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Governor DeSantis Focus on Florida's Future Budget Provides Innovation and Transparency, Strengthening Florida's Health Care System for Generations

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Yesterday, Governor DeSantis signed the Focus on Florida's Future Budget, continuing his commitment to pursuing innovative ways to improve the lives and care of Florida's most vulnerable. The Focus on Florida's Future Budget provides the Agency with the necessary tools to continue our mission of making Florida's health care system the most cost-effective, transparent, and the highest quality in the nation.

"The signing of this budget is a crucial step toward ensuring a stable health care system," said **Agency for Health Care Administration Secretary Jason Weida**. "A stable health care system is the backbone of a healthy society. By investing in health care innovation and ensuring access to quality medical services for all, we are safeguarding the well-being and future of our communities."

Highlights of the agency priorities included in the Focus on Florida's Future Budget include:

- **\$333 million for Medicaid Provider Rates**
Investing in Florida's providers is essential to ensuring that low-income individuals and families have access to quality healthcare. An increase of \$43 million is provided to increase reimbursement rates to ensure all physicians providing pediatric care are paid, at a minimum, the Medicare rate. Funds are also included to increase rates to support the continuum of care to address behavioral health needs, including Early Intervention Services, Therapeutic Group Homes, and the Statewide Inpatient Psychiatric Program (SIPP).
- **\$10.5 million for Graduate Medical Education Programs**
These additional funds will go toward training and additional residency positions in the primary care field to help meet the needs of our growing population.
- **\$1.75 million for Health Care Transparency**
This funding will be used to continue our mission of transparency and provide Floridians with the vital tools and knowledge they need to make informed, cost-effective health care decisions.
- **\$8.3 million for Behavioral Health**
These funds will support Medicaid coverage of collaborative care between primary care and behavioral health care providers. Covering these services will improve the mental well-being of Floridians and avoid high-cost acute care.



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The Agency for Health Care Administration is Florida's chief health policy and planning entity. The Agency is responsible for administering the Florida Medicaid program, the licensure and regulation of nearly 50,000 health care facilities, and empowering consumers through health care transparency initiatives.