foster care and emergency beds. Since Governor Scott took office, more than **\$37 million** has been invested in combatting human trafficking in Florida.

### **Caring for Florida's Seniors**

The Securing Florida's Future budget includes **\$9 million** in new funding to serve frail individuals on the Alzheimer's Disease Initiative, Home Care for the Elderly and Community Care for the Elderly Program waiting list. This funding will enroll approximately **264 individuals** on the Alzheimer's Disease Initiative to provide respite services and support to caregivers. This recommendation will serve approximately **607 individuals** on Community Care for the Elderly waiting list and approximately **268 individuals** on the Home Care for the Elderly waiting list to provide support to seniors to ensure they can remain in their home as long as possible.

### **Caring for Those in Crisis on the APD Waiting List**

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

## **Securing a Safe Future for Florida Families**

Governor Scott is committed to supporting public safety and the Securing Florida's Future budget continues to make important investments that will keep our communities safe. Thanks to the hard work of Florida's law enforcement officers, the state's crime rate is at a 46-year low, and the number of juvenile arrests is the lowest it's been in more than 42 years. Recent investments in re-entry programming have helped to reduce Florida's recidivism rate to 25.2 percent, which translates into less crime and safer neighborhoods. These investments have also helped to reduce Florida's inmate population by more than 4,000 inmates over the Governor's term, which has saved taxpayers more than **\$73 million**. The Securing Florida's Future budget makes additional strategic investments to build on this success.

### **Recognizing Florida's Law Enforcement and First Responders**

Florida's law enforcement and public safety partners are on the front lines ensuring Floridians have safe communities. This year, during Hurricanes Irma and Nate, Florida's law enforcement and first responders answered the call and helped Floridians across the state in their time of need. The Securing Florida's Future budget recognizes their efforts and ensures they have the resources they need to continue their lifesaving work.

Florida has nearly 4,800 sworn state law enforcement officers that selflessly put their lives on the line to protect Florida's citizens. These brave men and women face danger every day and have protected the Florida's communities during incredibly challenging times. The Securing Florida's Future budget seeks to reward these officers by providing **\$30 million** for Florida's state 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.

### **Strengthening Counterterrorism Operations**

During the last legislative session, Governor Scott proposed and then signed **\$5.8 million** in funding for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to hire 46 new agents dedicated to counterterrorism. This investment in public safety has allowed FDLE to work hand-in-hand with and support local, state and federal intelligence agencies to establish a planned, deliberate and comprehensive domestic security strategy.

Just last month, Governor Scott applauded the hard work of a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) led Joint Terrorism Task Force which resulted in the arrest of an alleged terrorist in Miami. FDLE has counterterrorism agents on the Joint Terrorism Task Force because of the positions and funding proposed by Governor Scott and approved last session. Thanks to the work of federal, state and local law enforcement working collaboratively through the Joint Terrorism Task Force, the individual was arrested and taken into custody.

The Securing Florida's Future budget continues its investment in counterterrorism by providing FDLE **\$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.

### **Improving Florida's Crime Databases**

FDLE is responsible for maintaining Florida's sex offender and predator database, which is used daily by the public and Florida's law enforcement officers to register and track offenders. Last

year, Governor Scott recommended and the Legislature appropriated **\$1.9 million** for FDLE to begin upgrading this database, which is more than 20 years old. The Securing Florida's Future budget funds the second year of this project by providing **\$2.2 million** to FDLE. The Securing Florida's Future budget also provides FDLE **\$8.3 million** to complete the upgrades to the state criminal history database and to launch a 5-year project that will significantly improve how Florida reports crime statistics.

### **Enhancing Law Enforcement Search & Rescue During Natural Disasters**

Governor Scott's top focus during natural disasters is the safety and wellbeing of Florida families. To ensure Florida's law enforcement has the tools they need to save lives, the Securing Florida's Future budget recommends nearly **\$2 million** to enhance search and rescue capabilities of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission law enforcement, who are a critical part of hurricane and emergency response. This investment will include a mobile command unit and other technologies that will provide law enforcement real-time information and communications, and will enable faster recovery efforts.

