



FLORIDA BUDGET

FISCAL YEAR 2026 - 2027

The Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget

Overview, Debt Reduction, and Reserves

A Tenure of Conservative Leadership & Results

Governor DeSantis' Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget represents the culmination of eight years of conservative leadership built on fiscal discipline, strategic investments, and a commitment to delivering results for Floridians. With the Legislature passing a total budget (inclusive of \$4 billion in back-of-bill adjustments) of **\$118.4 billion**, after line-item vetoes of nearly **\$810 million**, the new state budget totals just over **\$117.63 billion** and marks the *fourth consecutive year of declining state spending*.

This budget demonstrates that Florida can continue investing in its priorities while reducing the size of government and maintaining *one of the nation's lowest per-capita state budgets*.

Throughout his tenure, Governor DeSantis has proven that conservative fiscal policies produce real results. Florida has maintained balanced budgets, earned a AAA credit rating from every major credit rating agency, grown total reserves to nearly **\$18 billion**, and accelerated debt repayment to the point that more than **half of all state debt accumulated since statehood has now been paid off**—a milestone reached ahead of schedule. At the same time, the state has reduced more than **1,300 government positions** while serving a population that has grown by more than **10 percent**, reinforcing the Governor's commitment to efficient government that does more with less.

These sound fiscal policies have allowed Florida to make historic investments without sacrificing financial stability. Since 2019, funding for the Florida Education Finance Program has increased by more than **\$8.1 billion**, bringing total funding to a record **\$30 billion** and raising per-student funding to an all-time high of **\$9,338**. The administration has also invested **\$7.1 billion** in teacher salary increases, helping raise Florida's average minimum teacher salary by approximately **\$10,000** while expanding educational opportunities through the nation's leading school choice programs, and ensuring that students are educated not indoctrinated.

Governor DeSantis has also positioned Florida for long-term economic success through strategic investments in infrastructure and workforce development. Since 2019, the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund has supported more than **43,000 new jobs** and **33,000 workforce education opportunities**, while the Hometown Heroes Program has helped thousands of Floridians achieve homeownership. Through the Moving Florida Forward Initiative, Florida is accelerating more than **20 major congestion relief projects** while committing almost **\$63 billion** in transportation improvements over the next five years to keep pace with the state's rapid growth.


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Public safety has remained a defining priority throughout the Governor's administration. Florida became the first state to offer recruitment bonuses for law enforcement officers, attracting more than **10,000 officers** through the Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Program. The administration has aggressively confronted the fentanyl epidemic through the S.A.F.E. in Florida Program, which has helped drive down overdose deaths while resulting in nearly **3,000 arrests** and the seizure of more than **600 pounds of fentanyl**. Florida has also become the national model for state-led immigration enforcement, with Operation Tidal Wave resulting in more than **10,000 arrests** of illegal aliens in just eight months.

Governor DeSantis has paired economic growth with unprecedented environmental stewardship. Since taking office, Florida has committed nearly **\$9.5 billion, a 512% increase during his tenure**, to Everglades restoration and water quality improvements, tripling South Florida's water storage capacity and helping Florida Bay reach salinity targets for the first time in decades.

Taken together, the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget reflects far more than a single year's spending plan—it represents eight years of delivering on conservative principles. By reducing spending, paying down debt, building record reserves, shrinking government, investing in education and infrastructure, supporting law enforcement, protecting Florida's natural resources, and maintaining one of the strongest economies in the nation, Governor DeSantis leaves Florida better positioned than ever to meet future challenges while preserving the freedom and prosperity that have made the state the nation's model for effective conservative governance.

Veto

In addition to line-item vetoes of nearly **\$810 million**, this year's total vetoes of **\$1.7 billion** also include the second consecutive year of the Governor vetoing an earmark to transfer **\$750 million** in General Revenue to the Budget Stabilization Fund (BSF), the funding of which is a premature measure contingent on voter approval of a constitutional amendment on the ballot this Fall.

Additional vetoes of **\$377 million** relates to the veto of HB 5403E, a bill which ties Florida's accelerated debt repayment program to, of all things, taking out more debt for prisons. If enacted, HB 5403E would have increased taxpayer liabilities and backpedaled on Florida's long-standing sound fiscal governance.

Reserves

Florida's total reserves are nearly **\$18 billion**, keeping in line with the good financial stewardship that has been a trademark throughout Governor DeSantis' two terms and keeps Florida on sound financial footing. The State of Florida will have ample resources to address unforeseen circumstances. Florida's continued prioritization of maintaining



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strong reserves and prudent fiscal management, is further demonstrated by the state's AAA credit rating from all major credit rating agencies, which exceeds the U.S. Government's credit rating.

Florida's state government continues to operate efficiently and maintains the lowest number of state employees per capita. Net position reductions under the Governor's tenure have now reached over 1,300 while Florida's population has grown by over 10 percent.

Debt Reduction

Florida's blueprint for sound fiscal policy emphasizes the importance of accelerated debt repayment to protect Florida's sovereignty and bottom line. During his second term, Governor DeSantis has further emphasized this approach, setting a goal to accelerate the repayment of debt that has accumulated since statehood, calling for 50% of debt be paid off prior to the culmination of his second term. Earlier this month, Governor DeSantis announced that Florida reached this milestone earlier than expected, reaching 50.2 percent.

With this budget, Florida will be poised to reach 52% paid off since statehood, thanks to \$735 million in principle payment, even with the veto of HB 5403E.

Florida is evidence that fiscally conservative principles, coupled with strong leadership, result in a strong economy, a balanced budget, and healthy reserves while still providing record funding for education, infrastructure, natural disaster response, and environmental priorities.

