

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS
FOCUS ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

The Focus on Fiscal Responsibility Budget

Overview, Debt Reduction, and Reserves

The Governor's Focus on Fiscal Responsibility Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 totals **\$115.6 billion**, more than **\$3.0 billion** lower than the current year budget, and continues the Governor's commitment to fiscal responsibility. Of the total **\$115.6 billion**, the General Revenue portion is **\$50.2 billion**, a **\$383.4 million** increase over the current Fiscal Year 2024-2025 General Revenue budget. Florida's total reserves are **\$14.6 billion**, over **12.5 percent** of the total budget for the fiscal year, leaving ample resources for any unforeseen circumstances. Florida's continued prioritization in maintaining reserves, and prudent fiscal management, is demonstrated by the state's continued AAA credit rating from all major credit rating agencies, which now exceeds the U.S. Government's credit rating. Additionally, the Governor's Budget eliminates **741** government positions to operate a lean and streamlined government that maximizes taxpayer resources.

Debt Reduction

Florida's blueprint for sound fiscal policy includes an effective Debt Reduction Program, established by Governor DeSantis. The Governor has set a goal to pay down **50 percent** of the state's tax-supported debt by Fiscal Year 2027-2028. The Focus on Fiscal Responsibility Budget provides **\$830 million**, including \$600 million to support tax-supported debt across government and an additional \$230 million to pay off all outstanding Florida Forever and Everglades bonds, reinforcing the Governor's commitment to conserving our state's natural resources and restoring the Everglades. With this investment, Florida will have paid down **48.7 percent** of the total tax-supported debt by the end of Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Florida is evidence that fiscally conservative principles coupled with strong leadership will result in a strong economy, a balanced budget, and healthy reserves while still providing record funding for education and environmental priorities.

Maintaining Strong Reserves

The Focus on Fiscal Responsibility Budget continues to prioritize healthy reserves that ensure Florida can effectively respond to storms and unforeseen disasters, providing for both a balanced budget and **\$14.6 billion** in total reserves as follows:

- **\$4.2 billion** in unallocated General Revenue
- **\$4.9 billion** in the Budget Stabilization Fund
- **\$2.3 billion** in unallocated Trust Funds
- **\$1.0 billion** in the Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund
- **\$2.2 billion** in the Reinsurance Assistance and the Florida Optional Reinsurance Assistance Programs
- **\$14.6 billion** in Total Reserves

Tax Relief for Florida Families

Governor DeSantis' Focus on Fiscal Responsibility Budget recommends **\$2.2 billion** in tax relief focusing on permanently repealing the business rent tax, creating a new venture tax credit program, and providing new and traditional tax holidays to help keep more money in the pockets of Florida's families.

\$1.7 billion in savings for Florida Businesses

- **Repeal of Business Rent Tax: \$1.6 billion** – Since taking office, Governor DeSantis has saved taxpayers \$1.5 billion by consistently reducing the state's sales tax on commercial real estate leases. This year, the Governor recommends permanently repealing this tax over the next two years:
 - A one percent reduction effective January 1, 2026, and another one percent reduction effective January 1, 2027.
- **Creation of a new venture capital tax credit program: \$100 million** – The Governor proposes the creation of a corporate income tax credit incentivizing investments in new ventures in research, innovation, science and engineering (RISE).
- **Data Center Exemption Expiration Repeal: \$3 million** – The Governor recommends a permanent extension of the sales tax exemption for Data Center Property to incentivize artificial intelligence infrastructure growth that will create jobs and strategically place Florida at the forefront of research and technology.

\$170 million in savings for Florida Homebuyers

The budget provides a one-year exemption of intangibles tax for the first \$500,000 of residential mortgages for the purchase of a primary (owner-occupied) residence effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

\$296 million in temporary tax savings

- **“Freedom Month” sales tax holiday in the month of July to save Florida families \$82 million** – The holiday covers outdoor recreation purchases such as supplies for camping and fishing and other outdoor activities, including kayaks and canoes with a sales price of \$500 or less, tents with a sales price of \$200 or less, as well as tickets for events, museums, the arts, and more.
- **A 14-day Back-to-School sales tax holiday to save Florida families \$87 million** – The holiday exempts clothing and accessories priced up to \$100,

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS
FOCUS ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

school supplies up to \$50, learning aides and jigsaw puzzles up to \$30, and personal computers and accessories up to \$1,500.

- **Two 14-day Disaster Preparedness sales tax holidays to save Florida families \$72 million** – The holiday covers items needed during disasters including generators priced at \$3,000 or less both at the start and height of Hurricane Season.
- **A seven-day Tool Time sales tax holiday to save Florida workers \$18 million** – The holiday exempts specified tools and equipment used by skilled workers.
- **“Second Amendment Summer” sales tax holiday between Memorial Day and the Fourth of July to save Floridians \$8 million** – The holiday exempts ammunition, firearms, and related accessories.
- **A two-month Marine Fuel Tax Holiday, saving Florida boaters \$27 million** – The holiday provides a 29.5 cents per gallon reduction of the motor fuel taxes levied on commonly used boat fuels.
- **A 2-year delay of the imposition of natural gas fuel taxes that would otherwise go into effect January 1, 2026, saving \$2 million.**

Safeguarding Florida’s Retirement System

The Focus on Fiscal Responsibility Budget continues Governor DeSantis’ commitment to Florida’s retirees by fully funding the required contributions for Florida Retirement System (FRS) employers to ensure the long-term solvency of retirement benefits for state employees, including law enforcement officers and teachers.

State Law Enforcement and Firefighter Pay Increase

The Governor maintains his commitment to Florida’s law enforcement and firefighters who put their lives on the line every day for Floridians by recommending **\$118.3 million** in pay increases for over 4,700 state sworn law enforcement officers and more than 730 state firefighters:

- Entry level sworn law enforcement officers will receive a 20 percent increase.
- Veteran sworn law enforcement officers will receive a 25 percent increase.
- State firefighters will receive a 25 percent increase.

