

## The Focus on Florida's Future Budget

### Overview, Debt Reduction, and Reserves

The Governor's Focus on Florida's Future Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25 totals **\$114.4 billion**, more than **\$4.6 billion** lower than the current year budget, and continues the Governor's commitment to fiscal responsibility. Of the total **\$114.4 billion**, the General Revenue portion is **\$46.0 billion**, **\$1.6 billion** less than the current Fiscal Year 2023-24 General Revenue budget. Florida's total reserves are **\$16.3 billion**, over **14 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 Focus on Florida's Future Budget eliminates more than **1,000** government positions, continuing the focus on operating a lean and streamlined government that maximizes taxpayer resources.

#### Debt Reduction

Since taking office, Governor DeSantis has led the nation in sound fiscal policy, including paying down nearly one-quarter of the state's outstanding debt. The opposite is happening in Washington, where federal fiscal mismanagement has increased national debt by 42 percent since 2019. To further Florida's efforts to pay down debt, the Focus on Florida's Future Budget pledges an additional **\$455 million** to the Debt Reduction Program established by the Governor last year.

#### Maintaining Strong Reserves

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget continues Florida's record of sound fiscal management, providing for both a balanced budget and **\$16.3 billion** in total reserves as follows:

- **\$6.4 billion** in unallocated General Revenue
- **\$4.8 billion** in the Budget Stabilization Fund
- **\$1.9 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
- **\$16.3 billion** in Total Reserves

## **Tax Relief for Florida Families**

Governor DeSantis' Focus on Florida's Future Budget recommends more than **\$1.1 billion** in tax relief, focusing on reducing the cost of homeowner insurance and renewing four traditional sales tax holidays to help keep more money in the pockets of Florida's families.

### **\$431 million in savings for Florida Homeowners**

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget provides **\$431 million** to lower the costs of insurance premiums for Florida homeowners, including:

- **A one-year exemption on taxes, fees, and assessments for residential property insurance policyholders for \$409 million** – covering the cost of select taxes, fees, and assessments for residential property insurance policies with a coverage amount of up to \$750,000 written between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, for a twelve-month coverage period. These include the Insurance Premium Tax, the State Fire Marshall Assessment, and the Florida Insurance Guarantee Association (FIGA) Assessment.
- **A permanent insurance premium tax exemption on Flood Insurance Policies for \$22 million** – reducing the cost of flood insurance policies effective on or after July 1, 2024.

### **Over \$475 million in savings for Florida's Sales Tax Holidays**

- **"Freedom Summer" sales tax holiday from Memorial Day to Labor Day, saving Florida families more than \$241 million**. The holiday covers outdoor recreation purchases such as supplies for camping and fishing and other outdoor activities, including the first \$500 of the sales price of kayaks or canoes, the first \$200 of the sales price of tents, as well as tickets for events, museums, the arts, and more.
- **Two Back-to-School sales tax holidays, one in the fall and one in the spring as students return to school from winter break, to save Florida families \$169 million**. The holidays cover clothing up to \$100, school supplies up to \$50, and personal computers and related accessories priced \$1,500 or less.
- **Two 14-day Disaster Preparedness sales tax holidays to save Florida families \$49 million**. The holiday covers items needed during disasters including generators priced at \$1,000 or less both at the start and height of Hurricane Season.

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS  
**FOCUS ON FLORIDA'S FUTURE**

FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

- **A 7-day Tool Time sales tax holiday to save Florida workers \$16 million** on equipment and tools. The holiday exempts specified tools and equipment used by skilled workers.

**\$170 million in permanent tax relief for small businesses**

- **An increase of the Sales Tax Collection Allowance to save predominantly small businesses \$165 million** – this increases the collection allowance from the current 2.5 percent of the sales taxes collected on a return up to a maximum of \$30, to the first \$60 of the amount of the tax otherwise due.
- **\$5 million to permanently reduce corporate income taxes for businesses employing Floridians with unique abilities** – this provides a credit against the corporate income tax for businesses employing persons with unique abilities of \$1,000 per person subject to an annual cap of \$5 million.

**Supporting Florida Families' Pets**

- **Permanently exempts Over-the-Counter Pet Medications from sales taxes, saving Florida families \$37 million** – the proposed cut would permanently exempt over-the-counter pet medications from sales tax.