Maintaining Strong Reserves

The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget continues to prioritize healthy reserves that ensure Florida can effectively and swiftly respond to storms and unforeseen disasters, providing nearly **\$18 billion** in Total Reserves as follows:

- \$9.7 billion in unallocated General Revenue
- \$5.0 billion in the Budget Stabilization Fund
- \$2.8 billion in unallocated and unexpended Trust Funds
- \$0.3 billion in the Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund and Reinsurance Assistance Program (RAP)

Reserves have increased nearly **\$7 billion** during the Governor's two terms, including the Budget Stabilization Fund balance which has tripled from its initial balance of **\$1.5 billion** to the current maximum of **\$5.0 billion**. With this year's investment of **\$118 million**, Florida's Rainy-Day Fund is – yet again – maxed out at its constitutional limit.

Efficiency in Government



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Florida continues to have the lowest number of state positions per capita. The Fiscal Year 2026-27 budget reduces **327** state positions which adds to the overall reduction of over **1,300** positions during the Governor's two terms, all while the state's population has increased by over 10 percent.

Safeguarding Florida's Retirement System

The Fiscal Year 2026-27 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. Additionally, the budget establishes a cost-of-living adjustment for eligible Special Risk Class members of 1.5 percent.



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Tax Relief for Today and Tomorrow

Since taking office, Governor DeSantis has prioritized Florida's families and small businesses with both temporary and permanent tax relief. These tax cuts have saved Floridians nearly **\$9.7 billion** under the Governor's tenure. This included the Governor's full repeal of the nation's only remaining tax on commercial rent, saving Florida's small businesses **\$2.7 billion** annually.

Recognizing that many of Florida's legacy annual tax holidays are impactful for our families and businesses, Governor DeSantis approved a permanent Back-to-School tax holiday, ensuring our students have the tools to succeed. The Governor also made previous temporary holidays on disaster preparedness items permanent, ensuring our families have all year to prepare for hurricane season.

Governor DeSantis has worked to make family-focused expenditures part of the state's growing list of commodities permanently exempt from state sales taxes, reducing the burden on families. These include baby and toddler products, diapers, sunscreen, insect repellent, and even admissions to Florida State Parks.

In addition to fully maintaining all state tax relief, the budget provides a second consecutive ***Second Amendment Sales Tax Holiday***, from September 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, on the retail sale of firearms, ammunition and related accessories, crossbows and related accessories, camping supplies, and fishing supplies. After a successful launch in 2025, the holiday is expanded to include additional firearm accessories and doubles the price of eligible fishing bait and tackle eligible for savings. The holiday will save Florida's hunters, anglers, and campers **\$40 million** in sales taxes next year.

The budget also builds on a prior tax holiday to assist Floridians in home hardening improvements to lower insurance premiums and increase their defenses against severe weather. As enacted, the budget includes a sales tax refund of up to \$500 per eligible residential property for sales tax paid on impact-resistant windows and doors purchased from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029.

Taxation and Financial Management Policy

Throughout his second term, Governor DeSantis has led the national effort to safeguard taxpayers from environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investing and spending scams, and from the injection of unconstitutional diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) policies. Both ESG and DEI practices prioritize ideological agendas over common-sense pecuniary principles and staunch fiscally conservative investments.



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Education

Under Governor DeSantis' leadership, Florida has led the nation in education. From school safety to parental rights, from school choice to university tuition, Florida leads in prioritizing its students and empowering families. Florida's leadership is demonstrated by its results and by being ranked #1 in education freedom for the fourth year in a row, and #1 in higher education for nearly a decade. The 2026-2027 Budget will continue the Governor's efforts to drive Florida's education system even further.

Key investments include:

- **\$1.56 billion, an increase of \$201 million**, in funding that must be used first to provide salary increases to full-time classroom teachers and certified prekindergarten teachers funded in the Florida Education Finance Program with at least ten years of full-time teaching experience in a Florida public school. The amount of such an increase may not exceed \$3,000, with remaining funds eligible for other school personnel.
- An historic investment of **\$9,338** per student, an increase of **\$150** from the current year's funding model.
- Historic **\$30 billion** in funding, of which **\$16 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 500,000 students projected to participate in the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.
- **\$1.65 billion** in funding for early child education, including a total of **\$431 million** for the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) program.
- **\$1.8 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.

Early Learning

Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten

The Budget provides a total of **\$431 million** for Florida's VPK program, a high-quality, free education initiative that serves approximately **136,000** four- and young five-year-olds. This investment maintains the base student allocation for the school year and summer programs to \$3,029 per student and \$2,586 per student, respectively. VPK prepares each child for kindergarten by building a strong foundation for school and focusing on early literacy skills.

The budget also maintains **\$2.8 million** in funding to continue supporting the Summer Bridge Program for VPK students who score below the 10th percentile on the second administration of the Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring (CSPM) System.



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School Readiness

The Budget provides **\$1.15 billion** in funding for the School Readiness program.

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

- **\$20 million** for the T.E.A.C.H. program to provide early childhood teacher scholarships;
- **\$6.5 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 childcare 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 Education

Under the leadership of Governor DeSantis, Florida continues to lead the way in providing educational opportunities for our K-12 students and empowering parents. Through a robust array of school choice programs, Florida empowers every family and every child to achieve their educational goals. Additionally, the Governor is continuing his efforts to ensure our most vulnerable population is kept safe through our school safety and mental health initiatives.

The Budget includes the highest per-student investment in Florida history—**\$9,338 per student** through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP), an increase of **\$150 per student** over Fiscal Year 2025-26. Since Governor DeSantis took office in 2019, total FEFP funding has increased by **more than \$8.1 billion**, growing from **\$21.9 billion to \$30 billion**, while per-student funding has risen by **\$1,688**. State funding alone has increased by **\$3.6 billion**, from **\$12.5 billion to \$16 billion**, reflecting the Governor's continued commitment to making historic investments in Florida's students while maintaining responsible fiscal stewardship.

The Budget includes **\$30 billion** in total funding for the FEFP, which includes the following increases:

- Increase of **\$85** in the Base Student Allocation (BSA);
- An increase of **\$201 million**, for a total of **\$1.56 billion**, to be used for pay increases for full-time classroom teachers and certified prekindergarten teachers funded in the FEFP, with at least 10 years of full-time teaching experience in a Florida public school. The amount of such an increase may not exceed \$3,000.
- An increase of **\$5 million**, bringing the total to **\$570.8 million** for student transportation.