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS
FOCUS ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

Education

Under the Governor's leadership, Florida has continued to prioritize students, expand opportunities, and empower educators. From workforce education and teacher quality to school safety and academic progress, Florida remains steadfast in delivering a world-class education system. Florida is still the national leader in education as demonstrated by being ranked #1 in education for the second consecutive year, #1 in education freedom for the third year in a row, and #1 in higher education for nearly a decade. The Governor's Focus on Fiscal Responsibility Budget continues to drive Florida's education forward by investing in our students and families and providing them with choices that best fit their needs.

Several important investments include:

- **\$1.5 billion, an increase of \$246.7 million**, in funding that must be used to provide salary increases for eligible teachers and other instructional personnel.
- **\$1.76 billion** in funding for early child education, including a total of **\$465.8 million** for Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) initiatives.
- Historic **\$29.7 billion** in funding, of which **\$16.1 billion** is record state funding for the K-12 public school system.
 - This covers the costs associated with the current projected enrollment of over 3.2 million students, including almost 358,000 students projected to participate in the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.
- **\$1.7 billion** in state operating funding for the Florida College System.
- **\$3.9 billion** in state operating funding for the State University System.
- **\$130 million** in total funding to reward quality nursing education programs to address nursing vacancies.
- **\$100 million** for the State University System for the recruitment and retention of highly qualified faculty.

Combatting Antisemitism

The Focus on Fiscal Responsibility Budget includes the following initiatives that support Florida's Jewish communities:

- **\$9 million** to enhance safety measures, hire school safety officers, upgrade safety equipment, facilities and technology, and increase security services at all Florida Jewish Day Schools and Preschools, and **\$10 million** for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program that provides funds to schools, houses of worship, museums, and community centers that are at high-risk for violent attacks.
- **\$600,000** for the Florida Holocaust Museum; and
- **\$100,000** for the Florida Holocaust Task Force.

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS
FOCUS ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

Early Learning

Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten

The budget provides a total of **\$465.8 million** for Florida's VPK program, of which **\$431.6 million** will ensure a high quality, free education initiative, which serves approximately **136,000** four- and young five-year-olds. VPK prepares each child for kindergarten by building a strong foundation for school and focusing on early literacy skills.

The budget also maintains **\$4.1 million** to continue supporting the Summer Bridge Program for VPK students who score below the tenth percentile on the final administration of the Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring (CSPM) System.

Finally, the budget provides **\$30.1 million** in funding for the VPK provider designation differential payments that rewards highly proficient or excellent VPK providers.

School Readiness

The Governor's Budget provides **\$1.2 billion** in funding for the School Readiness program and continues the School Readiness Plus Program by providing **\$20 million** in funding that supports families who are transitioning out of being eligible to participate in the School Readiness Program.

The budget includes funding for the following initiatives that support early learning:

- **\$10 million** for the T.E.A.C.H. program to provide early childhood teacher scholarships;
- **\$4.5 million** for the Help Me Grow program to connect children and families with information, resources and developmental services to enhance health, behavior and learning in the development of young children;
- **\$3.5 million** to ensure quality child care instruction; and
- **\$3.9 million** for the Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) to deliver high-quality School Readiness curriculum directly to parents so they may strengthen the cognitive and early literacy skills of at-risk children.

K-12 Public Education

Governor DeSantis continues to ensure Florida's families have the ability to choose the best educational option for their children. Under the Governor's leadership, Florida has implemented policies that provide Florida families with a wide variety of school choice options, which includes private school scholarships, scholarships for home school students participating in a personalized education program, and charter schools.

The Focus on Fiscal Responsibility Budget includes the highest per student investment of **\$9,205** in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP), which is an increase of

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS
FOCUS ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

\$222 per student over Fiscal Year 2024-25. Governor DeSantis is once again acknowledging Florida's hard-working educators by providing funding for school districts to provide any eligible teacher and other instructional personnel with a salary increase.

The Governor's Budget includes **\$29.7 billion** in total funding for the FEFP, which includes the following increases:

- Increase of **\$95** in the Base Student Allocation (BSA);
- An increase of **\$246.7 million**, for a total of **\$1.5 billion**, that will be used for pay increases to eligible teachers and other instructional personnel; and
- Increase of **\$10 million**, for a total of **\$566.6 million** for student transportation.

School Safety and Mental Health Initiatives

The Governor's Budget continues to invest in school safety initiatives, continuing Governor DeSantis' commitment to ensuring Florida's students and teachers are in a safe and secure learning environment.

- The budget includes the following school safety initiatives:
 - **\$300 million**, an increase of **\$10 million**, for the safe schools component of the FEFP;
 - **\$190 million**, an increase of **\$10 million**, for the mental health allocation;
 - **\$5.5 million** for the Mental Health Awareness and Assistance Training;
 - **\$6.5 million** for the Guardian Program to certify and train school guardians and provide a one-time stipend of \$500;
 - **\$845,000** for the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool;
 - **\$3 million** to continue providing a centralized integrated data repository and data analytics resources to improve access to timely, complete and accurate information;
 - **\$6.4 million** to continue providing school districts access to a mobile panic alert system that is capable of connecting multiple first responder agencies;
 - **\$42 million** for public school hardening grants;
 - **\$3.3 million** to continue the Florida Safe Schools Canine Program;
 - **\$6.5 million** to implement safe school technology systems; and
 - **\$5 million** for District Threat Management Coordinators.

Literacy Initiatives

The Governor's Budget provides funding for the following literacy initiatives:

- **\$5 million** for the Regional Literacy Teams initiative; and
- **\$38.4 million** for the New Worlds Scholarship Program.

K-12 Civics Engagement

The Governor's Budget provides funding for the following civic initiatives:

- **\$1.5 million** to support and continue expanding the Florida Debate Initiative, which creates new and enhances existing speech and debate programs with a

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS
FOCUS ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

focus on civic education. Since its inception in 2020, the Florida Debate Initiative has expanded from 59 schools to over 400 schools in 59 Florida school districts.

- **\$4 million**, an increase of **\$500,000**, to provide support to school districts for the improvement of civic literacy for Florida's students using regional civics literacy captains and coaches.
- **\$2.8 million** for the Civics Professional Development Initiative to support professional development focused on the new civics and government standards.
- **\$10 million** for the Florida Civics Seal of Excellence Program that will allow approximately 2,800 educators to receive a \$3,000 stipend for completing the Florida Seal of Excellence endorsement coursework.