**Safeguarding Florida's Retirement System**

The Focus on Florida's Future 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.

Recognizing the loss of purchasing power faced by FRS pension retirees as a result of record inflation resulting from the Biden Administration's disastrous fiscal policies, the Governor recommends increasing pension benefits of these former employees by **three percent**.

Governor DeSantis also recommends increasing the employer contribution for employee FRS Investment accounts by an additional **one percent** of the member's salary. Combined with the five percent increase provided over the previous two legislative sessions, this recommendation will increase the employer contribution to 9.3 percent, placing Florida **4th among all** state-run primary defined contribution retirement plans.

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS  
**FOCUS ON FLORIDA'S FUTURE**

  
FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

Unlike many states, the FRS Pension Plan is funded at over 81 percent, or \$184.2 billion in valued assets of the projected \$226.2 billion in liabilities. To continue to improve the plan's financial position for the long haul, the Governor proposes a **\$1.0 billion** paydown of the Unfunded Actuarial Liability (UAL) for Fiscal Year 2024-25 – improving the plan's funded status by an additional 0.4 percent.

## Education

Under the Governor's leadership, Florida has become the national leader in education. Florida is again ranked #1 overall in education, #1 in education freedom for the second year in a row and has been ranked #1 in higher education for nearly a decade. The Focus on Florida's Future Budget continues to propel Florida's education forward by investing in our students and families.

Several important investments include:

- **\$1.25 billion, an increase of \$200 million**, in funding to provide salary increases for teachers and other instructional personnel.
- **\$1.6 billion** in funding for early child education, including **\$450 million** for Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK).
- Historic **\$27.8 billion** in funding, of which **\$15.1 billion** is record state funding for the K-12 public school system.
  - This covers the costs associated with the current projected enrollment of over 3.1 million students, including over 274,000 students projected to participate in the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.
- **\$1.7 billion** in state operating funding for the Florida College System.
- **\$3.7 billion** in state operating funding for the State University System.
- **\$125 million** in total funding to reward quality nursing education programs to address nursing vacancies.
- **\$150 million** for the State University System and the Florida College System for the recruitment and retention of highly qualified faculty.

## Combatting Antisemitism

In addition to elevated funding appropriated during 2023's Special Session C, to address the rise of antisemitic threats and safety concerns for Florida's Jewish communities, the Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes the following:

- **\$10 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;
- **\$600,000** for the Florida Holocaust Museum; and
- **\$100,000** for the Florida Holocaust Task Force.

## Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten

The budget provides **\$450 million** for Florida's VPK program, a high quality, free education initiative, which serves approximately **138,000** four- and five-year-olds. VPK prepares each child for kindergarten by building a strong foundation for school and focusing on early literacy skills.

The budget also provides **\$6.9 million** for the establishment of the Summer Bridge Program for VPK students who score below the tenth percentile on the second administration of the Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring (CSPM) System.

### **School Readiness**

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget maintains funding provided in the current fiscal year that allowed additional children to be served in the School Readiness program, and rewarded School Readiness providers who participate in program assessments and implement quality improvement strategies.

The following initiatives that support early learning are also maintained at current year funding:

- **\$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 million** in teacher training for statewide professional development to improve childcare instructor quality; 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 put Florida's families first. Under his leadership, Florida has implemented the most expansive school choice policies in the nation.

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes the highest per student investment of **\$8,842** in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP), which is an increase of **\$175 per student** over Fiscal Year 2023-24. 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 Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes **\$27.8 billion** in total funding for the FEFP, which includes the following increases:

- Increase of **\$107** in the Base Student Allocation (BSA);
- An increase of **\$200 million**, for a total of **\$1.2 billion** for pay increases to teachers and other instructional personnel;
- Increase of **\$20 million**, for a total of **\$180 million** for the mental health allocation; and
- Increase of **\$20 million**, for a total of **\$556 million** for student transportation.

## School Safety

The Focus on Florida's Future 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:
  - **\$290 million**, an increase of **\$40 million**, for the safe schools component of the FEFP;
  - **\$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;
  - **\$5.8 million** for the procurement of a statewide transparency tool to support the implementation of instructional and library materials;
  - **\$6.5 million** to implement safe school technology systems; and
  - **\$5 million** for District Threat Management Coordinators.

