



It's Your Money - FAQ

Governor Rick Scott's FY 2014-2015 Recommended Budget Frequently Asked Questions

Q: You promised to return \$500 million in the form of tax cuts to Florida families. What are the specific tax cuts included in the budget?

- The Governor proposes ongoing tax cuts of over \$560 million annually, providing savings to both Florida families and job creators. These cuts include:
 - Reducing the motor vehicle renewal registration fees back to their pre-2009 levels;
 - Increasing the level of income exempt from the business tax from \$50,000 to \$75,000;
 - Decreasing the filing fees required of businesses operating in Florida; and
 - Beginning the phase-out of the sales tax on business rents.
- The recommended budget also funds two sales tax holidays on top of recurring cuts:
 - 10-day holiday covering school supplies, clothing and computers;
 - 15-day holiday covering hurricane supplies; and
 - Together this is an additional \$82.5 million in savings to Florida families in the upcoming fiscal year.

Q: How does the state budget compare to previous years?

- This budget is a reduction from last fiscal year.
- The Governor's Budget proposal is \$74.19 billion, which is 0.1 percent below the current \$74.24 billion budget. The proposed General Revenue budget is \$27.52 billion.

Q: What are the total savings over the current year in the recommended budget?

- This budget builds on the Governor's commitment to identify \$100 million in savings.
- There are savings totaling \$287 million in the recommended budget, of which \$78 million represents a savings from general revenue. As part of these savings, \$19 million is derived from enterprise efficiency initiatives and another \$75 million is due to operations and administrative efficiencies.
 - The recommended budget includes savings of \$4.2 million related to the renegotiation of contracts, and \$10.4 million related to lease reductions.
 - In addition, the investments made in the FY 2013-2014 General Appropriations Act to improve the utilization and efficiency of state-owned office space is already yielding results, with \$752,644 expected in FY 2014 – 2015.
- In addition, the state will save an additional \$175 million in costs avoided or services added.

Q: How many positions are reduced in the Governor’s Budget proposal?

- The recommended budget reduces positions overall by 57.5.
- This includes a reduction of 1,233 positions, of which approximately 1,160 are currently vacant.
- 1,197 positions were added including the necessary increase of 447 positions at the Department of Children and Families for child protection investigations and 539 positions at the Department of Corrections due to the estimated inmate population growth.

Q: Does the Governor’s Budget proposal provide additional salary or benefit increases for state employees?

- Yes. The recommended budget provides \$167 million for discretionary variable compensation awards in the amount of \$5,000 for employees receiving an employee evaluation of outstanding and \$2,500 for employees receiving an employee evaluation of commendable.
- Agencies may not exceed the appropriation in making bonuses nor award a bonus to more than 35 percent of employees. These recommendations are subject to collective bargaining negotiations.

Q: Is Florida taking on new debt in the proposed budget?

- The proposed budget pays off an additional \$170 million of outstanding debt, saving \$44.6 million in interest over the next 10 years.
- Florida has cut state debt by \$3.6 billion over the past three years.
- The proposed budget incurs \$300 million of new debt exclusively for the expansion and maintenance of Florida’s transportation infrastructure.
- The Department of Transportation is proposing to enter into a Public Private Partnership contract for the improvement of Interstate I-4 in Orange and Seminole counties. The proposed project is expected to cost \$2.4 billion with total capital and interest cost of approximately \$4.0 billion over a 40-year period. Repayment of the obligations is expected to begin in FY 2015 – 2016 with nearly \$1.5 billion scheduled to be repaid through periodic progress payments to the private partner by FY 2020 – 2021.

Q: Does the Governor’s Budget propose trust fund reallocation?

- Yes. The budget utilizes unused, or surplus, funds. The proposed budget reallocated a total of \$222.3 million from trust funds to the General Revenue fund, which includes:
 - \$20 million Inland Protection Trust Fund;
 - \$142.3 million Local Government Housing Trust Fund; and
 - \$60 million Agency for Health Care Administration Grants and Donations Trust Fund.
- Funding from the above trust funds were analyzed and it was determined that any funding not necessary be redirected to General Revenue to continue to help Florida families through available programs.

Q: Why is the Governor proposing to reallocate the Local Government Housing Trust Fund instead of giving it to the state's affordable housing programs?

- With the resources provided by the state's affordable housing programs last year under the National Mortgage Settlement, plus the \$89 million recommended in this budget, housing needs are being addressed for Florida families in the proposed budget.

Q: Does the Governor's Budget proposal incorporate the effects of the Affordable Health Care Act as it relates to employees of the state?

- Senate Bill 1802 was adopted by the Florida Legislature during the 2013 legislative session, which allows certain eligible employees paid from Other Personal Services (OPS) funds to participate in the State Group Insurance Program.
- Beginning January 1, 2014, 12,553 OPS employees were determined to be eligible for health insurance coverage. Of these employees, 3,668 elected coverage. The cost of coverage for January 2014 through June 2014 is \$15 million and \$25.8 million annualized in FY 2014 – 2015.
- In order to follow the law, the Governor's Budget proposes continuing funding necessary to provide health insurance coverage to eligible State of Florida OPS employees.

Q: Does the Governor's Budget proposal make changes to the State Group Health Insurance Program?

- As part of the Governor's philosophy to promote equitable treatment of state employees, the budget proposes that all employees pay the same amount for health insurance coverage - \$50 per month for individual coverage and \$180 per month for family coverage. As a result, management will pay the same amount as career service employees.
- In addition, the Governor's Budget instructs the Department of Management Services to develop a plan to implement options in the health insurance program by providing employees with fully employer-funded Health Reimbursement Accounts, with some increases in cost-sharing, to encourage employees to be aware of the cost of healthcare.

Q: How much does the Governor's Budget provide in reserves?

- This budget includes,
 - \$1.7 billion in General Revenue;
 - \$1.1 billion in the Budget Stabilization Fund;
 - \$600 million in the Lawton Chiles Endowment Fund; and
 - \$1.7 million in other trust funds.
- For a total of \$5.1 billion in reserves, which is \$400 million more than contemplated for the current fiscal year budget.

K-12 Education

FAQ

Q: What is the recommended budget for K-12 education? Does the budget provide historic levels for K-12 education?

- The Governor's Budget includes an historic \$18.8 billion in total funding, an increase of \$542.1 million or 2.96 percent over current year, for K-12 public schools.
- Governor Scott provides \$10.6 billion in state funding, the highest total state funding level in history for Florida's K-12 public schools.

Q: Is this the highest all-time for K-12 education?

- Yes. Education is a priority to Governor Scott and the proposed budget recommends the highest total funding in history for K-12 public schools, while also proposing over a half a billion dollar tax cut for Florida families and continuing to reduce state debt.