Promoting Computer Science

The Governor's Budget continues support for the Computer Science Certifications and Teacher Bonus initiative by providing **\$8.5 million** in funding to enhance efforts to certify teachers in computer science courses, and to provide bonuses to teachers who hold educator certificates or industry certifications in computer science.

Higher Education

The Governor's Budget provides key investments to continue the mission of Florida's #1 ranked higher education system while moving towards becoming #1 in workforce education by 2030.

The Budget also includes state operating funding for Florida's higher education system:

- **\$1.7 billion** for Florida's state colleges; and
- **\$3.9 billion** for Florida's state universities.

The Governor's Budget maintains **\$11 million** in total funding for two programs to support Law Enforcement Officers and First Responders.

- **\$10 million** for the First Responders Scholarship Program to provide financial assistance at approved training programs.
- **\$1 million** for the Out-of-State Law Enforcement Equivalency Reimbursement initiative to cover the cost of the State Officer Certification Exam fee and any necessary equivalency training for law enforcement officers who relocate to Florida.

Bright Futures

The Governor's Budget fully funds the projected student enrollment for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program at **\$632 million**.

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS
FOCUS ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

Holding the Line on Tuition

The Governor's Budget does not include any tuition or fee increases for Florida's colleges and universities. Our students and families should not face any additional financial burdens as they are completing their education.

Performance Funding

The Governor's Budget increases the following performance funding at career technical centers, state colleges, and state universities:

- **\$10 million** for students earning industry certifications in high-skill, high-demand areas at career technical centers;
- **\$20 million** for students earning industry certifications in high-skill, high-demand areas at Florida colleges;
- **\$30 million** in performance funding for state colleges through the 2+2 Student Success Incentive Fund and the Work Florida Student Success Incentive Fund;
- **\$645 million** in performance funding for state universities; and
- **\$100 million** for the recruitment and retention of highly qualified faculty at our state universities.

Workforce Initiatives

To meet the goal of becoming #1 in workforce education by 2030, Governor DeSantis has committed more than **\$10 billion** to workforce education programs spanning secondary to postsecondary since 2019, which has achieved the following:

- Postsecondary enrollment has increased a record of over 479,000 students currently enrolled and a record of over 800,000 students enrolled in high school Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs since 2019.
- Florida's education system is #1 in the nation for entrepreneurship education and training, with over 81,000 students earning an industry certification in Entrepreneurship and Small Business (ESB) since 2021-2022.
- Since 2018-19, over 443,000 rapid credentials have been awarded to date, reflecting the state's strong commitment to workforce readiness.

To continue elevating Florida's workforce program, the Governor's Budget includes **\$766 million** to support workforce education programs to ensure Florida students are prepared to fill high-demand, high-wage jobs, and help Florida meet its goal of becoming first in the nation for workforce education by 2030. Highlights include:

- **\$449.4 million** in operational funding for Florida's CTE programs;
- **\$20 million**, for the Governor's Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program to establish or expand pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs for high school and college students. Within the \$20 million, **\$5 million** is dedicated to the Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program; and
- **\$100 million**, in the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program for the creation or expansion of CTE programs.

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS
FOCUS ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

The Focus on Fiscal Responsibility Budget continues to invest in Florida's nursing workforce by maintaining **\$130 million** to support two nursing education initiatives:

- **\$100 million** for the Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers and Learners through Incentive for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) to reward excellence in nursing education programs.
- **\$30 million** for the Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) fund to incentivize collaboration between nursing education programs and healthcare partners.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities

The Governor's Budget provides **\$146.5 million** for Florida's Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

- **\$17 million** in operating funds for Bethune-Cookman University.
- **\$7 million** in operating funds for Florida Memorial University.
- **\$7.5 million** in operating funds for Edward Waters University.
- **\$115 million** in operating funds for Florida A&M University.

Education Infrastructure

The Governor's Budget provides **\$795.5 million** in funding for education capital outlay initiatives, including:

- **Special Facility Construction**
 - **\$191.8 million** for Special Facility Construction projects for Baker, DeSoto, Gilchrist, Hendry, Holmes, Union, and Wakulla counties.
- **Maintenance and Education Capital Projects**
 - **\$239.8 million** for public charter school maintenance;
 - **\$143.9 million** for maintenance at the state colleges;
 - **\$143.9 million** for maintenance at the state universities;
 - **\$8 million** for state university construction;
 - **\$10 million** for lab school maintenance;
 - **\$7 million** for the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind maintenance;
 - **\$7.6 million** for Public Broadcasting projects;
 - **\$1.5 million** for the Division of Blind Services; and
 - **\$42 million** for the School Safety Grant Program.

Conserving Florida's Environment & Natural Resources

Conserving Florida's environment and natural resources has remained a key focus since Governor DeSantis took office. The Focus on Fiscal Responsibility Budget continues Florida's support of Everglades restoration projects, invests in Florida's conservation lands, restores our waterways and funds infrastructure projects to improve water quality and safeguard Florida's water supply.

Prioritizing Florida's Everglades and Water Quality

During his first term in office, Governor DeSantis called for **\$2.5 billion** to be invested over four years for the protection of water resources. The Governor surpassed that goal by securing over **\$3.3 billion** during his first term.

Governor DeSantis reinforced his commitment to prioritizing Florida's waterways in his second term by calling for an historic **\$3.5 billion** investment for Everglades restoration and protection of our water resources. The Governor's Budget includes more than **\$1.5 billion** for this initiative, bringing the total investment during the Governor's three years of the second term to **\$4.8 billion**, already exceeding the **\$3.5 billion** goal.

Investing in Florida's Everglades

The Governor's Budget includes more than **\$805 million** for Everglades restoration projects, including:

- **\$613 million** for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP).
- **\$64 million** for the EAA Reservoir to continue this critical project to reduce harmful discharges and help send more clean water south of the Everglades.
- **\$50 million** for specific project components designed to achieve the greatest reductions in harmful discharges to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Estuaries as identified in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project Draft Integrated Project Implementation Report and Environmental Impact Statement dated August 2020.
- **\$78 million** for the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program.

Investing in Florida's Status as the Fishing Capital of the World

Governor DeSantis has prioritized investments to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission that support the continued management of a robust snapper, snook, tripletail, and bonefish stock.

