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LeadingAge Southeast Applauds Legislature for Prioritizing Support for Older Adults in Budget Allocation

TALLAHASSEE—Following the passage of a \$117.46 billion state budget that marked the end of Florida's 2024 Legislative Session, LeadingAge Southeast issued a statement commending the Legislature for the significant funding of key programs and services for Florida's older adults.

"We are immensely grateful to the legislature and their collaborative efforts that resulted in a budget that not only addresses immediate needs, but also builds upon a solid foundation for the future of elder care in our state," said Susan Langston, LeadingAge Southeast Vice President of Advocacy. "From nursing homes, assisted living facilities, home and community based services, to affordable senior housing and workforce, these investments reflect a commitment to sustaining programs and services that provide high quality care for Florida's older adults as they age across the continuum."

Key budget highlights of interest to LeadingAge Southeast members include:

- A nursing home Medicaid rate increase of 8% or \$247,813,483 in recurring funding. This has an estimated impact of \$20 million in increased funding for LeadingAge Southeast members or an average of \$289,000 per nursing home annually.
- A \$1,266,147 Medicaid rate increase for Assistive Care Services, which includes services provided by Assisted Living Facilities.
- Funding to support Florida's seniors in Home and Community Based Services:
 - An additional \$6 million to serve additional seniors as part of the Alzheimer's Disease Initiative.
 - More than \$2 million in additional funding for the Florida Alzheimer's Center of Excellence.
 - \$6 million for the Community Care for the Elderly Program
 - \$5 million for the Home Care for the Elderly Program. Funding will provide additional support for seniors at risk for out of home placement. These services and supports include adult day care, respite for caregivers, home delivered meals, and minor home modifications allowing them to continue to live in their homes.
 - \$29 million to expand the Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly or PACE

- \$6.7 million to increase the personal needs allowance for individuals receiving Florida Optional State Supplementation in an adult family care home, assisted living facility or mental health treatment center. The personal needs allowance will increase from \$54 to \$160 per month.
- Full funding from Sadowski Housing Trust Funds, with \$174 million for the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program and \$234 million for the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) Program. SB 328 passed the Legislature and is on its way to the Governor for final action, and includes a \$100 million for the Hometown Heroes Program which helps make homeownership more affordable for eligible frontline community workers and other Florida families.

To view a full list of budget highlights of interest to LeadingAge Southeast provider members, [click here](#).

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Established in 1963, LeadingAge Southeast is the premier association serving high-quality senior living providers across the continuum of care in Florida, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. The Association provides up-to-date regulatory information, a wide variety of educational opportunities, representation before the Legislature and government agencies, group purchasing services, and opportunities for networking with peers to help member communities best serve the needs of older adults.