## Literacy Initiatives

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget provides funding for the following literacy initiatives:

- **\$7.2 million** to continue the early literacy through grade-12 micro-credential and reading endorsement incentives;
- **\$5 million** for the Regional Literacy Teams initiative;
- **\$4 million** for the New Worlds Reading Scholarship Program; and
- **\$3 million** provided to Just Read, Florida! to support literacy initiatives.

## K-12 Civics Engagement

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget provides funding for the following civic initiatives:

- **\$1.5 million** to support and continue expanding the Florida Civics and Debate Initiative, which creates new and enhances existing speech and debate programs with a focus on civic education. Since its inception in 2020, the Florida Civics and Debate Initiative has expanded from 59 schools to over 400 schools in all Florida school districts.
- **\$3.5 million** 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.



GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS  
**FOCUS ON FLORIDA'S FUTURE**

FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

- **\$45 million** for the Florida Civics Seal of Excellence Program that will allow 15,000 educators to receive a \$3,000 stipend for completing the Florida Seal of Excellence endorsement coursework.

### **Promoting Computer Science**

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget maintains **\$10 million** 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.

### **Teacher Recruitment**

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget maintains **\$10 million** in funding for a first come, first served recruitment bonus for retired military veterans and retired first responders who commit to joining the teaching profession. These heroes are required to teach a minimum of two years. Individuals teaching in a high-demand area may receive an additional bonus.

The program will:

- Provide a bonus of **\$4,000** for 2,000 military veterans and retired first responders.
- Provide an additional **\$1,000** for 1,000 individuals teaching in high-demand areas.
- Waive the initial certification and exam fees for first responders, which is a current benefit that military veterans and their spouses already receive.

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget maintains **\$4 million** for the Teacher Apprenticeship Program and Mentor Bonus. The program will provide individuals who have their associate degree the ability to participate in a two-year paid apprenticeship program. The program will provide bonuses for 2,000 mentor teachers to receive \$2,000 upon completion of year one and \$2,000 upon completion of year two.

### **Higher Education**

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget continues to provide key investments in our #1 higher education system and continues the path towards #1 in workforce education by 2030.

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

- **\$1.7 billion** for Florida's state colleges; and
- **\$3.7 billion** for Florida's state universities.

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget invests **\$35 million** in state funding to continue the Open Door Grant Program, including **\$15 million** for School District Workforce Education Institutions and **\$20 million** for Florida College System Institutions. The



program is designed to create a demand-driven supply of credentialed workers for high-demand occupations.

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget provides **\$8.5 million** for Alzheimer's and Dementia research at state universities.

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget maintains **\$6 million** in total funding for two programs to support Law Enforcement Officers.

- **\$5 million** for the Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program to cover the cost of law enforcement academies for prospective officers.
- **\$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.

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget maintains **\$3.5 million** for the Dual Enrollment Teacher Scholarship Program to support public school teachers in obtaining a master's degree in their area of certification to allow them to teach dual enrollment courses on their public high school campuses, increasing access to college level courses to students at these schools.

### **Bright Futures**

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget fully funds the projected student enrollment for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program at **\$603 million**.

### **Holding the Line on Tuition**

The Focus on Florida's Future 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 Focus on Florida's Future Budget increases 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; and
- **\$150 million** for the recruitment and retention of highly qualified faculty at our state universities and colleges. Of the total, **\$100 million** is included for the State University System and **\$50 million** is included for the Florida College System.

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS  
**FOCUS ON FLORIDA'S FUTURE**

FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

### Workforce Initiatives

To meet the goal of becoming #1 in workforce education by 2030, Governor DeSantis has committed more than **\$8 billion** to workforce education programs spanning secondary to postsecondary since 2019, which has achieved the following:

- Postsecondary enrollment has increased with more than 380,000 students currently enrolled and a record 800,000 students enrolled in high school Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs since 2019.
- Florida's education system became the #1 in the nation for entrepreneurship education and training, with more than 20,000 students earning an industry certification in Entrepreneurship and Small Business (ESB).

To continue elevating Florida's workforce program, the Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes an historic **\$853 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:

- **\$439.4 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
- **\$200 million**, an increase of **\$100 million**, in the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program for the creation or expansion of CTE programs.