Q: How much funding in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) is nonrecurring?

- The proposed budget includes \$88.9 million in nonrecurring funding, of which \$41.3 million is from the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund (Lottery) and \$47.6 million is from the State School Trust Fund.

Q: How much funding in the NON-FEFP is nonrecurring?

- The proposed budget includes \$52.8 million in nonrecurring General Revenue. Programs fully funded with nonrecurring funds include:
 - Panhandle Area Education Consortium (\$300,000)
 - Assistance to Low Performing School (\$4 million)
 - Mentoring Programs (\$15.8 million)
 - College Reach Out Program (\$1 million)
 - New World School of the Arts (\$500,000)
 - School District Matching Grant Program (\$6 million)
 - Regional Education Consortium Services (\$1.4 million)
 - Teacher and Principal Professional Development (\$13.8 million)
 - School and Instructional Enhancement Programs (\$7.9 million).

Q: Why did local funds increase in the FEFP?

- The required local millage was held constant at the current year level of 5.183; therefore, the property tax rate did not increase.
- The amount of local funding provided in the FEFP calculation is primarily increased due to a 4.68 percent or \$66.6 billion rise in the school taxable value that was the result of an increase in the value of Florida property.
- The Governor's Budget for the FEFP results in state funding accounting for 56.4 percent and local funding accounting for 43.6 percent of the total funding.

Q: Is there state funding recommended for professional development in the Governor’s Budget?

- Governor Scott proposes \$8.4 million in new funding to support principal training and \$5 million in new funding to support teacher training and technical assistance on the implementation of Florida standards.

Q: Are Public Education Capital Outlay Funds (PECO) available? Is the Governor recommending PECO funds for K-12 facilities, or other ways to fund facility needs?

- The December 9, 2013 Revenue Estimating Conference reduced the forecast of the maximum amount available for appropriation from the PECO Trust Fund for FY 2014-2015 to \$232 million. This is a cash only estimate, as there is currently no bonding capacity available under the Gross Receipts Tax forecast.
- The PECO program addresses educational facilities construction and fixed capital outlay needs for school districts, community colleges, and universities.
- The Governor’s Budget recommendation includes a total of \$196.2 million from PECO funds. This includes:

	PECO Funding	Purpose
Charter Schools	\$81.3 million	Maintenance/Repair/Renovation/Remodel
Florida Colleges	\$22.8 million	Maintenance/Repair/Renovation/Remodel
State Universities	\$34 million	Maintenance/Repair/Renovation/Remodel
State Universities	\$50 million	Capital Projects
Lab Schools	\$4.8 million	Represents local millage equivalent
Florida School for the Deaf and Blind	\$1.1 million	Preventative maintenance projects
Public Broadcasting	\$2.2 million	Health and safety maintenance

- Due to limited PECO funds, the Governor is also recommending the use of other funds for K-12 and higher education facilities.

	Funding	Purpose
K-12 Public Schools	\$80 million Lottery	Maintenance/Repair/Renovation/Remodel
Charter Schools	\$9.3 million Lottery	Maintenance/Repair/Renovation/Remodel
Special Facility Construction	\$72.1 million Lottery	Special Facility Construction Projects in 7 small school districts
Florida Colleges	\$20 million General Revenue	Capital Projects

- The recommended budget provides \$90.6 million in PECO and Lottery funds for Charter School fixed capital outlay needs. To receive funds, new charter schools authorized on or after July 1, 2014:

- Must be established primarily to serve students in the attendance zone of a school in need of intervention;
- Must be accredited by the Commission on Schools of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;
- Must obtain a surety bond; and
- Must receive a school grade.
- The Governor’s Budget also provides \$72.1 million in funding for small districts that are unable to generate sufficient local funds for school construction through the special facilities program (Glades, Dixie, Washington, Madison, Levy, Calhoun, and Holmes Counties).
- University developmental research schools are provided \$4.8 million in the Governor’s Budget for construction projects. These funds are provided because they do not have the authority to levy the local millage.
- To expand STEM education through necessary facility construction and renovation at Florida universities and colleges, the Governor recommends \$50 million in new funding from PECO that will be awarded by the Board of Governors and \$20 million in new funding from General Revenue that will be awarded by the State Board of Education. These appropriations require a dollar for dollar match.
- In addition, the Governor’s Budget provides authority for state universities to expend \$31.1 million in collected student fees from the State University System’s Capital Improvement Fee Trust Fund for student-approved facility projects. The Governor did not provide additional bonding authority; as such any project must be funded on a cash-basis.
- In fixed capital outlay totals, the Governor has provided \$152.1 million for K-12 public schools, \$90.6 million for charter schools, \$42.8 million for Florida Colleges, and \$115.1 million for the State University System, for a total of \$400.6 million.

Q: Will positions at the Department of Education be reduced?

- The proposed budget includes a reduction of 32 vacant positions at the Department of Education.

Q: Is there funding for school safety in the recommended budget?

- The budget provides \$66.5 million, an increase of \$2.1 million or 3.19 percent over current year, has been provided in funding for the safe school component of the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP).

Q: What about the increase for teacher salaries included in the current budget?

- The recommended budget maintains recurring funding of \$480 million for salary increases provided in FY 2013 – 2014.

Q: Is the Governor proposing an additional teacher pay raise for FY 2014 – 2015?

- The recommended budget maintains current levels of funding at \$480 million for teacher pay raises. School districts are encouraged to utilize any available discretionary funding for their own priorities.

Q: Is additional funding for student assessments included in the Governor’s Budget?

- The proposed budget includes \$781,270 for international assessments in math and science for 4th and 8th grade students; and math, science and reading for 15 year olds.
- The proposed budget includes \$575,000 for reading assessments, which will shorten the student’s assessment time, test more students at a given time, and provide improved reporting and results to teachers.

Q: Does the Governor’s Budget include any funds specifically for technology in our K-12 public schools?

- The recommended budget includes \$40 million in funding to support digital learning. Each district will receive a minimum of \$250,000 in funding.
- This recommendation requires each district to submit a three-year digital learning enhancement plan, approved by their local school boards, by August 31, 2014, to the State Board of Education.
- This plan must specify how the funds will be used to implement their three-year plan.

Q: What additional funding is provided for Vocational Rehabilitation?

- The Governor’s Budget provides \$18.3 million in state funding to draw down an additional \$67.6 million in federal funding. These funds will provide additional services for individuals with disabilities that will help remove barriers preventing employment.

Q: What is the Summer Algebra Initiative proposed in the Governor’s Budget?

- \$8.9 million will be allocated to this initiative which will provide quality Algebra programs to rising 9th grade students in the summer prior to entering high school that have not enrolled in Algebra or have not successfully completed Algebra.