Supporting Floridians' Constitutional Right to Hunt

The Governor's Budget prioritizes investments in Florida's deer and wild turkey populations and to design and construct new shooting sports and archery facilities in Liberty and Polk Counties.

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS
FOCUS ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

Defending Florida's Everglades from Invasive Species

Governor DeSantis has prioritized efforts to remove the invasive Burmese python from the Everglades. The Governor's Budget includes more than **\$3 million** to remove pythons from the Everglades utilizing both traditional methods and innovative technologies.

Protecting Florida's Water Quality, Quantity and Supply

The Governor's Budget also includes **\$550 million** for targeted water quality improvements to achieve significant, meaningful and measurable nutrient reductions in key waterbodies across the state and to implement the recommendations of the Blue-Green Algae Task Force. This includes:

- **\$275 million** for the expanded Water Quality Improvement Grant Program for projects to construct, upgrade or expand wastewater facilities, including septic to sewer conversions, stormwater management projects, and agricultural nutrient reduction projects.
- **\$100 million** for the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) Protection Program for priority water quality projects, as called for in Executive Order 23-06.
- **\$80 million** for the Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment Area project to reduce the levels of phosphorus and nitrogen in the Kissimmee River prior to flowing into Lake Okeechobee.
- **\$50 million** to accelerate projects to meet nutrient reduction goals, called Total Maximum Daily Loads.
- **\$20 million** for critical infrastructure including wastewater and stormwater projects to address water quality and coral reef restoration in Biscayne Bay.
- **\$25 million** for water quality improvements in the Caloosahatchee River watershed.

The Governor's Budget includes **\$50 million** to restore Florida's world-renowned springs. This funding may also be used for land acquisition to protect springsheds and is crucial to supporting homeowners and local communities as they work with the state to achieve septic and nutrient reduction requirements.

The Governor's Budget includes more than **\$85 million** to improve water quality and combat the impacts of harmful algal blooms, including blue-green algae and red tide, including:

- **\$50 million** for harmful algal blooms mitigation to implement water quality treatment technologies in Lake Okeechobee.
- **\$10 million** for innovative technologies to aid in the prevention, cleanup, and mitigation of harmful algal blooms.
- **\$10.8 million** to increase water quality monitoring, support the Blue-Green Algae Task Force, and maintain the water quality public information portal.

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS
FOCUS ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

- **\$10 million** to assist county governments with their responses to emergency conditions associated with harmful algal blooms and red tide events.
- **\$4.2 million** in funding for continued support of research activities conducted by the Center for Red Tide Research.

The Governor's Budget includes **\$60 million** for the Alternative Water Supply Grant Program to help communities plan for and implement vital conservation, reuse and other alternative water supply projects. DEP will continue to engage local governments, industry, universities and water management districts to identify and research all viable alternative water supply sources and is working to provide an assessment of funding needs critical to supporting Florida's growing economy.

The Budget also includes **\$20 million** for the continued implementation of the Water Supply Grant Program for Northwest Florida.

Investing in South Florida Water Management

Recognizing the importance of both the Everglades and South Florida's water supply to the state's economy the Governor's Budget includes a second consecutive year of **\$150 million** to support the continued management capabilities of the South Florida Water Management District.

Prioritizing Florida's State Parks

Florida's State Parks have won the National Gold Medal a record four times for having the best state park system in the nation. The Governor's Budget dedicates **\$69 million** to infrastructure improvements and resource management with the goal of maintaining this high standard.

Protecting Florida's Conservation Lands and Waterways

The Governor's Budget includes **more than \$132 million** to protect Florida's conservation lands and waterways to ensure Florida's prized properties are accessible for future generations of Florida families. Project highlights include:

- **\$100 million** for the Florida Forever Program, the state's blueprint for conserving Florida's natural and recreation lands, including those located within the Florida Wildlife Corridor.
- **\$15 million** for the Florida Communities Trust, to acquire community-based parks, open space and greenways that further outdoor recreation and natural resource protection needs.
- **\$15 million** for the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP), which provides competitive recreational grants to local governments for the acquisition and/or development of land for public outdoor recreation.

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS
FOCUS ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

- **\$2.5 million** for the Stan Mayfield Working Waterfronts Program, to support the commercial fishing industry, including infrastructure for receiving or unloading seafood.

Protecting Florida's Domestic Food Security & Family Farms

In addition to funding Florida Forever, the Governor's Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget makes funding for Florida's working agricultural lands and family farms permanent by providing an annual appropriation of **\$100 million** to the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program.

Investing in Florida's Coastlines

Strong infrastructure is the best way to protect the state's shorelines against the impacts of a future hurricane, and that includes both natural and physical infrastructure improvements. With the additional investment of **\$261 million** for infrastructure projects in our local communities, Governor DeSantis has invested over **\$2 billion** to strengthen the state's coastal infrastructure and help communities prepare for the impacts of flooding and hurricanes through targeted funding and directives that enhance efforts to protect our inland waterways, coastlines, shores, and coral reefs, all of which serve as invaluable defenses against flooding.

To expedite the renourishment of Florida's award-winning beaches, the Governor's Budget includes **\$100 million**, a **\$50 million** increase over the current year, recognizing that Florida's 1,300 miles of coastline is important for our economy, quality of life, and defenses against hurricanes.

Florida's Coral and Artificial Reef Infrastructure

Restoring Florida's coral reef has been a consistent priority for the Governor, and included within the recommended total **\$26.2 million** for coral reef protection and restoration is **\$11.2 million** to continue Florida's Coral Reef Restoration and Recovery Initiative, established in Executive Order 23-06, to restore 25 percent of Florida's Coral Reef by 2050. Florida's Coral Reef will be restocked with hardy populations of native corals and other keystone species to re-establish and strengthen natural reproduction, dispersal, and recruitment patterns. Florida's Coral Reef Restoration and Recovery Initiative, along with **\$10.4 million** for artificial reef infrastructure and monitoring, will significantly enhance flood protection in Southeast Florida and strengthen coastal economies.