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Since taking office, the Governor has continued to promote and support initiatives that elevate the teaching profession in Florida. This includes the establishment of the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation (TSIA) categorical.

Beginning in 2020 through Fiscal Year 2026-27, Florida will have invested a total of **\$7.1 billion** in funding for salary increases for eligible teachers and instructional personnel. This specific funding allocation has allowed the average annual minimum base classroom teacher salary to increase by approximately \$10,000 to \$50,226 in Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

The investment in Florida's students is paying off. Under Governor DeSantis, Florida's high school graduation rate hit a historic 92.2 percent.

School Safety and Mental Health Initiatives

Governor DeSantis has continued to build upon the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act by continually expanding the state's school safety protocols, which includes the passage of legislation this year that extended the armed guardian program to Florida's colleges and universities, to ensure Florida's students and teachers are in a safe and secure learning environment.

- The budget includes the following school safety initiatives:
 - **\$290 million**, is maintained for the safe schools component of the FEFP;
 - **\$180 million** is maintained for the mental health allocation in the FEFP;
 - **\$5.5 million** for 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;
 - **\$6 million** for the expansion of the Guardian Program to state colleges and universities;
 - **\$1.1 million**, an increase of **\$228,911**, 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 regarding school environment safety reports and applicable relevant data from partner state agencies;
 - **\$6.4 million** to continue providing school districts access to a mobile panic alert system that can connect multiple first responder agencies;
 - **\$450,000** for the Alyssa's Alert Panic Button, a centralization system that will be used by public emergency responders, which will receive alerts from all panic alert alarm systems and integrate digital maps used by public schools, charter schools, and other educational institutions;
 - **\$20 million** is maintained for public school hardening grants;



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- **\$20 million** to enhance safety measures; hire school safety officers; upgrade safety equipment, facilities, and technology; and increase security services at all of Florida's Jewish Day Schools and preschools;
- **\$3.3 million** to continue the Florida Safe Schools Canine Program;
- **\$5.5 million** to implement safe school technology systems; and
- **\$5 million** for District Threat Management Coordinators.

K-12 Civics Engagement

Under Governor DeSantis' leadership, Florida continues to be the national model for civics education. This includes providing for the Florida Civics and Debate Initiative to support student involvement and civic literacy through Regional Civics Literacy Directors and Coaches. The Budget provides funding for the following civic initiatives:

- **\$3.9 million** to support and continue expanding the Florida Civics and Debate Initiative (FCDI) and the Florida Debate Initiative (FDI). Programs provide support to public school districts to expand or establish speech and debate programs and/or expand access to competitive civics and debate competitions. Since 2020, speech and debate programs have expanded from 59 teams in 11 districts to 330 teams in every school district across the state.
- **\$3 million**, an increase of **\$2 million**, to provide support to school districts for the improvement of civic literacy for Florida's students using regional civics literacy captains and coaches.
- **\$1.5 million**, an increase of **\$1 million**, for the Civics Professional Development Initiative to support professional development focused on the new civics and government standards.
- **\$7 million**, an increase of **\$3.5 million**, for the Florida Civics Seal of Excellence Program that will allow educators to receive a \$3,000 stipend for completing the Florida Seal of Excellence endorsement coursework.

Higher Education

Under Governor DeSantis' leadership, Florida continues to rank as the #1 higher education system in the nation. This includes achieving the goal of ranking #1 in workforce education four years ahead of the 2030 target. Additionally, nearly 80 percent of Florida undergraduates have not taken out student loans, which is attributable to Florida's lowest tuition rates in the nation at an average cost of approximately \$6,100 compared to the national average of approximately \$12,000.

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

- **\$1.8 billion** for Florida's state colleges; and
- **\$3.9 billion** for Florida's state universities.

The Governor's Budget maintains **\$10.3 million** in total funding for two programs to support Law Enforcement Officers and First Responders.


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- **\$10 million** for the First Responders Scholarship Program to provide financial assistance at approved training programs.
- **\$250,000** 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 **\$705.2 million**.

Holding the Line on Tuition

For the 8th year in a row, under Governor DeSantis' leadership, the Budget does not include any tuition or fee increases for Florida students at our state colleges and universities. Our students and families should not face any additional financial burdens as they are completing their education.

Performance Funding

The Budget provides the following performance funding at career technical centers, state colleges, and state universities:

- **\$8.5 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.

Workforce Initiatives

To meet the goal of becoming #1 in workforce education by 2030, Governor DeSantis has committed **\$12 billion** to workforce education programs spanning secondary to postsecondary since 2019, which has achieved the following:

- Florida is ranked #1, for the third consecutive year, in attracting and developing a skilled workforce.
- Since Fiscal Year 2017-18, career and technical education programs have increased by 60%, from 5,825 to 9,276.

To continue elevating Florida's workforce program, the Budget includes **\$732 million** to support workforce education programs, ensuring Florida students are prepared to fill high-demand, high-wage jobs, and helping Florida meet its goal of becoming first in the nation for workforce education by 2030. Highlights include:

- **\$473.5 million** in operational funding for Florida's Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs;



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- **\$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, including, **\$5 million** dedicated to the Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program; and
- **\$40 million**, in the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program for the creation or expansion of CTE programs.

The 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.

These investments in workforce education have enabled Florida to reach the #1 ranking in workforce, well ahead of our 2030 goal.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities

The Governor's Budget provides **\$158.6 million in operating funds** for Florida's Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

- **\$17 million** in operating funds for Bethune-Cookman University.
- **\$7.4 million** in operating funds for Edward Waters University.
- **\$125 million** in operating funds for Florida A&M University.
- **\$7.4 million** in operating funds for Florida Memorial University.