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget continues to invest in Florida's nursing workforce by maintaining **\$125 million** to support two nursing education initiatives:

- **\$100 million** for the Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers and Learners though Incentive for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) to reward excellence in nursing education programs.
- **\$25 million** for the Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) fund to incentivize collaboration between nursing education programs and healthcare partners.

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget provides **\$80 million** to the Florida Semiconductor Institute at the University of Florida to support workforce development for semiconductor manufacturing alongside research and development focused on advanced packaging, artificial intelligence, and assurance.

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget invests an additional **\$25 million**, for a total of **\$35.5 million**, in the Florida Center for Cybersecurity at the University of South Florida to strengthen the state's cybersecurity industry by enhancing education, research, and workforce development.

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS  
**FOCUS ON FLORIDA'S FUTURE**

FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

### **Historically Black Colleges and Universities**

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget provides **\$152 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.
- **\$110.5 million** in operating funds for Florida A&M University.
- **\$10 million** for HBCU facility hardening.

### **Education Infrastructure**

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget provides more than **\$922 million** in funding for education capital outlay initiatives, including:

- **Special Facility Construction**
  - **\$180 million** for Special Facility Construction projects for Hendry, Wakulla, Gilchrist, Gadsden, Glades, and Putnam counties.
- **Higher Education Construction**
  - **\$53 million** for Florida College System remodeling and renovation construction needs.
  - **\$163 million** for State University System remodeling and renovation construction needs.
- **Maintenance**
  - **\$220 million** for public charter school maintenance;
  - **\$139 million** for maintenance at the state colleges;
  - **\$139 million** for maintenance at the state universities;
  - **\$11 million** for lab school maintenance;
  - **\$12 million** for the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind maintenance;
  - and
  - **\$6.3 million** for Public Broadcasting projects.

## Conserving Florida's Environment & Natural Resources

Conserving Florida's environment and natural resources has remained a key focus since Governor DeSantis took office, because a resilient environment is inseparable from a resilient economy. The Focus on Florida's Future Budget continues Florida's record 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.

Last year, 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 Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes more than **\$1.1 billion** for this initiative, bringing the total investment during the Governor's two years of the second term to **\$2.8 billion**, well on track to meet the **\$3.5 billion** goal.

### Investing in Florida's Everglades

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes more than **\$745 million** for Everglades restoration projects, including:

- **\$550 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.
- **\$81.5 million** for the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program.

### Defending Florida's Everglades from Invasive Species

Governor DeSantis has prioritized efforts to remove the invasive Burmese python from the Everglades. The Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes more than **\$3 million** to remove pythons from the Everglades.

### Protecting Florida's Water Quality, Quantity and Supply

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget also includes **\$330 million** for targeted water quality improvements to achieve significant, meaningful and measurable nutrient

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS  
**FOCUS ON FLORIDA'S FUTURE**

FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

reductions in key waterbodies across the state and to implement the recommendations of the Blue-Green Algae Task Force. This includes:

- **\$135 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.
- **\$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 Focus on Florida's Future 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 Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes more than **\$55 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.
- **\$10.8 million** to increase water quality monitoring, support the Blue-Green Algae Task Force, and maintain the water quality public information portal.
- **\$20 million** for harmful algal blooms mitigation to implement water quality treatment technologies in Lake Okeechobee.
- **\$10 million** to assist county governments with their responses to emergency conditions associated with harmful algal blooms and red tide events.
- **\$4.7 million** in funding for continued support of research activities conducted by the Center for Red Tide Research.

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes **\$80 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.

### **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 Focus on Florida's Future Budget dedicates **\$50 million** to infrastructure improvements and resource management with the goal of maintaining this high standard.

### **Protecting Florida's Conservation Lands and Waterways**

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes **more than \$125 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.
- **\$10 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.

### **Protecting Florida's Domestic Food Security & Family Farms**

In addition to funding Florida Forever, the Focus on Florida's Future 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**

In Fiscal Year 2021-22, Governor DeSantis championed the passage of the Resilient Florida Grant Program which enhances our 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 **\$1.6 billion** in resiliency funding.

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget invests over **\$157 million** for resiliency, including **\$100 million** for implementation of statewide resilience projects and **\$57 million** for resiliency planning and coral reef protection.