Restoring Florida's Oyster Industry

The Governor's Budget includes **\$30 million** to restore Florida's Oyster's reefs in Apalachicola Bay. Prior to 2012, more than 90 percent of Florida's commercially harvested oysters, and approximately 10 percent of the nation's wild-harvested oysters, were produced in Apalachicola Bay. This project will provide for continued restoration in

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS
FOCUS ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY


FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

Apalachicola Bay in support of sustainable oyster reefs that protect and enhance the ecosystem services this natural resource provides to the public.

Investing in Florida's Citrus Industry

In order to preserve Florida's iconic citrus industry, the Governor's Budget includes more than **\$20 million** for citrus research and the Citrus Health Response Program. This includes **\$7 million** for research and additional advertising by the Department of Citrus including research to help increase the production of trees and advance technologies that produce a resistance to citrus greening.

Combatting Wildfires

In addition to providing **\$4 million** to support the replanting of trees and timber impacted by hurricanes and natural disasters, the Governor's Budget includes over **\$45 million** to effectively combat wildfires:

- **\$32 million** for land management and wildfire suppression activities; and
- **\$13.3 million** for wildfire suppression equipment.

Mitigating and Restoring Contaminated Sites

The Governor's Budget includes **\$206 million** for the cleanup of contaminated sites with a focus on promoting redevelopment of these areas once cleanup has been completed. Cleanup and redevelopment of these sites will ensure Florida's new businesses and growing communities can continue to grow. Specific investments include:

- **\$195 million** for Petroleum Tanks Cleanup;
- **\$7 million** for Dry Cleaning Solvent Contaminated Site Cleanup; and
- **\$4 million** for Hazardous Waste Contaminated Site Cleanup.

Transportation, Infrastructure, & Emergency Management

Florida is currently home to over **23 million people** and welcomed more than 140 million visitors in 2023. As a high-growth state, the movement of an increasing number of people and goods from place to place quickly and efficiently depends on a continuing commitment to the development and maintenance of a world class transportation infrastructure.

The Focus on Fiscal Responsibility Budget includes **\$14.8 billion** for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). FDOT's total budget for the next five years surpasses **\$57 billion** in transportation investments. Every dollar invested in transportation is estimated to result in a return of more than **\$4** in economic benefits to Florida's residents and businesses.

Many states rely heavily on the federal government to fund their transportation infrastructure needs. However, in Florida, federal funding accounts for just 25 percent of the state's record transportation budget. To that end, the Governor directs the Florida Department of Transportation to identify opportunities to remove duplicative federal regulatory, permitting, and project management requirements where Florida, rather than the Federal Highway Administration, can lead.

Moving Florida Forward Initiative to Relieve Traffic Congestion

The budget accelerates work to reduce congestion on Interstate-4 by advancing **\$1.7 billion** in the current year for the Moving Florida Forward Initiative championed by the Governor. This program is a bold initiative to address congestion on Florida's highways and roads that will support our state's historic growth.

Transportation Work Program

Within the total amount provided to the Department of Transportation, the Governor's Budget provides **\$13.8 billion** for the State Transportation Work Program, Florida's ongoing five-year plan for the implementation and completion of transportation infrastructure projects. These projects include construction and maintenance of Florida's roads, bridges, rails, seaports and other public transportation systems. This year's investment in the Work Program includes:

- **\$5.7 billion** for highway construction and maintenance to include 115 new lane miles.
- **\$1.6 billion** to resurface 2,647 lane miles.
- **\$120.7 million** in seaport infrastructure improvements to ensure Florida's ports continue to have capacity while the rest of the nation struggles from supply chain backups at seaports.
- **\$345.4 million** for aviation improvements.

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS
FOCUS ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

- **\$954.7 million** in scheduled repairs for 43 bridges and replacement of 21 bridges.
- **\$200.1 million** investment in rail, freight and community transportation.
- **\$252.2 million** for safety initiatives.
- **\$258.9 million** for community trail projects and **\$49.4 million** for the SunTrail Network.

Spurring Innovation in Florida's Supply Chain

The Governor's Budget recommends **\$25 million** in the current fiscal year to provide grant funding to enhance Florida's supply chain and innovative delivery models, including vertical takeoff and landing aircraft, vertiports, airports, inland ports, seaports, freight railroads, intermodal logistic centers, and fuel pipelines.

Moving Water South along the Tamiami Trail

Upon taking office, Governor DeSantis prioritized the raising of Tamiami Trail along the Northeast Shark River Slough to restore the natural flow of the Everglades and send over 220 billion gallons of clean freshwater south to Florida Bay. The Governor's Budget directs FDOT to continue this work and prioritize additional projects into the western portion of the Shark River Slough to support the long-term protection of America's Everglades.

Natural Disaster Recovery & Emergency Management

Floridians again showed strength and resilience following a significant 2024 Hurricane Season. Under the leadership of Governor DeSantis, Florida's blueprint for disaster response and recovery is a model for the nation. The Governor's Budget provides significant funding for disaster recovery, mitigation, and emergency management, including:

Open Federally Declared Disasters – Funding to Communities and State Operations

- **\$1.24 billion** is provided for disaster preparation, response, recovery and mitigation, including:
 - **\$344.0 million** in state match for costs relating to disasters.

Community Development Block Grant

The Governor's Budget includes **\$150 million** in additional federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for local hurricane recovery and hardening efforts throughout the state, including the CDBG Disaster Recovery Program for all named hurricanes since 2017 and the CDBG Mitigation Program.

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS
FOCUS ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY


FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

Maintaining and Improving State Critical Infrastructure

The Governor's Budget continues the investment in critical building deficiencies throughout the state with **\$118 million** dedicated to improvement projects at state-owned facilities. This includes:

- **\$58 million** to provide employees and visitors at state owned office buildings with a safe and efficient working environment;
- **\$57 million** for phase one of a multi-year initiative to build a new office building and parking structure at the Capital Circle Office Complex; and
- **\$3 million** for maintenance and repair projects at the Florida State Fire College.