Q: How is retirement being handled for K-12?

- The Governor’s Budget includes \$38 million, which includes normal costs as well as unfunded actuarial liabilities, to cover increased employer costs in the Florida Retirement System.

Higher Education
FAQ

Q: Does the budget provide historic levels of operating funding for state colleges and universities?

- Yes. Total funding for both colleges and universities are at the highest level in Florida’s history.
 - Colleges: \$2 billion
 - Universities: \$3.59 billion

Q: Is there performance funding for colleges allocated in the proposed budget?

- The proposed budget includes \$40 million in new funding, for a total of \$80 million for performance funding. Governor Scott is working with the State Board of Education to create a performance funding model based on metrics including percentage of graduates employed or continuing education, average wages of employed graduates, and average cost to produce a graduate.
- In addition, \$10 million is provided for students earning industry certifications and getting Florida jobs in high-skill/high-wage occupations.

Q: What are the major components of funding for the State University System?

- The recommended budget provides a total of \$4.21 billion for the Florida State University System, which is an increase of \$118.4 million over current year funding for the State University System. The major components include (excluding fixed capital outlay):
 - \$80 million in performance funding (\$40 million in new Lottery funding and \$40 million from the universities' base General Revenue funding). Governor Scott is working with the Board of Governors to improve on the performance funding model used in FY 2013 – 2014. The new model will be based on metrics including percentage of graduates employed or continuing education, average wages of employed graduates, and average cost to produce a graduate.
 - \$1 million for the Florida Virtual Campus;
 - \$49 million in estimated tuition alignment;
 - \$6.1 million for physical plant new space; and
 - \$4 million for UF's Lastinger Center Algebra Nation.
- In addition, the recommended budget includes \$157.9 million for fixed capital outlay funding for higher education.

Q: Does your recommended budget include any tuition increases?

- No. The Governor is committed to keeping higher education affordable and accessible to Florida's students.
- As a result of the tuition differential passed by the Legislature and amended in 2009, higher education institutions were allowed to increase tuition by up to 15 percent annually. The Governor has continually opposed the raises.
- The average tuition and fees in the Florida State University System has risen over 113 percent over the past ten years, increasing from \$2,887 in FY 2003-2004 to \$6,155 in FY 2013-2014.

Q: How is retirement being handled for higher education?

- The Governor has provided the following amounts, normal costs as well as unfunded actuarial liabilities, to cover increased employer costs in the Florida Retirement System:
 - State Colleges: \$4.1 million; and
 - State Universities: \$12.3 million.

Q: Is there any other performance funding for workforce education, colleges, and universities?

- \$7.5 million (\$2.5 million in new funding) for district workforce programs;

- \$2.5 million in new funding for Adult Education Programs; and
- \$5 million for Career & Technical Education Programs.

Q: What additional funding is provided for the Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG)?

- The Governor’s Budget provides a \$3.8 million increase to fund all FRAG eligible students at a maximum award of \$2,500 per student. Currently, students at institutions that became eligible for FRAG after FY 2010-2011 (Keiser University and The Baptist College of Florida) are funded at a lower amount.

Q: Why is the Governor not recommending funding for some private institutions?

- The Governor is not recommending restoring funds to the following private institutions: the Florida Institute of Technology, Barry University, Nova Southeastern University, or the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. These funds currently provide tuition assistance for students. Governor Scott has prioritized state funding to focus on State Colleges and State Universities.

Q: Why is the Governor recommending a funding reduction for the Bright Futures Scholarship?

- The Governor’s Budget does not reduce the amount for scholarships and it fully funds the number of students eligible to receive Bright Futures Scholarships for FY 2014 – 2015 based on the Estimating Conference held on November 8, 2013.
- The Governor’s Budget includes an adjustment of \$49.4 million due to a projected decrease of 26,144 students at the FY 2013-2014 average award amount of \$2,033.42.
- The decrease of 26,144 students for 2014-2015 was provided as a long-range projection by the most recent student financial aid estimating conference.
- The anticipated decrease in eligible students is due to a recent statutory change that increased SAT and ACT score requirements from 1020 to 1170 and 22 to 26, respectively.

General Government
FAQ

Q: How does the recommended budget in the General Government area compare to the current year budget?

- The recommended budget represents a one percent increase totaling \$18.4 million and reduction in 108 vacant positions.
- This net impact includes \$29.6 million in the Department of Revenue to support necessary payments to Clerks of Courts consistent with 2013 legislation.

Q: Does the budget include any outsourcing of state functions?

- Yes, the budget expands the outsourcing of custodial services, which will result in an annual savings of \$347,754.

Q: What is the Governor recommending related to the One Stop Business Registration Portal? When will it become active?

- The portal is scheduled to go live in June 2014.
- The budget includes \$837,150 in General Revenue to support the ongoing system maintenance and annual warranty costs, and an additional \$606,613 in pass-through budget authority to allow for the payment of credit card and banking fees for transactions processed through the portal.

Q: Why is the Governor recommending an Agency for State Technology (AST)?

- There is currently an absence of an Enterprise Information Technology structure for state agencies and the proposed budget reorganizes existing resources in a streamlined manner and gives clear direction that places a premium on statewide security and risk management. It also requires performance measures to hold vendors accountable and ensure technology continues to deliver value to state agencies and Florida families.

Q: Why did the Governor veto HB 5011, which defunded the Agency for Enterprise Information Technology, but now is proposing a new agency?

- The language in HB 5011 regarding the management of IT resources created an inflexible and ineffective landscape, discouraging innovative business change. The proposed budget gives the agency both the resources and the authority to accomplish enterprise initiatives and hold vendors accountable.

Early Learning

FAQ

Q: What is the proposed budget for early learning?

- The Governor's Budget includes \$1.1 billion in total funding, which is an increase of \$59.4 million over the current year. This is the largest annual increase in total funding over the last decade.

Q: Are additional federal Child Care Development Funds available?

- Yes. The Office of Early Learning has additional one-time federal Child Care Development Funds available. The proposed budget maximizes the use of these funds to provide greater services for Florida's families, recommending \$30 million for serving additional families through the school readiness program and \$5 million for improving teacher quality in the school readiness program.

Q: How much funding is provided for the Parent Skill Building Initiative?

- The proposed budget includes \$12 million in state funding for the Parent Skill Building Initiative. This initiative provides parents with information and resources on a wide range of topics to enhance their knowledge and skills related to parenting with the goal of preventing them from coming into the child welfare system.

Q: What additional funding is provided for Voluntary Prekindergarten?

- The proposed budget includes \$405.9 million in total funding for the Voluntary

Prekindergarten program. This is a 4.2 percent increase per student for the school year program and a 5 percent increase for the summer program.