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 Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes **\$50 million** in beach renourishment funding to continue addressing Florida's critically eroded shorelines.



### **Florida's Coral Reef Restoration and Recovery Initiative**

Included within **\$22.8 million** for coral reef protection and restoration is **\$11.3 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 will significantly enhance flood protection in Southeast Florida and strengthen coastal economies.

### **Investing in Florida's Citrus Industry**

In order to preserve Florida's iconic citrus industry, the Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes more than **\$20 million** for citrus research and the Citrus Health Response Program. This includes **\$5 million** for research and additional advertising by the Department of Citrus including new varieties research and 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 Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes over **\$30 million** to effectively combatting wildfires:

- **\$12.4 million** for wildfire suppression equipment;
- **\$11.9 million** for road and bridge maintenance to allow for better access for land management and wildfire suppression activities; and
- **\$5.9 million** for additional Wildfire Protection and State Forest operations.

### **Mitigating and Restoring Contaminated Sites**

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes **\$211 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:

- **\$200 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 **22 million people** and welcomed more than 137 million in 2022. 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 Florida's Future Budget includes **\$15.6 billion** for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). FDOT's total budget for the next five years surpasses **\$68 billion** in transportation investments. Every dollar invested in transportation is estimated to result in a return of up to **\$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. Rather than support the continued politicization of transportation funding being pushed by the Biden Administration, the Focus on Florida's Future Budget focuses on prioritizing road projects that reduce congestion and expedite the movement of goods through the state's supply chain.

### Moving Florida Forward Initiative to Relieve Traffic Congestion

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget provides **\$630 million** for the Moving Florida Forward Initiative, championed by the Governor last year. 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 Focus on Florida's Future Budget provides **\$14.5 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:

- **\$5.4 billion** for highway construction and maintenance to include 135 new lane miles.
- **\$1.9 billion** to resurface 3,115 lane miles.
- **\$109.6 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.
- **\$334.4 million** for aviation improvements.
- **\$381.7 million** in scheduled repairs for 62 bridges and replacement of 15 bridges.

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS  
**FOCUS ON FLORIDA'S FUTURE**

FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

- **\$997.7 million** investment in rail and transit projects.
- **\$210.1 million** for safety initiatives.
- **\$215.3 million** for community trail projects and **\$70.3 million** for the SunTrail Network.

### **Spurring Innovation in Florida's Supply Chain**

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes **\$75 million** 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.

### **Prioritizing Florida's Trucking Community**

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes **\$25 million** to expand the Truck Parking Improvement Program to increase the number of parking spots available in Florida to cargo hauling large trucks.

### **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 Focus on Florida's Future 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**

Over the past year, under the leadership of Governor DeSantis, the State rose to the significant challenges imposed by disasters, most notably Hurricanes Ian, Nicole, and Idalia, response to illegal immigration surges across the Florida Straits and along the Southwest Border of the United States, as well as historic flooding in Broward County, and most recently, the historic evacuation and relief mission for Israel. The Focus on Florida's Future Budget provides significant funding for disaster recovery, mitigation, and emergency management, including:

### **Open Federally Declared Disasters – Funding to Communities and State Operations**

- **\$1.3 billion** is provided for disaster preparation, response, recovery and mitigation, including:
  - **\$199.9 million** in state match for costs relating to disasters.

### **Community Development Block Grant**

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes **\$396 million** in additional federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for local hurricane recovery and

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS  
**FOCUS ON FLORIDA'S FUTURE**

FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

hardening efforts throughout the state, including the CDBG Disaster Recovery Program for all named hurricanes since 2017 and the CDBG Mitigation Program.

### **Maintaining and Improving State Critical Infrastructure**

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget addresses critical building deficiencies throughout the state with the investment of **\$30 million** in improvement projects at state-owned facilities. This includes:

- **\$21 million** to provide employees and visitors at state owned office buildings a safe and efficient working environment; and
- **\$9 million** for maintenance and repair projects at the Florida State Fire College and Arson Lab.