Bolstering Florida's Record Economic Growth

Under the leadership of Governor DeSantis, Florida has become the national leader for economic prosperity. Florida's position as a roaring economic engine and job creator is proven by the following facts:

- Florida leads the nation in the number of new business creations, with more than 3.4 million businesses created since 2019.
- In October 2023, Florida was named as the most entrepreneurial state in the nation by the *Digital Project Manager*, noting that Florida has the highest percentage of the population that has started a business with 13,238 small businesses per 100,000 residents, 3,000 more small businesses per 100,000 residents than the second-place Georgia.
- Florida's unemployment rate in December 2024 was 3.4 percent, almost 1 percent less than the national unemployment rate of 4.1 percent. Florida's statewide unemployment rate has been lower than the national rate for 50 consecutive months, and as of November 2024 remained the lowest among the top 10 largest states in the nation.
- Florida's private sector job growth increased by 122,800 jobs from December 2023 to December 2024, a growth rate of 1.4 percent and higher than the national growth rate of 1.3 percent.
- As of December 2024, Florida employers have added jobs for 52 of the last 56 months, and notably November 2024 marked the first time Florida's total nonagricultural employment has exceeded 10 million jobs.

Ensuring Housing Availability and Affordability for Florida's Families

Following the signing of the Live Local Act during the 2023 Legislative Session, which provided historic funding levels for the state's affordable housing programs, Governor DeSantis again proposes over **\$500 million** to fully fund these programs:

- **\$227.7 million** for the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) program.
- **\$178.5 million** for the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) program.
- **\$100 million** for the fourth year of the Hometown Heroes Housing program, which makes homeownership affordable for hard-working Floridian heroes, including law enforcement officers, firefighters, educators, healthcare professionals, childcare employees, and active military or veterans.

Economic Recovery and Development

Florida's pro-freedom policies result in economic growth and the Governor's Budget makes targeted investments in programs that support the creation of good jobs for Floridians and promote key Florida industries, including:

- **\$75 million** for the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund, which supports additional economic growth in Florida by providing local areas with funding for proposed public infrastructure and workforce training projects.

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS
FOCUS ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

- **\$80 million** to continue the vital state marketing and promotion efforts of VISIT FLORIDA, the state's official tourism marketing corporation and a source of travel planning for visitors across the globe.

Economic Support for Law Enforcement and the Military

Governor DeSantis has always recognized the invaluable contributions made to Florida by its law enforcement and military communities. The Governor's Budget includes:

- **\$23 million** for the fourth year of the Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Program, which provides a signing bonus of up to \$5,000 for those hired as first-time law enforcement officers in Florida.
- **\$7 million** for the Defense Infrastructure Grant Program, which provides funding for infrastructure projects that make a positive impact on the military value of installations within the state.
- **\$5 million**, an increase of **\$3 million**, for the Florida Defense Support Commission, which supports the Florida defense industry by awarding grants and guiding the future of military installation operations in the state.
- **\$5.7 million**, an increase of **\$4.2 million**, for the Military Base Protection Program, which helps secure non-conservation lands to serve as a buffer protecting military installations from encroachment, and the Defense Reinvestment Grant.

Rural Development

Florida's rural areas represent a tremendous opportunity for growth and prosperity. One of the key elements to this rural economic development is a focus on developing modern infrastructure, including broadband internet service. The Governor's Budget demonstrates the Governor's ongoing commitment to economic growth in rural areas by including:

- **\$25 million** for the Rural Infrastructure Fund, to support local rural infrastructure projects such as roads, storm and wastewater systems, and telecommunications facilities.
- **\$91.9 million** for the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) to assist small county governments in repairing or rehabilitating county bridges, paving unpaved roads, addressing road-related drainage improvements, resurfacing or reconstructing county roads, or constructing capacity or safety improvements to county roads.
- **\$27.5 million** for the Small County Resurfacing Assistance Program (SCRAP) to assist small county governments in resurfacing or reconstructing county roads.
- **\$72.3 million** for the County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP) to provide grants to counties to improve transportation facilities located on the State Highway System or to relieve traffic congestion on the State Highway System.

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS
FOCUS ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY


FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

Investing in Residential Home Mitigation Programs and Florida's Property Insurance Market

The Governor's Budget invests nearly **\$590 million** to help reduce insurance premiums for homeowners through additional home hardening and mitigation inspections and grants through the My Safe Florida Home Grant Program. This includes **\$480 million** in additional current year funding to immediately begin awarding up to 45,000 grants and an additional **\$109 million** next fiscal year in recurring funding to make the Program permanent by serving 10,000 homeowners annually.

The Governor's Budget also restores the My Safe Florida Home Condominium Pilot Program with **\$30 million** to continue to provide financial assistance to condominium associations to increase hurricane resistance.

Assistance to Households

To support qualifying Floridians who face the headwinds of increasing household expenses, the Governor's Budget provides **\$50 million** for additional funding under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). In partnership with local agencies, LIHEAP assists low-income households in meeting the costs of their home heating and cooling needs.

Ensuring Fair, Free, and Safe Elections

Florida is known as a national leader in conducting fair and accurate elections. Nevertheless, continued vigilance and oversight is needed to ensure that the integrity of Florida elections is always maintained, and that those who commit election fraud or other election law violations are held accountable. The Governor's Budget provides **\$18.8 million** for resources needed to ensure our future elections are conducted with the utmost integrity and are safe from cyber threats, fraud, and any other election irregularities, including:

- **\$2.5 million** for Florida Voter Registration System Modernization; and
- **\$1 million** for voter signature verification.

Family Friendly Arts and Culture

The Governor's Budget includes **\$27 million** for cultural and museum grants, which includes **\$1 million** to fund projects related to America 250, the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and **\$1.3 million** for historic preservation grants. The Governor is also proposing new language in Florida law for such grant programs that would ensure funding is provided only to activities and programs that are appropriate for all age groups.

Health and Human Services

The Focus on Fiscal Responsibility Budget further strengthens Governor DeSantis' commitment to providing support to Floridians struggling with behavioral health and substance use issues, seniors and their caregivers, those with unique abilities and survivors of human trafficking. The budget also increases support for foster and adoptive families with the goal of supporting new families and providing the assistance that adoptive children need to transition into adulthood and reach their goals.

Bolstering Cancer Research

The Governor's Budget provides over **\$266.9 million** to advance cancer research initiatives. This includes **\$60 million** for the Florida Cancer Innovation Fund, dedicated to fostering groundbreaking research inspired by emerging ideas, trends, and promising practices, acting as a catalyst for further scientific exploration. Additionally, historic funding of **\$132.5 million** is designated for the Casey DeSantis Cancer Research Program, alongside a **\$30 million** increase to launch the Cancer Connect Collaborative Incubator, a new project with an initial focus on pediatric cancer research.