Q: How will the Governor’s Budget provide for the development and implementation of an early learning data management system?

- The proposed budget includes \$7 million to develop and implement an early learning data system. This data system is needed to support the management of information for parents, enrollment and attendance data on over 300,000 children, payments to over 10,000 providers, and state and federal required reporting.

Q: How will the Governor’s Budget provide for improvements in the quality of early learning programs?

- The budget includes a \$1.5 million increase in funding for early childhood teacher scholarships, through T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps)
- The budget includes \$5 million for teacher training and improvement.
- The budget includes \$3 million for pre- and post- assessments in the Voluntary Prekindergarten program.

Q: How will the Governor’s Budget provide for a decrease in the waitlist for the school readiness program?

- The proposed budget includes a one-time increase of \$30 million for the School Readiness program. This increase is expected to serve more than 6,500 additional children in the school readiness program for FY 2014 – 2015.

Q: Will positions be reduced at the Office of Early Learning?

- The budget includes a reduction of \$472,636 and seven FTE positions because of the reorganization of the Office of Early Learning. All seven positions are currently vacant.

Department of Economic Opportunity

FAQ

Q: What is the Governor’s Budget for DEO?

- The Governor’s Budget recommendation is \$1.1 billion, which includes \$74.2 million from General Revenue and \$982.3 million in Trust Fund dollars, including:
 - \$95 million for flexible funding for economic development tools (includes incentive funding);
 - \$36.5 million to increase funding for VISIT FLORIDA – to a historic \$100 million total;
 - \$3 million to establish and market a Florida statewide business brand;
 - \$1.5 million to focus on international trade and export;
 - \$600,000 for the National Entrepreneur Center;
 - \$8.8 million for recommended military base buffer land purchases.
 - \$3.2 million for space, defense, and rural infrastructure projects;
 - \$30 million for the Workforce State Training Program;

- \$6 million to maintain Quick Response Training funding level (\$12.0 million total); and
- \$1.5 million for community based asset inventories.

Q: In what areas did the Department of Economic Opportunity’s budget increase?

- Investments were made in the following areas:
 - Division of Strategic Business Development: \$83.3 million increase to continue activities related to economic development investment initiatives. This is to achieve additional success in attracting businesses to Florida and keeping the ones that are creating jobs for Florida families.
 - CareerSource Florida: \$32.7 million increase, mostly from the Governor’s new proposed Workforce State Training Program.

Q: Is there anything in the Governor’s Budget related to CONNECT?

- There is no additional funding proposed in the budget. There are currently enough available federal funds to cover costs.

Q: Does the Governor recommend funding Affordable Housing?

- The Governor’s Budget recommendation includes \$89.3 million for affordable housing. This recommendation includes:
 - \$69.3 million for the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) program, with a minimum 20 percent of the housing units developed through this funding set aside for persons with special needs, persons with developmental disabilities, and the elderly; and
 - \$20 million for the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) program, with 70 percent of the funding provided to local governments targeted to first-time homebuyer down payment assistance, and the remaining 30 percent for very low income persons targeted to either down payment assistance or housing rehabilitation.

Health and Human Services
FAQ

Q: Has the Affordable Healthcare Act affected the budget?

- The proposed budget accounts for the Medicaid primary care physician fee increase mandated by the President’s health care law through calendar year 2014. This federal program requires that Medicaid rates for primary care physicians equal the Medicare rates for similar services.
- Regardless if this federal program continues, plans in Florida’s new Statewide Medicaid Managed Care program may, as specified in Florida law, reimburse physicians at rates equaling or exceeding Medicare rates for similar services. AHCA may impose fines or other sanctions on a plan that fails to meet this performance standard after two years of continuous operation.

Q: What is the funding for elder and long-term care waitlists?

- The Governor’s Enriching Seniors Initiative includes \$27.6 million to address the waiting list for frail seniors. This funding includes:

- \$19.6 million for the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care Long-Term Care Program;
- \$4 million for the Alzheimer’s Disease Initiative; and
- \$4 million for the Community Care for the Elderly Program.
- This funding is anticipated to decrease the highest priority cases on the Medicaid Long-Term Care Waiver waiting list by 1,280 individuals, the Alzheimer’s Disease Initiative waiting list by 392 individuals, and the Community Care for the Elderly waiting list by 601 individuals.
- This funding keeps these individuals in their homes and community settings and gives them the chance to age in the least restrictive environment possible.

Q: Why is the Governor proposing to restore Healthy Families to statewide capacity for the first time in five years?

- Effectively combating child abuse and neglect starts with prevention and proven results. Healthy Families prevents child abuse and neglect by strengthening families with children under the age of five, the ages where the majority of incidents of child maltreatment occur. Healthy Families Florida was the focus of a 2011 article in *Children and Youth Services Review* for its demonstrated outcomes in preventing child abuse and neglect.

Q: What is the Medicaid Medical Assistance rollout timeline?

- The Medical Assistance component of Florida’s new Statewide Medicaid Managed Care program is scheduled to begin implementation in May 2014, with two to three Medicaid regions going live each month leading up to full implementation by August 2014.

Q: What is the Public Benefits Integrity Data Analytics and Information Sharing Initiative?

- The proposed budget provides \$5 million to fund an enhanced and predictive approach of analyzing data to prevent fraud. This will allow state agencies to identify unusual claims, investigate suspicious behavior, and address inappropriate payments within the Medicaid and public benefits programs.
- These efforts will ensure quality and cost effectiveness within Florida’s public benefits programs. This data-driven approach is expected to enhance the current recovery in Medicaid overpayments.

Q: What is the status of the Statewide Medicaid Residency Program?

- The Statewide Medicaid Residency Program is currently undergoing a successful first year of implementation and funding is continued at the same level in the proposed budget at \$80 million.
- This funding supports graduate medical education (GME) training positions. This means more Florida medical students will have the opportunity to do their residency in Florida and increases the likelihood that those residents will practice medicine in Florida.

Q: Is Medicaid prospective payment continued in this year’s budget?

- The diagnosis related group (DRG) prospective payment system for Medicaid hospital inpatient services has been fully and successfully implemented. The

Governor's Budget provides \$2 million for consultation services to assist in transitioning to similar prospective payment systems for outpatient and nursing home services that would start July 1, 2015.

- Prospective payment is an important reform that provides for fair equitable reimbursement of similar Medicaid services. Prospective payment benefits Medicaid recipients and taxpayers by incentivizing providers to deliver efficient, high-quality care. This initiative will help control the growth of expenditures and provide more predictability.

Q: What is the status of the remaining \$32.5 million for DRG transitional payments?