Education Infrastructure

The Governor's Budget provides over **\$1 billion** in funding for education capital outlay initiatives, including:

- **Special Facility Construction**
 - **\$145.5 million** for Special Facility Construction projects for the districts of Hardee, Lafayette, Baker, Desoto, Union, Hendry, and Wakulla.
- **Maintenance and Education Capital Projects**
 - **\$260.2 million** for public charter school maintenance;
 - **\$465.5 million** for state university construction;
 - **\$24.2 million** for public school construction;
 - **\$197.3 million** for Florida College System construction;
 - **\$4.8 million** for Career and Technical Education facilities;
 - **\$11.6 million** for lab school maintenance;
 - **\$11.9 million** for the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind maintenance;
 - **\$820,000** for the Division of Blind Services; and

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- **\$20 million** for school hardening at public schools.



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Conserving Florida's Environment & Natural Resources

Governor DeSantis has consistently prioritized conserving Florida's natural resources, recognizing the direct link between Florida's environment and economy. Since taking office, he has secured **almost \$9.5 billion** for Everglades restoration and water quality projects—the largest investment in Florida history. These historic investments have **tripled water storage capacity in South Florida**, accelerated critical restoration efforts, and produced measurable environmental results, including **Florida Bay reaching its salinity targets for the first time in decades**.

Governor DeSantis has also made Florida the national leader in resilience planning. In Fiscal Year 2021-22, he launched the Resilient Florida Grant Program to protect Florida's inland waterways, coastlines, shores, and coral reefs from flooding, sea-level rise, and storm surge. Since its creation, the program has provided more than **\$2 billion** in resiliency funding to strengthen vulnerable communities and critical infrastructure. While funding for resiliency planning is reduced in Fiscal Year 2026-27 following the successful completion of vulnerability assessments in all 67 counties, the Budget continues investing in the infrastructure projects identified through those assessments to ensure Florida remains prepared for future natural hazards.

The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget builds on this record by continuing Florida's unprecedented support for restoring America's Everglades, conserving the state's unique landscapes, restoring waterways and coastlines, and protecting both the quality and long-term supply of Florida's water resources.

Maintaining the Momentum on Everglades and Water Quality

In 2019, during his first term, Governor DeSantis called for **\$2.5 billion** in investments over four years to accelerate Everglades restoration and water quality programs. In 2022, it was announced that the Governor had exceeded that goal, securing over **\$3.3 billion** in just four years.

In 2023, at the start of his second term, Governor DeSantis doubled down on his commitment to the Everglades and Florida's waterways, calling for **\$3.5 billion** in investments over his second term. The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget invests **\$1.2 billion**. Including the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget, the investment under the second term will total almost **\$6 billion**, bringing the investment during the Governor's tenure to nearly **\$9.5 billion, a 512% increase during his tenure**. This historic investment delivers on Governor DeSantis' commitment to achieve even more now for Florida's environment.

Fully-Funding the EAA Reservoir and Central Everglades Planning Project

The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget invests **\$665 million** in funding in Everglades restoration. This includes continued investments in the Comprehensive Everglades


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Restoration Plan (CERP), the landmark dollar-for-dollar commitment between the state and the Federal government to restore America's Everglades.

This summer, during the 25th Anniversary year of CERP, Governor DeSantis reached an historic agreement with the Trump Administration to accelerate CERP, including critical components of the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) and EAA Reservoir. Of the **\$665 million** dedicated to Everglades restoration, the budget allocates **\$475 million** for CERP. Within that amount **\$450 million** of those funds directly supports CEPP, fully funding all remaining components of state-funded portions of the EAA Reservoir and CEPP South-Blue Shanty Flow-way. This investment ensures that the landmark of Everglades restoration is achieved and delivered five years ahead of schedule.

The budget also includes funds for future projects in the Western Everglades, which will convey fresh water through Big Cypress National Park.

In addition, the budget provides **\$50 million** for specific project components designed to achieve the greatest reductions in harmful discharges to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Estuaries and **\$79 million** for the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program.

Prioritizing Lake Okeechobee and the Kissimmee River

The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget invests in proven science to clean water flowing into Lake Okeechobee, prior to depositing into the lake. This includes **\$38.6 million** to support 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. The budget also includes \$50 million in targeted funds to clean and restore Lake Okeechobee for the communities who rely on it.

Defending Florida's Everglades from Invasive Species

Governor DeSantis has prioritized efforts to remove the invasive Burmese python from the Everglades. The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget includes **\$2 million** to remove pythons from the Everglades on a recurring basis. These efforts come as Florida has entered into a landmark agreement to exponentially increase python removals by partnering with a leather company that turns the invasive species into shoes and handbags.

Protecting Florida's Water Quality, Quantity and Supply

In addition to the \$98.6 million for Lake Okeechobee and the Kissimmee River, the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget also includes **\$396 million** for targeted water quality improvements to achieve significant, meaningful, and measurable nutrient reductions in key waterbodies across the state. This includes:


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- **\$301 million** for local water projects to construct, upgrade, or expand wastewater facilities, including septic to sewer conversions, stormwater management projects, and agricultural nutrient reduction projects.
- **\$45 million** is provided for the priority areas of the Indian River Lagoon and Biscayne Bay.
- **\$20 million** to accelerate projects to meet scientific nutrient reduction goals, called Total Maximum Daily Loads.
- **\$30 million** for water quality improvement projects through the Water Management Districts.

The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget includes **\$50 million** to restore Florida's springs. This funding may also be used for land acquisition to protect spring sheds and is crucial to supporting homeowners and local communities as they work with the state to achieve septic and nutrient reduction requirements.

The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget includes **\$23 million** to improve water quality and combat the impacts of harmful algal blooms, including blue-green algae and red tide, including:

- **\$10 million** for innovative technologies to aid in the prevention, cleanup and mitigation of harmful algal blooms.
- **\$800,000** for water quality monitoring and to maintain the water quality public information portal.
- **\$8 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 Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget includes **\$50 million** for the Alternative Water Supply Grant Program to help communities plan for and implement vital conservation, reuse, and other alternative water supply projects. The Department of Environmental Protection (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.

