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CONTACT: Nick Van Der Linden  
nvanderlinden@leadingagesoutheast.org  
or (863) 258-8665

## **LeadingAge Southeast Commends Governor DeSantis for Approving Significant Funding for Florida's Older Adults**

**TALLAHASSEE**— LeadingAge Southeast lauds Governor DeSantis for his approval of the state's budget that includes substantial funding for key programs and services crucial to the well-being of Florida's older adults.

"We are incredibly grateful to Governor DeSantis and the Florida legislature for their commitment to ensure Florida's older adults have access to the services, care and support they need," said Steve Bahmer, LeadingAge Southeast President & CEO. "The Medicaid rate increase, in particular, will be helpful to our nursing homes to hire additional staff or further enhance operational efficiencies. Additionally, the ongoing support for Alzheimer's disease, nursing education, home and community-based services, and the full funding of the Sadowski Housing Trust Funds demonstrate a comprehensive approach to addressing the diverse needs of our aging population."

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 was approved by the Governor 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.