- The Governor's Budget includes a savings of \$32.5 million to eliminate one-time payments to hospitals as they transition from a traditional payment methodology to a more streamlined and cost-effective payment system. Many hospitals indicated they would request elimination of the recurring portion of these funds for FY 2014 – 2015 to ensure that the transitional payments are truly transitional.

Q: How many individuals with critical needs remain on the waiting list for APD's Medicaid Waiver program?

- There are about 1,000 individuals with critical needs still on the waiting list for services in the Medicaid Waiver program. The proposed budget includes \$20 million in funding that would be enough to remove all of these individuals from the waiting list and enroll them into the Medicaid Waiver program.

Q: What is the Enriching Seniors Program?

- The Governor's Enriching Seniors Initiative commits \$33.6 million and focuses on three pillars:
 - Addressing the waiting lists for frail seniors (\$27.6 million);
 - Enhancing the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (\$3 million); and
 - Expanding the Statewide Public Guardianship Office (\$3 million).

Q: What is the goal of the new program funding for Alzheimer's research?

- In 2012, Governor Scott signed HB 473 creating the Purple Ribbon Task Force. This task force was charged with taking a comprehensive look at the impact of the Alzheimer's disease and related dementias in the state and providing recommendations on how to better address this disease. One of the recommendations calls for the creation of a peer-reviewed competitive grant program for Alzheimer's research.
- The goal of the \$3 million that Governor Scott included in the proposed budget is to implement this recommendation and create a new peer-reviewed grant program for Alzheimer's research in order to find innovative ways to combat this disease.

Q: How many state veteran nursing homes are currently in Florida?

- The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs currently operates six state nursing homes, and one assisted living facility in Florida. The Governor's Budget includes \$1.6 million in new funding for start-up costs for two new nursing homes since all six of the current homes are operating at or near full capacity. FDVA is working

on a study to determine the optimal locations for the new homes and their recommendations are expected to be released in February 2014.

Q: What are the eligibility requirements to receive NCI-designation funds?

- Cancer centers must be a Florida-based NCI-designated cancer center or NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center. Additionally, non-NCI-designated centers may receive funding in any given 5-year period, but must receive authorization from the Legislature and be actively working toward obtaining NCI designation.

Q: What will the state's overall commitment to cancer research funding be with the new NCI initiative?

- \$60 million for the Florida Consortium of NCI Centers;
- \$10 million for the James and Esther King Biomedical Research Program; and
- \$10 million for the Bankhead-Coley Cancer Research Program.

Q: Why should Florida focus its resources on NCI-designated Cancer Centers?

- In 2012, cancer was the leading cause of death in Florida and there was a 1.7 percent increase in deaths attributed to cancer.
- The NCI-designation is a prestigious acknowledgement that a cancer center is part of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) network.
- Florida's population traits give the state the unique potential to be competitive nationally and internationally in industries associated with cancer research and care and capitalize on significant viable economic opportunities for the foreseeable future.

Q: What does the NCI-designation mean?

- NCI-designated cancer centers must demonstrate expertise in three areas: laboratory, clinical, and behavioral, and population-based research.
- NCI-designated cancer centers are also treatment centers, which offer patients the latest therapies for a wide range of cancers. This is in addition to access to clinical trials and help train the next generation of scientists, physicians, surgeons, and other vital biomedical professionals.
- NCI-designated cancer centers are the primary source in the United States of new discoveries into cancer's causes, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.
- As of January 13, 2013, there are 41 comprehensive cancer centers and 27 designated cancer centers in the nation. Florida is the home to only one facility, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute at the University of South Florida.
- Receiving the NCI-designation places cancer centers among the top 4 percent of approximately 1,500 cancer centers in the nation.
- Selection by NCI provides recognition of research excellence and of outstanding leadership, along with new avenues for federal funding. Each center receives general support from the NCI, in addition to individual grants earned by its doctors and scientists following extensive review by their peers.

Q: How will the NCI-designation funds be allocated to cancer centers?

- Funds will be allocated according to the number of patients served, amount in peer-reviewed research costs, and educational opportunities offered to students and trainees. Tying funding to these metrics ensures that the cancer centers will perform in the areas of cancer care, cancer research, and cancer training.

Q: Will the new NCI-designation Initiative impact the funding for the William G. “Bill” Bankhead, Jr., and David Coley Cancer Research Program or the James and Esther King Biomedical Research Program?

- No. This initiative does not alter the funding for either program.

Q: What are Child Protection Teams? How much in new funding does the Governor recommend?

- The Governor’s Budget includes \$2.8 million in new funding for Child Protection Teams (CPT).
- Medically directed, CPT provides assessments to the Department of Children and Families and Sheriff’s offices that conduct protective investigations. The teams provide medical reviews of alleged abuse and neglect cases that have been reported to the Child Abuse Hotline. Currently, there are 25 CPTs that cover 67 counties.

Q: What assessments are performed by Child Protection Teams?

- The assessment process is focused on determining whether or not a child has been abused or neglected, identifying the immediate safety and risk factors in a case, assessing the probability of future abuse or neglect and assisting in case planning.

Q: What is DCF doing to ensure the safety of children in their care?

- Governor Scott is investing \$31.7 million to hire more than 400 child protection officials so the state can reduce current employee caseloads. The result will provide every caseworker with more time to focus on each child they’re responsible for.
- DCF is implementing the Safety Methodology and Structured Decision-Making risk assessment to increase supervisor monitoring of child protective investigator cases, and provide avenues to improve communication and resolve conflicts.
- DCF has also been actively engaged with community-based care lead agencies and other stakeholders in a comprehensive review of child welfare services.
- DCF will also create 26 new positions to provide real time quality assurance on open cases. While this is being practiced in some parts of the state already, DCF will be able to expand the program so the agency is more successful at intervening in high risk cases and using best practices for every child.

Q: How is the Governor proposing to distribute funding for sheriffs child protective investigative units in Broward, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, and Seminole counties?

- The budget recommends \$8 million be added, for a total of \$55.8 million, to provide to the sheriffs in these counties to conduct child protection investigations. The recommended budget proposes that the increases in overall funding

amounts be allocated according to the counties' respective caseloads. This reliable method of funding will bring more equity and stability to child protection funding decisions.

Q: Are there any additional resources allocated for foster care services?

- The proposed budget provides an increase of \$11 million in maintenance adoption subsidies and maintains state funding levels for local community-based care agencies, in addition to funds carried forward from previous years.

Q: What is the status of the \$8.9 million pilot project that provides substance abuse services to pregnant women intended to help address neonatal abstinence syndrome in newborn babies?