### **Continuing Reforms at the Florida Department of Corrections**

Over the past three years, more than **\$124 million** has been invested in the Florida Department of Corrections (FDC) to provide pay increases to Florida's correctional officers in an effort to recruit and retain quality staff, improve FDC's facilities and fleet, better serve inmates with medical and mental health needs and expand reentry programming. Governor Scott's Securing Florida's Future budget continues to support the reformation of Florida's prison system and recommends nearly **\$169 million over the Department of Corrections' current budget - an increase of nearly seven percent.**

### **Enhancing FDC Mental Health Units**

The Securing Florida's Future budget provides **\$68 million and 476 positions** to better serve inmates with mental illness. These funds will be used to consolidate and renovate mental health facilities and increase the medical and security staff to ensure inmates are receiving the treatment they require. The Securing Florida's Future budget also includes **\$10 million** to continue the Residential Mental Health Unit at the Wakulla Correctional Institution ensuring inmates with mental illness receive prompt and effective treatment in a rehabilitative setting.

### **Improving FDC Services to Disabled Inmates**

The Securing Florida's Future budget provides nearly **\$6.5 million and 12 positions** to better serve inmates with disabilities. These funds will be used to provide Americans with Disabilities Act modifications to current facilities and provide hearing aids and sign language interpreters for hearing impaired inmates.

### **Expanding Workforce Education Programs**

The Securing Florida's Future budget provides a **\$4 million** increase for FDC to expand and operate new workforce education programs. Inmates that are employed after release are far less likely to recidivate, which increases public safety and lowers taxpayer costs. This investment will provide inmates with the skills that are necessary to get a job upon release.

### **Ensuring Safe Facilities**

The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends more than **\$31 million** to make critical repairs and renovations to correctional and juvenile facilities. This investment in Florida's

infrastructure not only enhances the safety and security of Florida's correctional and juvenile officers, inmates, and youth, but will also result in long-term energy and maintenance savings.

### **Reducing Juvenile Delinquency**

Over the past seven years, the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) has undergone a massive transformation thanks to its data-driven focus on effective prevention, intervention, and treatment services. The hard work of DJJ has culminated in a dramatic decrease in residential commitments and the lowest juvenile arrest rate in more than 42 years. Governor Scott's Securing Florida's Future budget recommends significant investments in DJJ to ensure it has the resources it needs to continue these important reforms and keep youth and staff safe.

### **Pay Raises for Juvenile Detention and Probation Officers**

The Securing Florida's Future budget invests more than **\$8 million** to provide a 10 percent salary increase for Florida's Juvenile Detention and Probation Officers. This critical investment will allow DJJ to better recruit officers and ensure DJJ has an experienced workforce that is committed to reducing juvenile delinquency and turning around the lives of troubled youth.

### **Improving Residential Services**

The Governor's Securing Florida's Future budget provides **\$14 million to add an additional 140 beds in DJJ's residential facilities**. The additional beds will allow youth to be placed in an appropriate residential treatment facility while minimizing the time spent in more costly detention facilities that have more limited treatment and rehabilitation services.

### **Enhancing Transparency and Accountability in Juvenile Facilities**

The Securing Florida's Future budget provides DJJ **\$317,000** and three positions to establish the Office of Youth and Family Advocacy. This newly-established office will serve as a firsthand resource working directly with youth and families to foster communication and amplify their voice in the ongoing improvement of the juvenile justice system. Youth and families will have an additional avenue to raise concerns and engage with the Department to ensure youth and family needs are addressed. This office will further improve transparency and accountability to ensure youth in the custody of DJJ have a safe environment conducive to effective rehabilitation.

### **At-Risk Youth Programs and Prevention Services**

Governor Scott recognizes that effective prevention and intervention programs strengthen families and turn around the lives of troubled youth. Over the Governor's term, DJJ's prevention funding has increased by **39 percent**. These investments have played a critical role in reducing juvenile arrest rates to the lowest in 42 years. The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends **more than \$16 million** to continue to expand evidence-based prevention programs for at-risk youth. The budget includes funding for the following programs:

- **About Face Program** – Provides **\$1.25 million** in funding to provide summer and after-school life preparation programs;
- **Forward March Program** – Provides **\$750,000** in funding to provide job readiness services at selected Florida armories for Work and Gain Economic Self-Sufficiency recipients and other qualifying young adults;
- **Youth Challenge Program** – More than **\$5.3 million** to provide 16-18-year-olds who withdraw or are removed from school with opportunities such as high school credit recovery, career-technical education, and life preparation classes at this Camp Blanding residential program; and



- **Contracted Prevention Funding for DJJ** – An **additional \$9.2 million** for DJJ to contract with evidence-based prevention programs that will serve at-risk youth and prevent them from engaging in delinquency.