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 Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget dedicates over **\$63 million** to infrastructure improvements and resource management with the goal of maintaining this high standard. This includes the construction of community-led efforts to add camping to Bald Point State Park and Equestrian access at Colt Creek State Park, and dedicated swimming areas at Florida's Historic Silver Springs.


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Recognizing that Florida's State Parks rely on our rangers and park personnel staff, the budget provides additional funds to provide meaningful pay adjustments for our park rangers and other park personnel.

Protecting Florida's Conservation Lands and Waterways

The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget restores funding for the Florida Forever program by investing \$150 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:

- **\$150 million** for projects within the Florida Forever Program, the state's blueprint for conserving Florida's natural and recreation lands and conservation easements, including those located within the Florida Wildlife Corridor.
- **\$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 Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget provides **\$425 million** for the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program to support Florida's working agricultural lands and family farms. With this budget, the total amount secured since 2022 for the program will exceed **\$1 billion**, securing Florida's domestic food supply and natural heritage for today and tomorrow.

Investing in Florida's Coastlines

In Fiscal Year 2021-22, Governor DeSantis championed the passage of the Resilient Florida Grant Program to enhance efforts to protect our inland waterways, coastlines, shores, and coral reefs, which serve as invaluable natural defenses against storm surge and flooding. Since its creation, the Resilient Florida Grant Program has provided more than **\$2 billion** in resiliency funding.

The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget invests an additional **\$195 million** for resiliency, including **\$160 million** for implementation of statewide resilience projects and **\$35 million** for resiliency activities and coral reef protection. Thanks to the Governor's call for the creation of the Resilient Florida program, all 67 counties have now completed the statutorily required vulnerability assessment. As such, the budget sunsets the planning grant program that should be considered for a separate design category in future years.

Protecting Florida's 1,300 miles of coastline is important for our economy and quality of life. Florida's coastline is also an invaluable defense against hurricanes. The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget includes **\$64 million** in beach renourishment funding to continue addressing Florida's critically eroded shorelines.

Protecting Florida's Manatee



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The Fiscal Year 2026-27 budget includes more than **\$11 million** for the care and management of manatees. This includes **\$2 million** for the restoration of seagrass in Kings Bay to support the increased habitat and forage for Florida's state marine mammal.

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 (FWC) which support the continued management of a robust snapper, snook, tripletail, and bonefish stock, including through state management of Atlantic Red Snapper. This investment has led to the announcement of a 39-day Atlantic Red Snapper season for 2026, a significant expansion over the two-day federal season in 2025. While the season is currently delayed from an activist driven lawsuit, the budget includes additional funds to support state management and to fight back in court.

Supporting Floridians' Constitutional Right to Hunt

The Governor's Budget prioritizes investments in Florida's wild turkey populations and funds to design and construct a new archery facility in Polk County.

Restoring Florida's Oyster Industry

The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget includes **\$15 million** to restore Florida's oyster reefs, including **\$11 million** 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. Over the last two decades, bay-wide declines in oyster reef size from over 2,000 acres to less than 100 acres resulted in a reduction of oyster populations that led to the ongoing fishery closure, instituted in 2020. This project will support continued restoration in Apalachicola Bay to sustain 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 Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget includes more than **\$175 million** for citrus research and the Citrus Health Response Program. This includes **\$7 million** for research and advertising by the Department of Citrus, to work towards new varieties research and to help increase the production of trees and advance technologies that produce 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 Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget dedicates over **\$104 million** to effectively combating wildfires:

- **\$64 million** for emergency wildfire management;
- **\$20 million** for land management and wildfire suppression activities;

The logo features the text "FLORIDA BUDGET" in a large, white, serif font. Above the text is a stylized signature "R.D." in white, flanked by two horizontal red lines. The entire logo is set against a dark blue background.

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- **\$20 million** for wildfire suppression equipment.

Mitigating and Restoring Contaminated Sites

The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget includes **\$193 million** for the cleanup of contaminated sites, with a focus on promoting the redevelopment of these areas once cleanup is complete. Cleanup and redevelopment of such sites will ensure Florida's new businesses and communities can continue to grow. Specific investments include:

- **\$167 million** for Petroleum Tanks Cleanup;
- **\$12 million** for Dry Cleaning Solvent Contaminated Site Cleanup; and
- **\$14 million** for Hazardous Waste Contaminated Site Cleanup.


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Transportation, Infrastructure and Emergency Management

Florida is currently home to over **23 million people** and welcomed a record high 143.3 million visitors in 2025. As a high-growth state, the swift and efficient movement of an increasing number of people and goods from place to place depends on a continuing commitment to the development and maintenance of world-class transportation infrastructure.

Under Governor DeSantis' tenure, Florida has made transportation infrastructure a top priority. Launched in 2023, the **Moving Florida Forward Initiative** has accelerated more than **20 major congestion relief projects** across the state, delivering critical improvements years ahead of schedule. The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget includes **\$15.9 billion** for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), while Florida is committing **almost \$63 billion** in transportation investments over the next five years to expand capacity, reduce congestion, and strengthen the state's roads, bridges, seaports, airports, rail, and transit systems. Every dollar invested in transportation is estimated to generate more than **\$4** in economic benefits for Florida's residents and businesses.

Unlike many states that rely heavily on Washington, **only 25 percent** of Florida's transportation funding comes from the federal government. Florida continues to prioritize investments that reduce traffic congestion, get families home sooner, and ensure the efficient movement of goods through the state's supply chain.

Transportation Work Program

Within the total amount provided to the Florida Department of Transportation, the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget provides **\$14.4 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:

- **\$4.9 billion** for highway construction and maintenance to include 181 new lane miles.
- **\$1.4 billion** to resurface 2,622 lane miles.
- **\$155.5 million** in seaport infrastructure improvements.
- **\$374.7 million** for aviation improvements.
- **\$917.8 million** in scheduled repairs for 38 bridges and replacement of 21 bridges.
- **\$269.1 million** for safety initiatives.
- **\$186.8 million** for community trail projects, of which **\$51.2 million** is dedicated to the SunTrail Network.