- The one-year pilot project is being funded with nonrecurring funds in the current year. Once this pilot program provides measurable results to show a return on taxpayer investment, the Governor will work with the Legislature to evaluate the continuation of this pilot program. The Governor is committed to finding solutions to combat neonatal abstinence syndrome in Florida while effectively using Floridians' tax dollars.

Q: What is the Governor proposing to combat human trafficking?

- The Governor is recommending \$2.5 million for the Department of Children and families to offer services to those children who are identified as victims of human trafficking. There are over 100 children currently identified in the care of the State who have had Sexual Human Trafficking exposure.
- The Governor also recommends \$1.5 million for the Department of Juvenile Justice to develop a comprehensive unified case management system. This will also provide risk assessment instruments to ensure that the right treatments are in place for children who have been victimized and traumatized through human trafficking.

Q: Does the Governor have any budget recommendations relating to the Sexually Violent Predators Program?

- The Governor's Budget maintains funding for the Sexually Violent Predators Program at its current level.

Q: How much of an investment has the Governor made for the Mental Health Program?

- The recommended budget maintains current levels of funding at over \$1.4 billion across the state.
- The Governor's new investment of \$2.5 million is for 100 community residential beds, which will be available for individuals to move to more appropriate community-based settings.

Q: How much of an investment has the Governor Recommended for the Substance Abuse Program?

- The recommended budget maintains current levels of funding for Substance Abuse Services at over \$195 million.

Q: Why is there a KidCare budget reduction?

- This reduction is a budget adjustment based on projections from the October 25, 2013 Kidcare Estimating Conference. The KidCare average monthly enrollment projections indicated an overall decrease of 10,773, from 228,238 in FY 2013 – 2014 to 217,465 in FY 2014 – 2015.

Q: What is the status of the Low Income Pool?

- The Agency for Health Care Administration submitted an application to the federal government for an extension of the Low Income Pool program beyond July 1, 2014. High-level, initial conversations between the agency and the federal government have just recently been held. The Governor’s Budget provides for a continuation of the Low Income Pool Program at its current level.

Q: Are rape crisis centers funded in the recommended budget?

- The Governor’s reinvestment of \$2.5 million in the rape crisis centers maintains current level funding.

Q: Does the Domestic Violence Program receive any additional funding in the Governor’s Budget?

- The recommended budget maintains current levels of funding for the Domestic Violence Program at \$33.2 million.

Department of Transportation
FAQ

Q: What is the total budget proposed for the Department of Transportation (DOT) for FY 2014 – 2015?

- The Governor’s Budget recommendation includes \$9.6 billion for the Department of Transportation. Of this amount, \$8.8 billion supports the Transportation Work Program. This is a 1.6 percent increase, or \$136 million, over the current year Work Program budget.
- The Governor’s Budget recommendation for the five year Work Program will provide for the retention or creation of an estimated 427,000 jobs. Every dollar invested in transportation is estimated to result in a return of nearly \$5 in user and economic benefits to Florida’s residents and businesses.

Q: What Florida transportation initiatives are supported in the Governor’s Budget?

- The Governor’s Budget recommendation for FY 2014 – 2015 provides an historic \$8.8 billion for the Work Program for the construction and maintenance of Florida’s roads, bridges, rails, seaports and other public transportation systems that grow the state’s economy and improve the quality of life for our citizens. This includes:
 - \$3.8 billion to expand transportation system capacity which includes adding 252 new lane miles;
 - \$138.9 million in seaport infrastructure improvements;
 - \$324.6 million for aviation improvements;

- \$192.5 million for scheduled repairs of 51 bridges and replacement of 15 bridges;
- \$843.3 million for maintenance and operation of existing facilities;
- \$528 million for transit program improvements; and
- \$134.3 million for safety initiatives.

Q: How do the Governor’s Budget recommendations differ from the current Adopted Transportation Work Program?

- The Transportation Work Program is continuously evolving and is currently being revised to reflect the latest estimates. The Governor’s Budget is based on a November 13, 2013, snapshot of the Preliminary Tentative Work Program, which is based on the August 2013 Revenue Estimating Conference. The recommendation reflects an anticipated increase in revenues, which will support an increase in the number of transportation projects that can be funded.

Q: Does the Governor’s Budget for DOT budget include funding for the Transportation Disadvantaged?

- Yes. It includes \$112.7 million to continue transportation disadvantaged services to more than 670,000 Floridians.

Q: Does the Governor’s Budget for DOT include any agency savings and/or efficiencies?

- Yes. It includes a reduction of 126 vacant positions and \$5 million in savings realized through the elimination of positions vacant in excess of 180 days and the outsourcing of specific computer support services.

Q: Does the Governor’s Budget for DOT include funding for SunRail?

- Yes. The Work Program includes \$255.8 million for Phase II of the project and ensures a return on investment to taxpayers.

Q: Does the Governor’s Budget for DOT include repayment of existing debt?

- Yes. The recommended budget includes \$154 million for repayment of existing debt.

Environment
FAQ

Q: How much did the Governor fund for Everglades Restoration?

- The Governor's Budget provides a total of \$130 million for Everglades Restoration. This is an increase of \$60 million from current year funding and includes \$30 million in the Department of Transportation’s budget for raising Tamiami Trail to allow more water to flow into Everglades National Park.

Q: How much did the Governor fund beach restoration?

- The budget includes \$25 million for beach restoration projects, which maintains current levels. This amount does not include any past unused funds that the Legislature has historically identified and reappropriated, adding to the total.

Q: How much did the Governor fund Florida Forever?

- The Governor's Budget includes \$30 million in available cash from state trust funds and up to \$40 million in budget authority from the proceeds of the sale of non-conservation lands, for a total of \$70 million.

Q: Do we have the capacity to sell \$40 million of non-conservation lands, with the profits invested in the acquisition of conservation lands?

- The \$40 million is only budget authority, not a guaranteed amount of revenue. Non-conservation lands include items such as surplus Department of Corrections or Department of Health facilities that have the potential to generate a significant amount of revenue.

Q: Does the Governor's Budget proposal include funding for oyster habitat restoration?

- The budget includes \$6.9 million for oyster reef rehabilitation and restoration, including \$928,000 for oyster planting in Apalachicola Bay.

Q: Does the Governor's Budget proposal include funding for Keys wastewater?

- The budget proposes a \$50 million increase for wastewater related construction projects in the Florida Keys.

Q: How much did the Governor fund state parks?

- The Governor's Budget provides \$19 million for state park facility improvements.

Q: How much did the Governor fund the petroleum cleanup program?

- The Governor's Budget includes \$125 million for the petroleum cleanup program.

Q: Does the Governor's Budget proposal include funding for springs restoration?

