FLORIDA POLICY INSTITUTE

Common sense ideas for Florida's future

Report

State Budget Developed in Public, Negotiated in Private, Fails to Address State Needs

The $82.1 billion state budget for Fiscal Year 2017-18 represents a 1 percent increase in a year that funding could have been appropriated to better meet the needs of Floridians. After adjusting for inflation and population growth, the new budget reflects a decrease of 3 percent in support for needed services. Economic growth and prosperity requires a more substantial strategic investment in opportunities for working families.

The budget fails to provide adequate support for economic growth, which would benefit all Floridians. Additionally, the new budget is notable for the lack of transparency and accountability in its development and adoption and for the significant policy changes in conforming bills that were pushed through on a "take it or leave it" basis.

FPI Staff
June 2017

Overview

With the conclusion of special session on June 9, the process for establishing the budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18 budget is complete. This report incorporates legislative action during the regular session, the Governor Rick Scott's vetoes of the original budget and the subsequent budget decisions adopted during special session.

By the end of the regular legislative session, the Florida State Legislature had created a state budget of $82.4 billion for FY 2017-18, an increase of $70 million over the prior year. In education alone, per-student funding for K-12 education increased by $24 (0.34 percent), an insufficient amount to cover retirement and health insurance costs for teachers.

The governor vetoed almost $12 billion in the budget, including $11.5 billion in public school funding. Aside from the public school funding, the vetoes may be categorized as appropriations for:

- A specific public entity that bypassed normal approval procedures
- A specific community that could be funded from local funds
- A specific vendor
- Those for which there is no clear statewide return on investment.

The governor called the Legislature back into session to increase public school funding to at least $100 per student, create a Florida Job Growth Grant Fund and increase funding for Visit Florida. He subsequently added funding for higher education, medical marijuana implementation and funding for the Herbert Hoover Dike at Lake Okeechobee to the issues for consideration during special session.

The Legislature addressed the governor's issues during special session by increasing public school funding by $215 million to reach a per-student increase of $100. The Legislature also appropriated an additional $302 million, two-thirds of which is for economic development purposes. The special session additions will be addressed in their respective budget sections.

Including vetoes and special session appropriations, the FY 2017-18 state budget increases spending by almost $282 million. The $82.1billion total budget represents a 1 percent increase over current year funding. Florida's growing population and aging infrastructure suggest that this increase is insufficient to maintain the quality of life that Floridians deserve. This analysis expands on the summary that the Florida Policy Institute (FPI) released prior to the end of legislative session, providing an in-depth look at the budget.

The adopted budget can best be summarized in the same way that FPI described the FY 2016-17 budget:

"Although most segments of the state budget reflect modest increases for 2016-17, the budget has yet to adequately address recovery from the economic downturn, population growth, or increases commensurate with increases in the cost of living. Education funding increases over the current year but does not keep pace with inflation, and education capital outlay allocations are disproportionately distributed. Additionally, funding for crucial programs such as reimbursements for hospitals who treat the uninsured are significantly reduced."

Total Appropriations/State Workforce

More than 62 percent of the budget is made up of state and federal trust funds. General Revenue funds make up the remaining 38 percent.

The budget includes 112,833 public service positions, a reduction of 584 positions. More than 9,400 positions have been eliminated since the FY 2011-12 budget, despite Florida's growing

population. The reductions in the state workforce limit the state's ability to provide adequate services to Floridians.

In addition to the budget, Senate Bill (SB) 7022 makes sweeping changes to state employment. To the positive, the bill provides a salary increase of $1,000 for each salaried state employee who is paid less than $40,000 per year and $1,400 for each such employee paid $40,000 or more per year. To the negative, the bill could destabilize the foundation for health care and retirement benefits.

SB 7022 revises the current State Group Insurance Program effective July 1, 2020. Instead of the current choice between traditional health insurance coverage or a health maintenance organization (HMO), the bill creates tiered coverage for employees. Four levels of coverage will result in four levels of premium rates. A platinum plan will provide 90 percent coverage; gold will cover 80 percent; silver will cover 70 percent; and bronze will cover 60 percent. If the state contribution to the plan is more than the premium cost, the employee will be able to allocate unused state contributions to other benefits or salary. The unintended consequence is that employees that opt for lower coverage levels to save money risk significant out-of-pocket expenses if they are faced with a major health event.