## **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 2.7 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 October 2023 was 2.8 percent, near the historic all-time low for our state and 1.1 percent less than the national unemployment rate of 3.9 percent. Florida's statewide unemployment rate has been lower than the national rate for 36 consecutive months, and as of October 2023 was the lowest among the top 10 largest states in the nation.
- Florida's private sector job growth increased by 252,900 jobs from October 2022 to October 2023, a growth rate of 3.0 percent and higher than the national growth rate of 1.7 percent.
- As of October 2023, Florida employers have added jobs for 41 of the last 42 months, and Florida's private sector year-over-year job growth rate has exceeded the nation's for 31 consecutive months.
- Florida's labor force has outpaced the nation in labor force growth for 29 consecutive months.

## **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 nearly **\$400 million** to fully fund these programs:

- **\$89.5 million** for the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) program.
- **\$208.6 million** for the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) program.
- **\$100 million** for the third 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 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. The Focus on Florida's Future Budget provides substantial funding for economic development initiatives, including:

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS  
**FOCUS ON FLORIDA'S FUTURE**

FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

- **\$100 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.
- **\$105 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.
- **\$175.2 million** for the third phase of the State Small Business Credit Initiative, providing Florida's small businesses with essential access to additional growth and support funding.

### **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 Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes:

- **\$20 million** for the third 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 Task Force, which supports the Florida defense industry by awarding grants and guiding the future of military installation operations in the state.
- **\$3 million**, an increase of **\$2.2 million**, for the Military Base Protection Program, which helps secure non-conservation lands to serve as a buffer protecting military installations from encroachment.

### **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 Focus on Florida's Future 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.
- **\$100 million** for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (B.E.A.D.) Program, to support broadband initiatives to expand high-speed internet deployment and access to Florida communities.
- **\$88.1 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.

- **\$26.5 million** for the Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP) to assist small county governments in resurfacing or reconstructing county roads.
- **\$66.7 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.

### **Investing in Florida's Property Insurance Market**

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget invests over **\$109 million** to support residential home mitigation programs and additional oversight of the property insurance market, including:

- **\$107 million** in recurring funding to make the My Safe Florida Home Grant Program permanent and continue assisting Florida homeowners through home inspections and cost sharing for approved home hardening and wind mitigation programs that make properties less vulnerable to hurricane damage and reduces insurance premiums.
- **\$1.1 million** to bolster the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation's (OIR) ability to curate data related to Florida's property insurance market.
- **\$675,000** to contract for independent reinsurance and mitigation research experts to bolster OIR's ability to review filings and recommend new tools to mitigate properties from hurricanes.

### **Assistance to Households**

To support qualifying Floridians who face the headwinds of increasing household expenses, the Focus on Florida's Future Budget provides **\$100 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 Focus on Florida's Future Budget provides **\$21.6 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 enhanced election security.

## Health and Human Services

The Focus on Florida's Future 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 Focus on Florida's Future Budget provides more than **\$232 million** in funding for cancer research, including **\$60 million**, a 200 percent increase of **\$40 million**, for the Florida Cancer Innovation Fund that supports groundbreaking cancer research stemming from emerging ideas, trends, and promising practices that can serve as a catalyst for further exploration. The budget also continues **\$127.5 million** for the Casey DeSantis Cancer Research Program.

### **Supporting Women and Children**

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes increased funding of **\$447.1 million** to support the care of pregnant women and children. This funding supports the Florida KidCare Program, helps improve access to obstetric care for pregnant women, and supports care for seriously ill children and babies. Additional 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.

### **Behavioral Health**

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget provides more than **\$294.6 million** in funding to support behavioral health services. These additional resources will improve access to mobile response services, as well as support collaboration between primary care and behavioral health providers, both of which will support crisis diversion and avoid high-cost acute care.

### **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 than **\$153 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 psychiatric residents and for other initiatives that support education, treatment, and prevention for individuals with substance use disorders.



GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS  
**FOCUS ON FLORIDA'S FUTURE**

FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

The Focus on Florida's Future 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 Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes more than **\$103.5 million** to support those served by the child welfare system. This funding supports foster parents and caregivers and expand access to post-adoption supports to young adults adopted from the dependency system. This includes **\$25 million** to continue the modernization of the Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN) system.