Supporting Women and Children

The Governor's Budget provides more than **\$36 million** to support the care of pregnant women and children. This funding helps improve access to obstetric care for pregnant women and supports care for children and babies, including public school health services. Funds are provided to improve access and coordination for behavioral health services for children and to support quality improvement initiatives for children birth to 36 months who have a developmental delay. In addition, the budget continues funding of **\$29.5 million** to provide pregnancy support for mothers and families.

Behavioral Health

The Governor's Budget provides more than **\$151.4 million** in funding to support behavioral health services. This includes **\$135.5 million** to support the state-operated mental health treatment facilities with operational costs and staffing contracts to address the greater than 15-day forensic waitlist. The Governor's budget also provides funding to support community forensic residential treatment beds for preadmission diversion and discharge services for patients committed to a state mental health treatment facility. Community residential beds seek to reduce forensic commitments to the state mental health treatment facilities, treat and stabilize individuals, restore competency, reduce jail recidivism, and connect patients to the appropriate level of care after discharge.

Battling the Opioid Crisis

Florida continues to support care and recovery for individuals who are struggling with opioid use disorders through the provision of services and supports. This includes more

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS
FOCUS ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

than **\$175.8 million** from the nationwide Opioid Settlement Agreement to continue support for the Office of Opioid Recovery, an accredited Graduate Medical Education program to increase the number of residents in areas such as addiction medicine, addiction psychiatry, and pain medicine, and for other initiatives that support treatment and prevention for individuals with substance use disorders.

The Governor's Budget includes **\$31.8 million** to continue and expand the Coordinated Opioid Recovery (CORE) Network, which provides rescue response to support immediate treatment, stabilization, and assessment of the patient to determine the best course of treatment, and to provide long-term treatment and wrap around support.

Child Welfare

The Governor's Budget includes more than **\$114.2 million** to support those served by the child welfare system. This funding supports foster parents and caregivers and expands access to post-adoption supports to young adults adopted from the dependency system. This includes **\$38.6 million** to implement a new Community Based Care (CBC) funding model. The model aims to incentivize efficiency and enhance the effectiveness of CBC operations while focusing on prevention, family preservation, and achieving permanency.

Human Trafficking

The Governor's Budget includes **\$1 million** to launch two pilot programs aimed at preventing human trafficking and delivering specialized, comprehensive support to children at risk. Unlike existing services that primarily assist children already identified as victims, these pilot programs are designed to intervene before trafficking occurs. By targeting children with high-risk indicators and employing data-driven strategies, the pilots seek to identify and support vulnerable youth at an early stage.

Putting Seniors First

The Governor's Budget includes an increase of **\$6 million**, for a total of **\$73.1 million**, to serve seniors as part of the Alzheimer's Disease Initiative (ADI). This further strengthens Florida's position as a national leader in the provision of care for those with the disease and their families. ADI provides support for caregivers and individuals diagnosed or suspected of having Alzheimer's disease or other related memory disorders that interfere with daily living activities.

Additionally, an increase of **\$15 million** is provided, for a total of **\$130 million**, to serve additional seniors through the Community Care for the Elderly Program and the Home Care for the Elderly Program. Funding will provide 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.

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS
FOCUS ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY


FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

Floridians with Unique Abilities

The Governor's Budget provides more than **\$93.7 million** in funding to allow additional individuals with unique abilities to be provided necessary services through the Home and Community Based Services Waiver. The Governor's Budget also provides funding to support the planning and development of a new waiver to provide targeted services for adults with unique abilities as they transition into adulthood.

Veterans

The Governor's Budget invests an additional **\$15.3 million** to support capital improvements for the State Veterans' Nursing Homes. The budget also continues funding of **\$1 million** to provide for a Veteran's Dental Care Grant Program to enable deserving qualified Florida Veterans to receive no-cost dental care to improve their general health.

The Governor's Budget also continues a **\$2 million** investment to assist veterans in securing meaningful skills-based employment, provide employers a skilled talent pipeline, and to assist veterans in creating and operating a small business.

Maintaining Law & Order

Public safety continues to be a top priority for Governor DeSantis, as it is the foundation of a strong economy. While other states were defunding the police, Florida has secured increased funding and favorable policies to support and attract law enforcement officers. The Focus on Fiscal Responsibility Budget continues necessary investments in our public safety, including enhancing correctional officer safety, enforcing illegal immigration, and combatting the flow of fentanyl and other drugs into Florida from the Southern Border.

Keeping Floridians Safe from Terror

Governor DeSantis has led the way for Florida's support of the State of Israel in its battle against Hamas terrorists, and he was the only Governor to send planes to Israel to bring Americans in harm's way home. The Governor has also been front and center in fighting the scourge of antisemitism in our state. The Governor's Budget provides **\$10 million** to continue the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, providing nonprofit organizations such as houses of worship, schools, museums, and community centers at risk for violent attacks with resources to increase security and safety.

Enforcing Illegal Immigration

Governor DeSantis recommends **\$505 million and 15 FTE** in the current year for the Division of Emergency Management and **\$4.4 million and 21 FTE** to establish a Special Immigration Unit at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to immediately assist the federal administration's enforcement of illegal immigration.

The Governor's Budget also provides **10 FTE** to establish the Office of SecureFlorida at the Department of Commerce to enforce e-verify compliance and continue the Governor's mission of cracking down on illegal immigration in the state.

Combatting Fentanyl & Illegal Drugs

The Governor's Budget includes **\$10 million** to support law enforcement efforts to combat the opioid epidemic affecting Florida's communities:

- **\$10 million** to continue the State Assistance for Fentanyl Eradication (S.A.F.E.) in Florida Program for the third year. The funds have and will continue to assist local law enforcement in combatting the illicit trafficking and sale of fentanyl within Florida. Funds will be provided to the Department of Law Enforcement to be distributed to local agencies.

Upholding Election Integrity

The Governor's Budget includes **9 FTE and \$1.7 million** for the Department of Law Enforcement to expand the Election Crime Unit.

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS
FOCUS ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

Assisting Local Law Enforcement Partners

The Governor's Budget provides **4 FTE and \$890,000** to assist local law enforcement agencies with sexual offender/predator compliance and enforcement processes.