- The Governor's Budget provides \$55 million for springs restoration. This is an increase of \$45 million from the current year. The proposed funding will help protect water quality through proper wastewater/storm water and nonpoint source pollution control projects, and ensure the protection of the groundwater supply in central and north Florida. In the current year, the Department of Environmental Protection was able to leverage a \$10 million state appropriation into \$37 million of projects with the help of local partners.

Q: Does the Governor's Budget proposal include funding for manatee rehabilitation?

- Yes, the Governor's Budget includes a total of \$1,096,000 for manatee rehabilitation.

Public Safety
FAQ

Q: Will the Department of Corrections (DOC) continue to face a deficit?

- The Governor's Budget provides \$41 million for the current year to close the deficit and ensure the public and prison staff are safe.

Q: How does the overall public safety budget compare to last year?

- The recommended public safety budget is \$4.6 billion, which is a 5 percent increase from the current year.

Q: Are there any prison closures planned in your budget?

- No. Over the past three years, based on declining prison populations and reduced recidivism, we saved more than \$132 million through consolidating over 19 facilities. No early release of inmates occurred through this process.

Q: Does your budget reopen any prisons?

- The Governor's Budget proposes to open five new prison facilities to ensure adequate capacity for the projected inmate population. The budget does not propose to reopen facilities previously closed under the prior year consolidations. Most of those facilities are aged and require high cost to maintain.
- The Criminal Justice Estimating Conference is projecting an additional 2,721 inmates will be received by the Department of Corrections over what the agency is currently funded by the end of FY 2014 – 2015. This projected growth will require additional beds. The five new facilities include three work camps (Okeechobee, Santa Rosa, and Cross City) and two reentry centers (Baker and Everglades).
- The Governor's proposed budget includes funding for substance abuse treatment and vocational training along with these new facilities.

Q: Does your budget propose to privatize prisons?

- The Governor's Budget privatizes the treatment component of the new reentry centers and work camps opened in FY 2014 – 2015, and requires the Department of Corrections to operate the security components.

Q: What is the status of the privatization of inmate health services?

- DOC fully implemented the privatization of health services this year. The final phase was completed in October. This resulted in a savings of \$14 million.

Q: Why does the Governor's Budget include an increase for the inmate health services contracts?

- The Governor's Budget recommends funding the 3.63 percent health consumer price index increase as published by the U. S. Department of Labor. This increase would be distributed across the existing health care contracts within the Department of Corrections. The privatization of inmate health has resulted in savings of \$14 million and 2,355 full time positions.

Q: How does the proposed budget for the DOC compare to last year?

- The budget reflects an increase of \$144 million for the Department of Corrections. Some of the issues included are:
 - \$47.7 million for the projected prison growth
 - \$11.7 million to continue to fill critical security vacancies

- \$10 million for maintenance and repair of remaining aging prison facilities
- \$7.2 million for expanding community residential substance abuse treatment slots.

Q: Does the budget include funding for substance abuse treatment?

- Yes. The Governor’s Budget includes \$7.2 million to add 400 community residential substance abuse treatment beds to serve more than 1,400 court ordered offenders.

Q: Why did the Governor recommend funding for an automated time and attendance system when he vetoed it last year?

- Last year, the Legislature required the Department of Corrections to purchase and install an automated time and attendance system statewide with no funding provided. Governor Scott vetoed the required language primarily based on the lack of available funding within the agency. According to the Department of Corrections’ Business Case, the investment of \$9.7 million will reduce payroll errors, provide staff efficiencies and reduce lawsuits. According to the Department of Corrections’ Business Case, the system will pay for itself within 1.5 years after full implementation, and save \$26.4 million over a five-year period.

Q: Why is the prison population increasing if the crime rate is dropping?

- Prison population growth is not a result of increased crime rates, but because there has been a decline in inmate releases due to longer sentences.

Q: Does the budget address the federal kosher lawsuit?

- No. DOC is working through their existing food services budget to accommodate kosher inmates.

Q: Last year the Legislature provided electronic monitoring only for inmates in private work release centers. What about the state operated centers?

- Last year, Governor Scott recommended electronic monitoring for all inmates participating in work release regardless if the center was private or state operated. The Legislature provided funding to incorporate electronic monitoring for those inmates in private operated work release centers. The Governor’s Budget includes \$5.8 million to ensure all inmates participating in a work release program are on an electronic monitoring device.

Q: How does the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) budget compare to previous years?

- The recommended budget for the DJJ is \$541.8 million, which reflects an overall increase of \$17 million for the DJJ, which is a 3 percent increase of current year funding. Included in this funding:
 - \$18.2 million to continue behavior services previously covered under Medicaid;
 - \$1.5 million to provide critical services for child victims of Human Trafficking; and

- \$637,500 to expand slots in PACE.

Q: How does the Governor's Budget address the detention cost share issue with counties? Does the budget include any funds for back payment to counties?

- The budget includes \$17.2 million to cover the state's 43 percent share of juvenile detention costs and provides a respective reduction for the counties' share of juvenile detention.
- A June 2013 ruling by the First DCA resulted in a change in cost share responsibilities for youth held in secure state detention facilities. The county will be responsible for the cost associated with all youth held in secure detention pre-disposition including those on probation that are placed in secure detention on a new law violation. The court ruling did not order DJJ to pay the counties for prior year adjustments.

Q: Are there any reductions in the DJJ budget?

- There are no program or filled position reductions in the Governor's Budget. The budget does reflect a savings from 221 vacant positions that remain unfilled based on DJJ's privatization of state residential programs this year.

Q: What services are included under Human Trafficking and how does it differ from DCF funding?

- The Department of Juvenile Justice is provided \$1.5 million to develop and implement a victim identification tool, a universal screening and assessment of service needs, a unified case management system and treatment services to serve DJJ involved victims of human trafficking. These assessment and case management tools will be available to the Department of Children and Families as well.

Q: Does the Governor's Budget for FDLE address law enforcement's concern related to funding for officer training?

- Yes, the budget includes \$3.2 million to bring the level of funding provided for officer training up to \$67 per officer from the current \$40 per officer.

Q: What is the status of the foreclosure backlog reduction effort in the Courts and is there still a backlog? If so, does the Governor's Budget provide funding?

- Last year, foreclosure cases pending hearing in Florida courts were in excess of 370,000 cases. The Governor supported, and the Legislature approved, more than \$30.2 million to the courts and \$11.7 million to the Clerks of Court over the last two years to reduce this backlog. These funds have been from both General Revenue and from the National Foreclosure settlement.
- As of December 2013, the backlog was reduced to 262,907, with nearly 232,000 cases moved through the courts. Because the funds appropriated during the 2013 Legislative session for foreclosure workload were for two years, the Governor did not include any additional funds in the proposed budget.

Q: Does the Governor’s Budget include additional judges?

