

Governor DeSantis' Focus on Florida's Future Budget Supports Continued Improvements to Public Health and Health Care for Floridians

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Tallahassee, Fla.—Today, Governor DeSantis announced his Focus on Florida's Future Budget, which includes critical investments that support the health of Florida's communities. The Focus on Florida's Future Budget demonstrates Governor and First Lady DeSantis' continued commitment to public health and health care innovation.

"Governor DeSantis understands the importance of investing in Floridians' health," **said State Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo.** "These investments in public health and health care will support the Florida Department of Health in protecting, promoting, and improving the health of all Floridians."

Key investments for the Florida Department of Health include:

- **\$219 million** to continue Florida's fight against cancer. This includes **\$60 million** for the Florida Cancer Innovation Fund to fund groundbreaking cancer research and **\$788,642** to improve cancer data collection through Florida's Cancer Data System, which facilitates timely understanding of the status of cancer in Florida and fuels improved cancer prevention and treatment.
- \$7.3 million to support infants and toddlers with, or at risk of, developmental delays through Early Steps.
- **\$5.3 million** to improve diagnoses and treatment for HIV, hepatitis C, and syphilis by expanding routine screening in emergency departments.
- **\$2.3 million** to expand access to behavioral health care for children by training pediatricians to provide or refer children to mental health care services through Behavioral Health Hubs.
- **\$1 million** for the <u>Florida Stroke Registry</u>, which is instrumental in helping Florida's health care providers improve stroke care through data utilization and developing and sharing best practices.

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 <u>Public Health Accreditation Board</u>, works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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