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes **\$9.8 million** to expand adoption incentives to groups that include state employees, school district personnel, and law enforcement officers. Additional funds will provide adoption incentives to health care practitioners and employees of local tax collectors to help more children in foster care find their forever home. The one-time incentive amounts will be increased from **\$5,000 to \$10,000 and \$10,000 to \$25,000.**

### **Human Trafficking**

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes an increase of **\$6 million**, for a total of **\$11.3 million**, to provide additional services for victims of human trafficking. The funds will support housing for additional survivors to support their recovery and support increased staffing to enhance prevention services.

### **Putting Seniors First**

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes an increase of **\$6 million**, for a total of **\$69.2 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. The budget provides more than **\$2 million** in additional funding for the Florida Alzheimer's Center of Excellence (FACE). This initiative supports a person-centered, holistic care model focused on community support and equips the medical system to provide early diagnoses, quality care management, and linkages to community services for persons living with dementia and their primary caregiver.

Additionally, an increase of **\$15 million** is provided, for a total of **\$119 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.

### **Floridians with Unique Abilities**

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget provides more than **\$127.4 million** in funding to allow additional individuals with unique abilities to be provided necessary services through the Home and Community Based Services Waiver, as well as through a newly established pilot project. In addition, **\$800,000** is provided to support the planning of implementation of a new waiver aimed at providing targeted services for adults with unique abilities that are entering adulthood.

### **Veterans**

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget invests an additional **\$8.9 million** to support equipment and capital improvements for the State Veterans' Nursing Homes. The budget also includes **\$102 million** to begin the construction of the ninth State Veterans' Nursing Home in Collier County upon federal grant approval. Once this new nursing home is complete, Florida will have the most state-funded veterans' nursing homes in the nation.

The Focus on Florida's Future 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, with Florida currently experiencing a 50-year low in crime. The Focus on Florida's Future Budget makes necessary investments in our public safety, including enhancing correctional officer safety, 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 Focus on Florida's Future 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.

### Transport of Unauthorized Aliens

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget continues the efforts by Governor DeSantis to protect Floridians against the harm resulting from illegal immigration, by providing an additional **\$5 million** for the Illegal Alien Transport Program which facilitates the transport of unauthorized aliens to other locations outside of Florida.

### Combatting Fentanyl & Illegal Drugs

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes **\$25 million** to support law enforcement efforts to combat the opioid epidemic affecting Florida's communities:

- **\$25 million** to expand the State Assistance for Fentanyl Eradication (S.A.F.E.) in Florida Program for the second 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.

### Enhancing Law Enforcement Officer Safety

- The Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes **\$2 million** for the Department of Law Enforcement to provide body armor to our state's brave men and women in law enforcement.
- The Focus on Florida's Future Budget provides **\$540,000** to equip law enforcement with the ability to detect fentanyl without the risk of exposure.

### **Keeping Florida Roads Safe**

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes:

- **\$14 million** to provide the Florida Highway Patrol with an additional 50 state trooper positions.
- **\$3.5 million** for the replacement of aging Florida Highway Patrol vehicles.

### **Agricultural Law Enforcement**

The Focus on Florida's Future 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.

### **Recognizing those "Behind the Fence"**

While the entire Correctional Officer Series receives Special Risk retirement benefits, there are a number of positions within the Department of Corrections that involve direct contact with correctional patients or inmates that do not receive those benefits. The Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes an investment of **\$14 million** to provide Special Risk retirement benefits to those positions that spend more than 75 percent of their time in direct contact with correctional patients or inmates.

### **Safer Correctional Operations**

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes **\$24.5 million** to make Florida's correctional facilities more safe. This includes:

- **\$12 million** for security equipment, such as drone detection equipment, thermal fence cameras, drone support for K-9 operations, and license plate readers;
- **34 FTE and \$3.5 million** to modernize departmental training and begin the process of having dedicated training staff at each facility; and,
- **\$9 million** to improve infrastructure including environmental systems, regional evidence facilities, maintenance, repairs, and renovations.

### **Improving Infrastructure at Florida Correctional Facilities**

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes **\$87.7 million** for the Florida Department of Corrections to improve correctional infrastructure, including:

- **\$75 million** for general maintenance and repair at facilities across the state;
- **\$12 million** for support facilities, including creating regional evidence storage facilities for the Office of Inspector General; and
- **\$750,000** for repairs related to ADA compliance.