Maintaining Florida's Status as the Space State


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In addition to providing over **\$93 million** through the FDOT Spaceport Improvement Program, the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget provides **\$3 million** to Space Florida to support critical launchpad and aerospace infrastructure improvements.

As Florida's space industry continues to reach new heights, infrastructure needs along the Space Coast will continue to be a priority, which is why the budget includes **\$5 million** in startup funding to Space Florida to work alongside state agencies to establish additional wastewater capacity for Florida's commercial launch providers.

These proposed investments are in addition to the nearly **\$700 million** in funding through the FDOT Work Program to improve community infrastructure in Brevard, Indian River, and Volusia counties.

Local Transportation Projects

The budget includes **\$172 million** in projects to support local transportation projects throughout our communities.

Being Prepared in Time of Crisis

Florida leads the nation in our Emergency Management framework, response, and recovery efforts. While many states look to Florida to pave new pathways and copy our lessons learned, this Governor's Budget continues to support a well-funded Emergency Preparedness & Response Fund at **\$250 million**. This ensures the state can swiftly respond to its citizens in times of their greatest need.

The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget also includes **\$73 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.



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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 currently boasts a nearly \$1.8 trillion economy—representing close to 65 percent growth during Governor DeSantis' administration—making the state the 15th largest economy in the world.
- In 2025, *U.S. News and World Report* ranked Florida as the #1 economy in the nation for the third consecutive year,
- Florida leads the nation in the number of new business creations, with more than 3.8 million businesses established since 2019.

Economic Recovery and Development

Florida's pro-freedom policies result in economic growth, and it is more important than ever to maintain our state's economic momentum through targeted investments in programs that support the creation of good jobs for Floridians and promote key Florida industries. Under Governor DeSantis, the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund has awarded more than **\$328 million** since 2019. The program has created more than 43,000 new jobs and more than 33,000 new workforce education opportunities. The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget continues this record of substantial funding for economic development initiatives, including:

- **\$40 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.
- **\$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.

Investing In Rural Florida

Florida's rural communities 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 Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget demonstrates the Governor's ongoing commitment to economic growth in rural Florida by including:

- **\$27 million** for the Rural Infrastructure Fund, to support local rural infrastructure projects such as roads, storm and wastewater systems, and telecommunications facilities.
- **\$81.8 million** for the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) to assist small county governments in repairing or rehabilitating county bridges, roads, drainage, and safety improvements.
- **\$25.8 million** for the Small County Resurfacing Assistance Program (SCRAP) to assist small county governments in resurfacing or reconstructing county roads.


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- **\$69.6 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.
- **\$4 million** for the Shirley Conroy Rural Area Capital Assistance Grant Program to support rural transportation needs through the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged.

Investing in Florida's Property Insurance Market

The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget continues to reduce insurance premiums for homeowners through additional home hardening and mitigation inspections and grants through the My Safe Florida Home and Condominium grant programs.

Assistance to Households & Affordable Housing

The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget reflects the Governor's continued commitment to **fully fund** the core Sadowski Housing Trust Fund programs. The Hometown Heroes Program, created in 2022, supports a range of Floridians with down payment and closing cost assistance on new homes. To date, more than **\$350 million** has helped facilitate homeownership for thousands of Floridians, with an additional **\$50 million** included for Fiscal Year 2026-27. In continued support of affordable housing options, the budget provides:

- **\$70.8 million** for the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) Program.
- **\$165.7 million** for the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program.
- **\$50 million** for 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.

Florida Heritage Promotion

With America's 250th birthday upon us, celebrating our heritage and history is more important than ever. Florida has a long, rich history and is famous for its arts and cultural offerings to residents and visitors. The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget includes **\$20 million** for Cultural and Museum Grants provided through the Florida Department of State.


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Investing in a Healthier Florida

Governor DeSantis remains steadfast in his commitment to support the healthy lives of Floridians. Whether it be through funding innovations in cancer care or helping Florida's seniors, this support applies to Florida's mothers and children, families, veterans, Floridians with unique abilities, and those struggling with behavioral health and substance abuse.

Supporting Innovative & Quality Cancer Research

The budget includes historic investments in cancer research and innovation, providing more than **\$272 million** to advance prevention, treatment, and groundbreaking discoveries across Florida. This funding includes but is not limited to the following:

- **\$127.5 million** for the Casey DeSantis Cancer Research Program, which supports cancer research, clinical trials, and efforts to improve patient cancer care through Florida's National Cancer Institute (NCI) designated cancer centers.
- **\$70 million** for the Florida Cancer Innovation Fund, including a **\$10 million** increase, to help researchers develop and advance new cancer treatments and technologies.
- **\$30 million** to support the Cancer Connect Collaborative Research Incubator, which is initially focused on accelerating research and improving outcomes for children with cancer.

These investments continue Florida's leadership in advancing life-saving cancer research and reflect Governor DeSantis' strong commitment to improving health outcomes for Floridians. Since taking office, Governor DeSantis has approved more than **\$1.4 billion** in state funding for cancer research, treatment, and innovation, representing an unprecedented commitment to the fight against cancer.

The budget also includes an increase of **\$800,000** to expand the Florida Cancer Data System to include additional quality-of-care measures, such as tumor response and survival rates, and directs the Department of Health (DOH) to develop a public repository of best practices to enhance transparency and collaboration.

Supporting Mental Health Resiliency and Those Suffering from Substance Abuse

The budget includes an increase of **\$73 million** for behavioral health services. This investment strengthens Florida's behavioral health system by expanding access to needed treatment and reducing long wait times for individuals in crisis. Issues include, but are not limited to the following:

- More than **\$16.5 million** to add new inpatient beds at state-operated mental health treatment facilities.
- An additional **\$15 million** for a redesigned tiered reimbursement model for Florida's State Inpatient Psychiatric Program (SIPP) to ensure providers are



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adequately compensated for serving high-acuity children, reducing costly out-of-state placements and keeping youth closer to their families and support systems.