- The Governor’s Budget provides over \$5 million for 21 new judges and support staff. The 21 new judges include three for the District Courts of Appeal, seven for Circuit Courts, and eleven County Judges.

Q: What is being done in regards to the backlogged clemency cases?

- The Governor’s Budget provides nine additional staff for workload associated with the clemency investigations workload.

Q: Why are you proposing moving the appointment of capital clemency cases from the trial courts to the Board of Executive Clemency?

- Capital Clemency is an administrative function under the Board of Executive Clemency, not a judicial function.

Q: Are any specialty courts funded in the Governor’s Budget?

- Yes. \$5.5 million is provided to continue adult post-adjudicatory drug courts in eight counties (Broward, Escambia, Hillsborough, Marion, Orange, Pinellas, Polk, and Volusia).
- \$600,000 is provided to continue Veteran courts in four counties (Pinellas, Pasco, Okaloosa, and Clay).

Q: Does the Governor’s Budget include additional funding for the Guardian ad Litem program?

- The Governor’s Budget provides an additional \$2.9 million for the Guardian ad Litem program. This will expand their ability to recruit an additional 374 volunteers and increase representation of dependent children in out-of-home care to 100 percent.

Department Of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
FAQ

Q: Are there any new fees or fee increases?

- The proposed budget does not include any new fees or increased fees.
- Governor Scott is proposing to undo the 54 percent tax increase Floridians saw in 2009 to register their motor vehicles, saving Florida families \$401 million annually.

Q: What is the department’s total budget?

- The Governor’s Budget includes \$438.7 million for the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles in Trust Fund dollars.

Q: What is the Governor doing to create efficiencies?

- To create efficiencies and utilize technology, the Governor’s Budget includes \$10.9 million to replace the antiquated software in the Motorist Services program. This will reduce wait times, enhance quality of data availability, and improve that which is provided to law enforcement and medical professionals.

Q: What is the Governor providing for the Florida Highway Patrol?

- The Governor’s Budget includes \$6.9 million in recurring funding to replace pursuit vehicles currently operating with over 100,000 miles.
- This funding, along with their base funding of \$6.5 million, will allow the Department to replace 20 percent of its fleet annually and ensure that Florida Highway Patrol officers are utilizing safe vehicles.
- The budget also includes:
 - \$2 million to continue trooper court and incidental overtime pay; and
 - \$1.2 million for maintenance, repairs, and renovations for Florida Highway Patrol.

Q: Is the Governor recommending the closure of any Driver License offices?

- The proposed budget includes a reduction of \$152,238 and five full time positions through the planned closure of Driver License offices in Tampa, Tavares, Kissimmee, West Palm and Sarasota. Services will be transferred to the Tax Collectors in Hillsborough, Lake, Osceola, Palm Beach and Sarasota Counties.

Department of State
FAQ

Q: What is the total budget for the Department of State?

- The Governor’s Budget recommendation includes a total of \$87.4 million for the Department of State. This includes \$58.7 million in General Revenue and \$28.7 million in Trust Fund dollars, a total decrease of \$12.4 million from what was appropriated to the Department for the current fiscal year.

Q: What is the Governor proposing in the budget in the area of elections?

- The Governor’s Budget for the Department’s Division of Elections totals \$13.5 million. This amount includes:
 - \$4.8 million for the Statewide Voter Registration Database and other Election Activities funded under the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA);
 - \$828,000 for advertising proposed amendments to the State Constitution;
 - \$800,000 to Assist Individuals with Disabilities;
 - \$525,000 for Voting System Assistance;
 - \$500,000 to assist local governments with Special Elections; and
 - \$445,379 for Election Fraud Prevention.

Q: What are some of the major items in the Department of State’s recommended budget?

- \$24.7 million for State Aid to Libraries;
- \$4.7 million for Library Cooperative Grants and other Library Resources; and
- \$6.9 million for Cultural, Museum, and Historical Preservation Grants.

Q: What did the Governor do to ensure Floridians and visitors continue to enjoy access to the state’s cultural, historical and library resources?

- In addition to State Aid to Libraries, Library Cooperative Grants and other Library Resources, and Cultural, Museum, and Historical Preservation Grants, the Governor’s Budget includes:
 - \$232,231 for Arts Grants provided to local government;
 - \$350,000 for the Florida Endowment for the Humanities;
 - \$257,000 for the Florida Holocaust Documentation and Education Center; and
 - \$340,000 for Historic Properties and Facilities Repair and Maintenance.

Division of Emergency Management

FAQ

Q: What is the total budget for the Division of Emergency Management?

- The Governor’s Budget recommendation includes a total of \$243 million for the Division of Emergency Management, including \$14.7 million in General Revenue and \$227.9 million in Trust Funds.

Q: What did the Governor recommend in Federally Declared Disasters funding?

- The Governor’s Budget recommendation includes a total of \$174 million with a state match of \$13.6 million in General Revenue to provide funding for communities to recover rapidly from disasters through disaster response and recovery related activities.

Florida Retirement System

FAQ

Q: After 11 years of actuarial surpluses, the FRS Pension Plan now has been underfunded for five consecutive years. As of July 1, 2013, the plan’s liabilities exceeded its assets by \$21.6 billion, translating in a funded ratio of 85.9%. How does your proposed budget address this deficit?

- In 2013, Governor Scott recommended and the Legislature agreed to fully fund both the normal cost and the unfunded actuarial liability at an additional cost to the state of over \$550 million.
- The proposed budget again implements the recommendations of the independent actuary and fully funds both the normal cost and the unfunded actuarial liability by providing an additional \$84 million to fully fund the state’s contributions.
- Following these recommendations will ensure the fund will be able to meet its long-term obligations. Florida’s pension plan is on a sound actuarial basis and one of the best-managed plans in the country.

Department of Lottery

FAQ

Q: Is the Governor's recommendation for 300 additional Full Service Vending Machines (FSVM) in the Lottery considered an expansion of gambling?

- No, the department currently has 500 FSVMs in place at retailers across the state.
- The machines are a convenient way for retailers to sell existing Lottery products.

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

FAQ

Q: What is the Governor's proposed funding for combating citrus diseases?

- The Governor's Budget increases previous funds appropriated for fighting citrus diseases such as greening, black spot, and canker. A total of \$12 million is recommended, including:
 - \$4 million for short-term research projects to provide important information to growers;
 - \$500,000 for increased coordinated efforts of suppressing the Asian Citrus Psylid (responsible for spreading citrus greening disease);
 - \$5.6 million for surveying citrus groves for pests and diseases; and
 - \$2 million for construction of a laboratory and two new greenhouses in Chiefland to expand existing resources and increase the availability of budwood for the citrus industry.