### **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

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS  
**FOCUS ON FLORIDA'S FUTURE**

FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

resources are publicly accessible to help keep Floridians safe. The Focus on Florida's Future Budget provides more than **\$22 million** to expand and enhance these databases, including:

- **\$11.8 million** for the second phase of the modernization of the Biometric Identification Solution (BIS) database;
- **\$3.1 million** for the technology enhancement of breath test instrumentation and associated software within the Alcohol Testing Program;
- **\$3 million** to increase the Criminal Justice Network bandwidth;
- **\$1.9 million** to enhance the Missing and Endangered Person Information Clearinghouse applications;
- **\$1.6 million** to upgrade and provide additional staff for the Career Offender Application for Statewide Tracking; and
- **\$600,000** for implementing the Statewide Sexual Assault Tracking System.

### **Supporting State Courts**

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes **\$5.1 million** and **20 FTE** for the State Court System to provide workload support and additional due process resources.

### **Florida Scholars Academy**

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes an additional **\$12 million** for the continued implementation of the Department of Juvenile Justice's Florida Scholars Academy. The Academy provides various educational opportunities and trade skills in high-demand occupations. The total investment of **\$24 million** will fully finance the operational and programming needs of the Academy.

### **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 Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes an additional **\$42 million** for the following E911 enhancements:

- **\$13 million** for distributions and grant awards to local governments for E911 system maintenance, integration with the Next Generation (NG) 911 system and implementation of text-to-911.
- **\$18.8 million** for distributions to local governments to begin upgrading all 911 public safety answering points within the state to allow the transfer of calls from one local, multi-jurisdictional, or regional E911 system to another.
- **\$10 million** to continue supporting and improving the Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS).

### **Schools and Libraries E-Rate Match Program**

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget aims to make telecommunication and information services more affordable for schools and libraries through the investment

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS  
**FOCUS ON FLORIDA'S FUTURE**

  
FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

of **\$5 million** in grant funds for the design, engineering, project management and construction related costs to build or upgrade telecommunication and internet access, such as broadband infrastructure.

### **Safeguarding Florida against Cybersecurity Threats**

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget continues the commitment to harden Florida's cybersecurity framework through the funding of over **\$100 million** in various state agencies for security intelligence, modernization, training, and resiliency. 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. In 2023, the Florida State Guard was activated for the first time in 75 years during Hurricane Idalia, augmenting manpower and providing important resources to impacted Floridians. The Focus on Florida's Future Budget provides **\$57 million** to support the Florida State Guard, to provide equipment, including maritime vessels, high-water vehicles, and debris removal resources 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, medical, 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 Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes **\$8.2 million** for the following initiatives:

- **\$5.2 million** to fully support Florida National guardsmen seeking higher education degrees; and
- **\$3 million** to give \$1,000 bonuses to current and former guardsmen who recruit new members into the Florida National Guard and to current guardsmen who renew their commitment in the Florida National Guard.

### Strengthening the National Guard's Camp Blanding

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes **\$159 million** for year two of the multi-year initiative to construct multiple state-of-the-art training facilities for the Florida National Guard at Camp Blanding. In addition, **\$107 million** is included for additional training resource centers at Camp Blanding, including live-fire ranges, 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 Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes **\$15 million** to make repairs and renovations to outdated readiness centers across Florida. This includes:

- **\$5 million** for year two of the Revitalization and Modernization Program (REVAMP), a multi-year plan to renovate all readiness centers to meet safety standards and building code compliance.
- **\$8 million** for general maintenance at existing readiness centers.
- **\$2 million** for the repair of nearly 9 miles of World War II era railways at Camp Blanding.



GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS  
**FOCUS ON FLORIDA'S FUTURE**

  
FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

### **Expanding the Florida National Guard Footprint**

To maintain the growth necessary to support our Florida National Guard, the Focus on Florida's Future Budget includes nearly **\$62 million** for the construction, planning, and land acquisition for additional readiness centers and training facilities. This includes:

- **\$41.5 million** to construct a readiness center on the Homestead Air Reserve Base (HARB) and demolish and assess current facilities on HARB.
- **\$13.2 million** for land acquisition in Polk County, Hillsborough County and St. Johns County for future Florida National Guard facilities.
- **\$7.1 million** for the design of six new facilities to include two new readiness centers, one readiness center expansion and three new maintenance shops located throughout the state.