- An additional **\$9.8 million** to expand community-based residential beds to help people step down safely from higher levels of care.

Opioid Settlement Agreement

The budget includes more than **\$164.6 million** from the nationwide Opioid Settlement Agreement to expand life-saving treatment, prevention, and recovery services statewide, helping communities fight addiction, support families, and reduce opioid-related deaths.

Supporting Florida's *Make America Healthy Again* Effort

The budget includes an additional **\$2 million** to expand testing for contaminants such as heavy metals, bacteria, pesticides, and microplastics, in food and consumer products. This targeted investment helps prevent exposure to harmful substances, promotes transparency, and strengthens consumer confidence. Ultimately, it supports healthier families and communities by reducing preventable health risks and ensuring that products on store shelves meet the highest standards of safety and quality.

Supporting Children in the Child Welfare System

The budget prioritizes the safety, stability, and well-being of Florida's children and families by strengthening the child welfare system at every stage—from helping families remain safely together or reunify, to supporting children in foster care, assisting young adults as they transition to independence, and providing adoption assistance that helps children achieve permanent, loving homes.

The budget invests an increase of more than **\$90.3 million** which includes but is not limited to the following:

- **\$28.3 million** for Community-Based Care lead agencies' risk pool to help address unexpected child welfare needs, and funding to support independent peer reviews that promote accountability and continuous improvement with the child welfare system.
- **\$24.9 million** to maintain adoption subsidies in the Adoption Assistance Program, which provides monthly payments to families who adopt children from Florida's child welfare system.
- **\$11.1 million** to increase foster care room and board rates for licensed foster families caring for children from Florida's child welfare system.
- **\$10.1 million** to support extended foster care services for young adults transitioning to independence.
- **\$1 million** to continue the statewide digital recruitment pilot to attract prospective foster parents and Guardian ad Litem volunteers, strengthening Florida's ability


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to provide children with stable care, emotional support, and connections to their families and communities.

Provider Rate Increases and Service Capacity Enhancements

The budget includes **\$214.6 million** in funding for targeted provider rate increases across several healthcare, long-term care, and disability service programs to help address rising costs and support access to care for Florida's most vulnerable residents. These investments help providers recruit and retain qualified staff, maintain service capacity, and continue delivering high-quality care to children, seniors, individuals with disabilities, and Medicaid recipients.

Supporting Individuals with Disabilities

The budget includes an increase of **\$10 million** to expand the number of individuals served through the Agency for Persons with Disabilities through the iBudget Waiver program.

Putting Florida Seniors First

The budget includes an increase of **\$3 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.

The budget provides an increase of **\$7.5 million**, bringing the total funding to **\$131 million**, for the Community Care for the Elderly Program and the Home Care for the Elderly Program. This funding supports seniors who are 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 seniors to continue to live in their homes.

Ensuring the Continued Support of Florida's Veteran Community

The budget includes more than **\$4.2 million** to support essential maintenance, repairs and upgrades at all state-run Veterans' nursing homes and the state Veterans' domiciliary home.

The budget provides nearly **\$1.5 million** to support the Occupational License Reciprocity Program. This program helps veterans, active-duty service members, and military spouses quickly obtain a Florida professional license based on an out-of-state credential, reducing employment delays for families who relocate.


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Florida is a Law-and-Order State

Public safety remains a top priority for Governor DeSantis because safe communities are the foundation of a strong economy. While other states were defunding the police, Florida has continued to invest in law enforcement, provide competitive pay, and implement policies that support those who wear the badge. Since launching the nation's first Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Program in 2022, Florida has awarded **more than 10,000 recruitment bonuses**, distributing over **\$67.9 million** to officers who chose to relocate and serve in the Free State of Florida.

The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget continues these investments by providing comprehensive salary increases for law enforcement, supporting efforts to combat antisemitism, strengthening immigration enforcement, and continuing Florida's aggressive fight against the fentanyl crisis. Since 2023, the state has invested **\$28.5 million** in the State Assistance for Fentanyl Eradication (S.A.F.E.) in Florida Program, with an additional **\$15 million** included in this year's budget. The program has contributed to a steady decline in fentanyl-related deaths, led to **nearly 3,000 arrests**, and resulted in the seizure of more than **600 pounds of fentanyl**. Building on Florida's leadership in public safety, the Governor has also signed legislation providing **\$250 million** for the Local Law Enforcement Immigration Grant Program, helping make Florida the national model for state-led immigration enforcement. As part of that effort, in just eight months, Operation Tidal Wave resulted in the arrest of more than **10,000 illegal aliens**, reinforcing Florida's commitment to protecting its communities and upholding the rule of law.

Support for Law Enforcement, Firefighters, and Correctional Officers

Governor DeSantis has always recognized the invaluable contributions made to Florida by its law enforcement and military communities. The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget includes:

- A continued, steadfast commitment to Florida's law enforcement who put their lives on the line every day for Floridians by including **\$19.8 million** in pay increases for sworn state law enforcement officers.
- **\$20 million** for 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.
- A **\$2.5 million** pay increase for state firefighters.

Additionally, **\$8.8 million** is included to address communication needs for correctional officers and staff and maintain the safety and security of correctional facilities and the public. This includes:

- **\$3.3 million** to replace radio towers and aging systems at seven institutions.
- **\$5.5 million** to better monitor inmate phone calls to prevent criminal activity and protect victims.


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Keeping Florida Roads Safe & Enforcing Illegal Immigration

Through bold, decisive policies, Florida created a national model for restoring sovereignty and enforcing immigration law. As a result, our state became a true force multiplier on illegal immigration enforcement, directly supporting the Trump Administration's efforts to apprehend, detain, and remove illegal immigrants.

No state has acted faster, no state has done more, and no state remains more committed to securing our nation than Florida. The budget includes:

- **\$7.1 million** for the replacement of aging Florida Highway Patrol vehicles.
- **2 FTE and \$265,212** to support data collection efforts related to illegal immigration.