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

As a Navy veteran and the son of a World War II veteran, Governor Scott has worked every day to make Florida the most military and veteran-friendly state in the nation. The Governor believes that those who so bravely serve the United States should be offered resources and support to ensure they are successful and able to provide for their families. The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends **\$178 million** in total funding to support active military, veterans and their families.

**Supporting Military and their Families** – The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends more than **\$18 million** for Florida's military presence and families, which funds the state's support of military research and development. This includes the following:

- **\$2 million** for the Florida Defense Support Task Force;
- **\$1.6 million** for the Defense Infrastructure Program;
- **\$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.

### **State Veteran Nursing Homes**

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 Governor's recommended budget also proposes 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.

### **Connecting Veterans with the Benefits They Deserve**

The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends more than **\$368,000** to add five additional Veterans' Claims Examiners at the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs. Veterans' Claims Examiners are counselors who are responsible for connecting Florida veterans with the federal Veterans Affairs benefits they are entitled to after so courageously serving in the United States Armed Forces.

### **Continuing the Crisis Support Services for Veterans Statewide**

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.

### **Building Homes for Heroes**

The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends doubling the funding to **\$2 million** for Building Homes for Heroes to build and modify homes for veterans who were severely injured while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Building Homes for Heroes supports neighborhood economic advancement and positively impacts construction growth within 32 communities across Florida. Over the last two years, Building Homes for Heroes built or modified 24 project homes which had a projected value exceeding **\$4 million**.

### **The Florida Defense Support Task Force**

The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends **\$2 million** for the Florida Defense Support Task Force. The task force is charged with representing the state's military interests and for strengthening state support for military families and veterans with an emphasis on education, healthcare, employment and family programs.

### **Veterans Treatment Courts**

Veterans Treatment Courts are an important resource in diverting veterans with mental health and substance abuse treatment needs from the criminal justice system and Governor Scott has supported the expansion of these courts throughout the state. The Securing Florida's Future budget reflects the Governor's support of Veterans Treatment Courts and recommends **\$1.4 million** to continue funding these courts throughout Florida.

### **Jobs for Florida's Veterans**

Governor Scott's work to make Florida the most military and veteran friendly state in the nation means supporting the employment of these brave men and women and providing them with every opportunity to succeed by getting a great job upon returning home. That is why the Securing Florida's Future budget recommends **\$2.75 million** to support veterans looking to obtain employment, 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 Veterans Florida can market Florida worldwide as the most veteran friendly state in the nation

## Securing a Strong Future for Florida's Communities

### **Disaster Preparedness Response, Recovery and Mitigation**

Since 2011, Governor Scott has overseen the investment of more than **\$2 billion** to ensure Florida is a leader in disaster preparedness and recovery. The Securing Florida's Future budget invests **\$1.4 billion** in financial assistance to state and local governments for emergency public awareness, outreach programs, and disaster mitigation programs.

In addition, the state is responsible for 25 percent of "other needs assistance" and transitional shelter assistance payments. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has currently authorized over \$272 million through the Other Needs category, therefore, the state will be billed at least \$68 million for the state's share of that program. Likewise, FEMA has authorized \$1.5 million for which the state will be billed at least \$385,000. These totals will continue to increase as additional FEMA payments are made to individuals.

### **Affordable and Workforce Housing**

Since 2011, Florida has invested **more than \$1 billion** to make Florida's affordable housing program among the best in the nation. The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends more than **\$130 million** for affordable/workforce housing including more than **\$96 million** for the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) program and **\$34 million** for the State Housing Initiative (SHIP) program. SAIL provides low interest loans to developers who build or rehabilitate affordable housing projects. The Securing Florida's Future budget provides special consideration to properties that target demographics such as the elderly and those with special needs. Further, of the more than **\$96 million** for SAIL, the Governor is recommending **\$20 million** for workforce housing projects in the Florida Keys.

### **Hurricane Irma Affordable and Workforce Housing Initiative**

In September 2017, Hurricane Irma made landfall in Florida and affected communities statewide. Due to the impact of Irma, many Floridians lost their homes and belongings and face an uncertain future. To address this important need, Governor Scott is recommending **\$100 million** for affordable and workforce housing programs specifically targeted to those impacted by Hurricane Irma. This recommendation includes **\$65 million** for a locally administered Hurricane Housing Recovery Program, **\$25 million** for a Rental Recovery Loan Program and **\$10 million** for a Farmworker Housing Recovery Program.

### **Small Community Development Block Grants**

The Securing Florida's Future budget recommends **\$36.5 million** in small community development block grant programs focusing on low and moderate-income persons, improving housing and supporting infrastructure improvements.