



Governor DeSantis' Focus on Fiscal Responsibility Budget Advances Public Health and Health Care for Floridians

Tallahassee, Fla.—On February 3, 2025, Governor Ron DeSantis announced his Focus on Fiscal Responsibility Budget, which includes critical investments that support the health of Florida's communities. The Focus on Fiscal Responsibility Budget demonstrates Governor and First Lady DeSantis' continued commitment to advancing public health and driving health care innovation statewide.

"Governor DeSantis continues to prioritize the health of Floridians through Focus on Fiscal Responsibility which dedicates significant resources to advancing common-sense public health," **said State Surgeon General Dr. Joseph A. Ladapo**. "These investments will continue to ensure Florida remains a leader in public health and health care access, fostering healthier communities statewide."

The Focus on Fiscal Responsibility introduces significant new investments to strengthen public health including:

- \$35 million additionally for cancer research and patient care, including:
 - \$30 million to establish the Cancer Connect Collaborative Incubator, which will fund targeted cancer research initiatives, beginning with a dedicated focus on pediatric cancer.
 - \$5 million for the Casey DeSantis Cancer Research Program.
- \$22.4 million to support the School Health Services program, ensuring access to nursing assessments, health counseling, referrals, and services for students ages 4-18.
- \$18.1 million to modernize and enhance the Florida Department of Health's (Department) IT security protocols to mitigate cyber security threats and protect sensitive health data statewide.
- \$11.1 million to modernize and strengthen the Department's IT systems, which will enhance operational efficiency and streamline services to the public.

- \$8.9 million to enhance recruitment and professional development of providers for Early Steps, Florida's early intervention program for infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities and delays.
- \$2.1 million to improve diagnoses and treatment for HIV, hepatitis C, and syphilis by expanding routine screening in additional emergency departments.

Through these key investments, the Department will continue to expand health access and services through integrated state, county, and community efforts under its nationally accredited integrated public health system.

About the Florida Department of Health

The Florida Department of Health, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.