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Governor Ron DeSantis Signs Framework for Freedom Budget, Dedicates Record Funding to Support Health Care Across Florida Communities

Record funding is dedicated to cancer research and care, and programs that promote the well-being of mothers and babies

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Yesterday, Governor Ron DeSantis signed the Framework for Freedom Budget for Florida Fiscal Year 2023-24. The budget dedicates record funding to Florida’s health system and robust initiatives that support healthy families. Florida continues to lead in efforts to fight cancer, combat the opioid crisis, improve mental health outcomes, and support healthy families. The budget also includes meaningful workforce education and retention funding to build and maintain health care personnel. To view the press release from the Governor’s office with highlights and vetoes, click [here](#). To watch the bill signing, click [here](#).

“Governor and First Lady Casey DeSantis continue to spearhead efforts that provide access to meaningful care across communities, improving health outcomes and overall well-being,” said **Agency for Health Care Administration Secretary Jason Weida**. “The Framework for Freedom Budget makes investments that will modernize and improve our health system, advance cancer research and care, reward health care professionals, and support the state’s vulnerable populations.”

Highlights of the Framework for Freedom budget are below.

Support for World Class Cancer Centers

First Lady Casey DeSantis continues to spearhead efforts to advance cancer research and care to combat this deadly disease. More than **\$190 million** in funding for cancer research and care, which will promote the efforts of the [Florida Cancer Connect Collaborative](#). This funding includes **\$128 million** for the Casey DeSantis Cancer Research Program, and **\$20 million** to establish the Florida Cancer Innovation Fund. Funding will provide grants to support emerging research, trends and promising practices that can be replicated and expanded upon in Florida.

Protections for Life and Florida’s Most Vulnerable

This year, [Governor DeSantis signed](#) the most significant protections for life into law, signaling Florida's strong support for children and mothers. **\$30 million** was appropriated in the Heartbeat Protection Act to provide additional resources for mothers and families including parenting support services and supplies.

The Framework for Freedom Budget includes an additional **\$76 million** to increase rates for hospitals that care for acutely ill newborns and pediatric patients. Stand-alone children's hospitals serving Medicaid patients will receive an increase of **\$54 million** in funding. An additional **\$76 million** is dedicated to increase the rates provided to pediatric physicians.

The Framework for Freedom Budget includes a **\$5.4 million** increase in pediatric behavioral health services. To improve children's health, this funding supports programs for behavioral health including mental health and substance abuse. Through community health services, Florida will be able to prioritize targeted assistance to promote resiliency.

Florida's seniors are the foundation of communities across the state. **\$5 million** is provided to increase services through the Community Care for the Elderly Program and the Home Care for the Elderly Program. Funding will allow more seniors to receive services such as case management, home-delivered meals, caregiver support, and home modifications which will allow them to continue to live in their homes.

Combatting the Opioid Crisis

Florida continues to provide funding for individuals who are struggling with opioid use disorders through services including the [Core Network](#). The Framework for Freedom Budget includes **\$385 million** to increase access to treatment, recovery support, and continues research and surveillance activities that seek to reduce overdoses, unemployment, hospitalization, and homelessness.

Incentives for Health Care Professionals

The budget maintains **\$125 million** to support two nursing education initiatives that support those who serve the complex health needs of our communities. **\$100 million** for the Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers and Learners through 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.

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