Keeping Florida Roads Safe

The Governor's Budget includes **\$3.3 million** for the replacement of aging Florida Highway Patrol vehicles.

Agricultural Law Enforcement

The Governor's Budget includes:

- **\$9 million** to provide an **additional 25 officers**, and additional equipment and law enforcement vehicles.
- **\$1.9 million** to create a dedicated K9 Unit, including 8 additional officers, within the FDACS Division of Agricultural Law Enforcement to safeguard Florida's agricultural commodities from drug trafficking.

Safer Correctional Operations

The Governor's Budget includes **\$11 million** to improve safety and security at Florida's correctional facilities. This includes:

- **\$3 million** for security equipment, such as drone detection equipment, thermal fence cameras, drone support for K-9 operations, and license plate readers; and
- **\$8 million** to improve infrastructure including environmental systems and regional evidence storage facilities.

Ensuring Safer Communication in Corrections

The Governor's Budget includes over **\$2 million** to address communication needs for officers on the ground at institutions, as well as on the road with state probation officers. This includes:

- **\$1.26 million** to replace radio towers and systems at five institutions; and
- **\$761,175** to purchase satellite phones for probation officers performing supervision duties in rural, fiscally constrained counties.

Enhancing Florida's Crime Databases

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement maintains a variety of databases used daily by law enforcement to investigate crimes and apprehend criminals. Many of these resources are publicly accessible to help keep Floridians safe. The Governor's Budget provides more than **\$6.5 million** to expand and enhance these databases, including:

- **\$4.6 million** for the technology enhancement of breath test instrumentation and associated software within the Alcohol Testing Program; and
- **\$1.9 million** to enhance the Missing and Endangered Person Information Clearinghouse applications.

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS
FOCUS ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

Supporting State Courts

The Governor's Budget includes continued support for the State Court System. This includes:

- **\$8 million** for additional court reporting and due process resources;
- **\$2.3 million** to fund security upgrades at the Fifth District Court of Appeal courthouse; and
- **\$8.7 million** for the first year of funding to begin construction of the Sixth District Court of Appeal courthouse.

Florida Scholars Academy

The Governor's Budget includes an additional **\$4 million**, for a total of **\$31 million**, for the continued implementation of the Department of Juvenile Justice's Florida Scholars Academy. The Academy provides students in the care of the department various educational opportunities and trade skills in high-demand occupations to set them on the path for success upon release.

Enhancing Emergency 911 Call Services

Ensuring our first responders have the technology and resources necessary to provide lifesaving aid quickly and effectively to our residents and visitors of Florida remains a priority through the continued investment in our state's emergency 911 (E911) call services. The Governor's Budget includes an additional **\$4.4 million** for the following E911 enhancements:

- **\$1.8 million** in grant funding for fiscally constrained counties to maintain upgraded 911 public safety answering points to ensure the effective transfer of calls from one local, multi-jurisdictional, or regional E911 system to another.
- **\$2.6 million** for an additional 5,000 BeOn licenses to further assist law enforcement officers with connectivity by extending the range of coverage to utilize broadband, Wi-Fi, and cellular data services.

Safeguarding Florida against Cybersecurity Threats

The Governor's Budget continues the commitment to harden Florida's cybersecurity framework through the funding of **\$67.5 million** in various state agencies for security, training, and resiliency resources. While Florida has improved its cybersecurity posture in recent years, it is vital to continue to invest in modern cybersecurity initiatives to maintain pace with the ever-evolving technology landscape to ensure Floridians' sensitive information and critical infrastructure are protected.

Investing in Florida's Military

Continued Support of the Florida State Guard

Florida's response capabilities continue to strengthen through the re-establishment of the Florida State Guard to aid and respond during emergencies. Since 2023, the Florida State Guard has proven to be an invaluable force augmenting manpower and providing important resources to impacted Floridians during disasters. The Focus on Fiscal Responsibility Budget includes **\$62 million** to provide equipment, including maritime vessels, essential vehicles, debris removal resources, and specialized training necessary for rapid search and recovery efforts both during and after disasters. The funding for the State Guard supports the continued training and equipment needs for up to 1,500 soldiers to support units related to search and recovery, aviation, maritime, logistics, communications, and other support functions.

Supporting Florida National Guardsmen and their Families

Florida National Guard recruitment and retention programs help provide a well-rounded force of soldiers that are supported not only in their National Guard duties but also in their careers. The Governor's Budget includes **\$7.2 million** in recurring funding to fully support Florida National guardsmen seeking higher education degrees.

Maintaining National Guardsmen Readiness

Medical readiness is essential to ensuring Florida guardsmen can respond at a moment's notice to state and federal activations. Through the investment of **\$1.2 million** in the Governor's budget, guardsmen will be eligible to receive reimbursement for the cost of health insurance to alleviate both health and financial burdens.

Strengthening the National Guard's Camp Blanding

The Governor's Budget includes **\$75 million** for year three of the multi-year initiative to construct multiple state-of-the-art training facilities for the Florida National Guard at Camp Blanding. In addition, **\$25 million** is included for phase one of a mission training complex at Camp Blanding, consisting of infantry battle courses and simulation courses. These initiatives will provide training facilities and barracks to support simultaneous training of 5,000 guardsmen.

Renovating National Guard Readiness Centers Statewide

The Governor's Budget includes over **\$13 million** to make repairs and renovations to outdated readiness centers across Florida. This includes:

- **\$5.5 million** for year three of the Revitalization and Modernization Program (REVAMP), a multi-year plan to renovate all readiness centers to meet safety standards and building code compliance.
- **\$7.8 million** for general maintenance at existing readiness centers.

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS
FOCUS ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY


FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

Expanding the Florida National Guard Footprint

To maintain the growth necessary to support our Florida National Guard, the Governor's Budget includes **\$60.5 million** for the construction and planning of additional readiness centers and training facilities. This includes:

- **\$42 million** to complete construction of the Immokalee and Zephyrhills Readiness Centers.
- **\$18 million** state matching funds to construct a new Readiness Center in Gainesville.
- **\$500,000** in state matching funds to design a new Special Forces Readiness Center at Camp Blanding.