Combatting Fentanyl & Illegal Drugs

The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget supports law enforcement efforts to combat the opioid epidemic affecting Florida's communities, including **\$15 million** to continue the State Assistance for Fentanyl Eradication (S.A.F.E.) in Florida Program for the fourth year. The funds have and will continue to assist local law enforcement in combating the illicit trafficking and sale of fentanyl within Florida. Funds will be provided to Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to be distributed to local agencies.

Guaranteeing Secure Elections

In support of the rigorous safeguards that have made Florida the gold standard for election security, the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget includes:

- **\$2.2 million** for the Office of Election Crimes & Security within the Department of State.
- **\$2.1 million** for the Florida Elections Commission within the Department of Legal Affairs.
- **\$1 million** for FDLE to continue investigating elections fraud allegations.

Safeguarding Floridians against Cybersecurity Threats

The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget continues the commitment to harden Florida's cybersecurity framework with over **\$82 million** of funding across various state agencies for specific cybersecurity resiliency efforts. Additionally, **\$20 million** in new funding enables the Florida Digital Service to continue to implement strategic statewide initiatives, including providing cybersecurity tools to state and local governments and providing a test environment for agencies to pilot resources prior to adoption to ensure successful integration. Also, **4 FTE and almost \$400,000** are provided for the FDLE to combat cybercrimes and strengthen the department's illegal cryptocurrency seizure program.

Supporting Law Enforcement Officers' Mental Health


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The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget provides **\$2.6 million and 8 FTE** to expand FDLE's Office of Wellness and provide additional peer support groups and seminars, conduct research, develop curriculum, and offer training.

Combatting Antisemitism

The budget includes the following initiatives that support the safety of 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 Florida Jewish Day Schools and Preschools.

Gaming Enforcement

Illegal gambling operations facilitate harmful financial crimes and create dangerous environments that foster other criminal activity. Since last July, the Florida Gaming Control Commission has conducted 181 operations, seizing over 7,000 illegal slot machines and nearly 600 other illegal items. The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget continues Governor DeSantis' commitment to eliminating illegal gaming in Florida through the investment of **\$3.3 million** for two additional law enforcement squads to provide dedicated resources in the Northeast and Southwest regions of Florida.

Enhancing Florida's Crime Databases

FDLE maintains a variety of secure databases used daily by law enforcement to investigate crimes and apprehend criminals. The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget provides over **\$5.7 million** to expand and enhance these databases, including:

- **\$2.4 million** to enhance the Missing and Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse applications.
- **\$3.3 million** for the enhancement of breath test instrumentation and associated software within the Alcohol Testing Program.

Protecting Children

Florida has consistently remained ahead of the curve in targeting predators who seek to harm children. The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget continues to support online child protection efforts, including:

- **\$3.3 million** for FDLE to grant awards that support the reduction of internet crimes against children.
- **\$2.1 million** to implement an automated analysis solution to support the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces.

Investing in Florida's Juvenile Justice System

The budget provides **\$33.7 million** for the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), including:

- **\$8.7 million** to increase residential commitment bed capacity, to reduce time spent in Secure Detention.



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- **\$20 million** to begin construction of a new Regional Juvenile Detention Center in Broward County.
- **\$5 million** for maintenance and repair of department-owned buildings.

Florida Scholars Academy

The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget continues to prioritize the education of youths placed with DJJ. The investment of an additional **\$3.7 million**, bringing the total to **\$35.7 million**, for the Florida Scholars Academy will continue to expand educational opportunities for youths throughout the system. The Academy provides students in the department's care with educational opportunities and trade skills in high-demand occupations to set them on a path to success upon release, thereby reducing recidivism.

Supporting State Courts

The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget includes continued support for the State Court System, such as:

- **\$13 million** to begin construction of the Sixth District Court of Appeal.
- **\$1.5 million** for building safety and security at the Florida Supreme Court.



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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 for augmenting manpower and providing important resources to impacted Floridians during and after disasters. The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget provides funding to sustain the critical capabilities of the Florida State Guard. There are over 700 soldiers currently serving in the Florida State Guard.

Sustaining National Guard Growth through New Readiness Centers

Florida's National Guard is a leading force in safeguarding Florida and our nation. Ensuring access to training and staging areas are key to the overall readiness and response capabilities of the National Guard. The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget includes **\$26 million** to complete construction of readiness centers in Immokalee and Zephyrhills to provide routine training space for 350+ guardsmen and serve as strategic staging areas during response.

Economic Support for Florida's Military

The Governor's Budget supports the Florida military and defense industry through grants and in supporting the future of military installation operations in the state with an investment of **\$6 million** for the Florida Defense Support Commission and **\$1.5 million** for the Defense Reinvestment Grant Program. This investment is especially critical as Florida continues to advocate that leasing of oil and gas developments off Florida's Gulf Coast may negatively impact the Gulf Testing Range.

Investing in Florida's National Guardsmen

The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget includes investments to support Florida Guardsmen and their families both on and off duty. Specifically, **\$7.6 million** is provided for tuition assistance for higher education and technical degree programs to assist guardsmen with their National Guard and civilian careers.

Strengthening the National Guard's Camp Blanding

The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget includes **\$10 million** for year four of the multi-year initiative to construct multiple state-of-the-art training facilities for the Florida National Guard at Camp Blanding. This initiative will provide training facilities and barracks to support simultaneous training of 5,000 guardsmen. The Budget also includes **\$500,000** in state matching funds to design a new 50,000 square foot Special Forces Readiness Center at Camp Blanding.

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Renovating National Guard Readiness Centers Statewide

The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget includes **\$8 million** to make repairs and renovations to outdated readiness centers across Florida. This includes:

- **\$3.5 million** for year four of the Revitalization and Modernization Program (REVAMP), a multi-year plan to renovate all 63 readiness centers to meet safety standards and building code compliance.
- **\$4.5 million** for general maintenance at existing readiness centers.