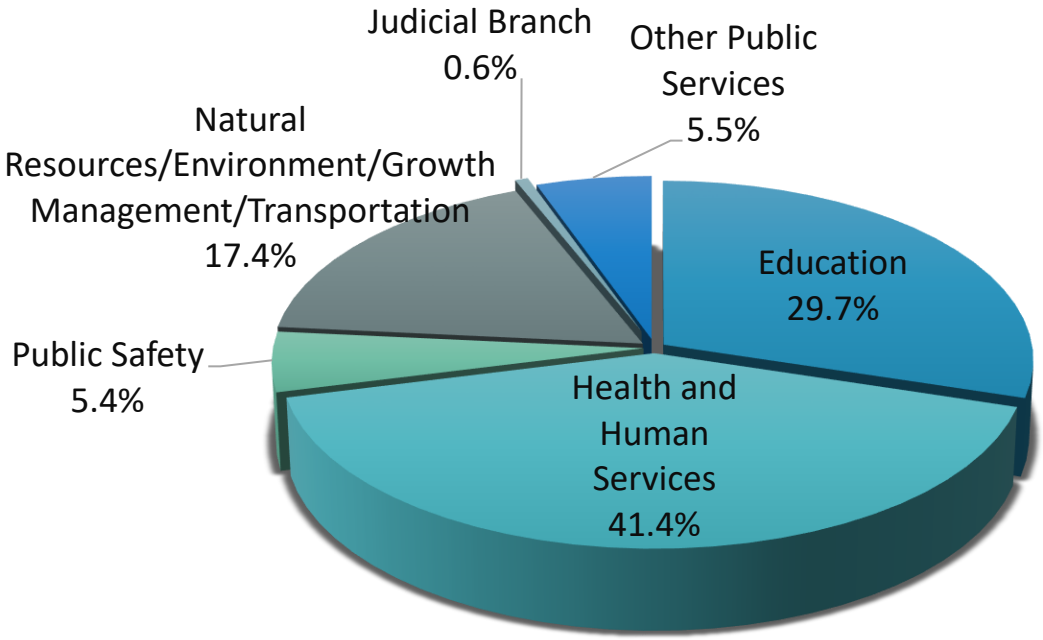
This legislation also changes the default retirement option from the state's defined benefit program to its defined contribution program. Actuarial projections for the ability of the defined benefit to pay its obligations in the future include historical participation rates and their corresponding financial contributions to support the program. While changing the default assignment would not affect the defined contribution program, to the extent that it removes employees that would otherwise be expected to enroll, the policy could destabilize the program's actuarial assumptions and rates of return.

Total Appropriations by Service Area

The largest component of the state budget supports health and human services followed by, in order of magnitude, education, natural resources and transportation, public safety, other public services and the judiciary.

While the budget includes small increases for education and public safety, other areas — health and human services, natural resources and transportation and the judiciary — saw small decreases. Natural resources had the largest decrease in appropriations, at 1.8 percent.

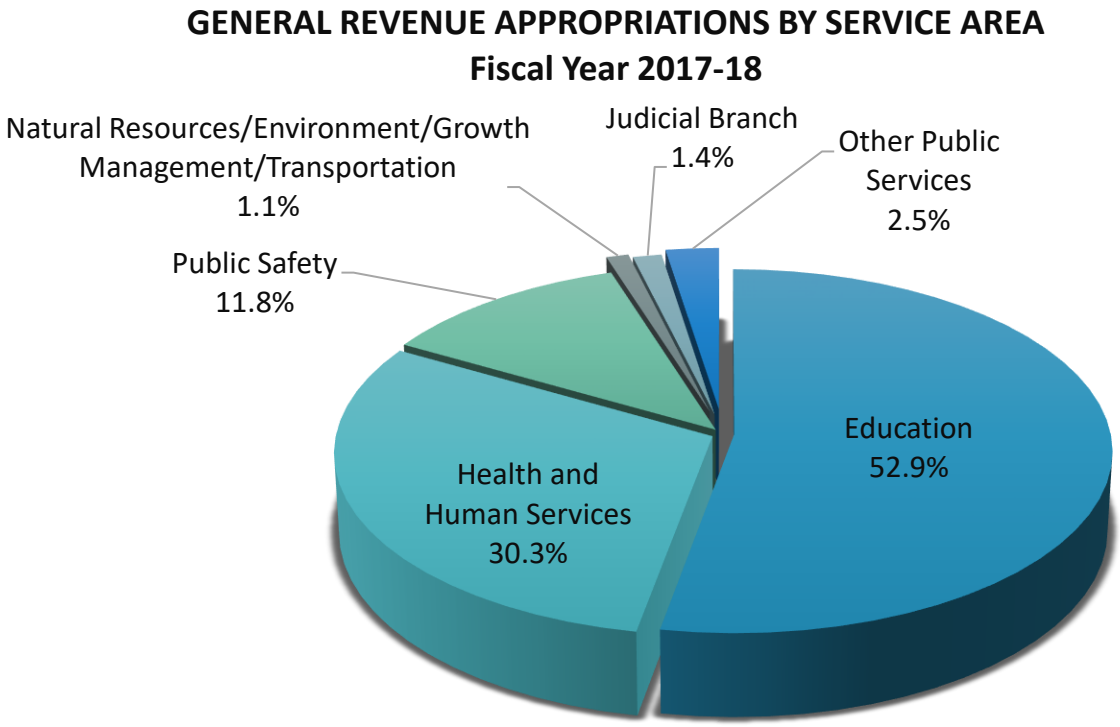
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS BY SERVICE AREA
Fiscal Year 2017-18



Data Source: The Florida Legislature. Conference Report on Senate Bill 2500, Governor Rick Scott Letter to Secretary Kenneth Detzner, June 2, 2017, and House Bills 1-A, 3-A and 8-A.

General Revenue Funds by Service Area

Appropriations from General Revenue total $29.8 billion for the coming fiscal year. The appropriation of General Revenue funds represents the clearest intent of the Legislature, as these funds are unrestricted for state spending purposes. Education has the largest appropriation of the service areas, followed by — in order of magnitude — health and human services, public safety, other public services, the judiciary and natural resources and transportation.



Data Source: The Florida Legislature. Conference Report on Senate Bill 2500, Governor Rick Scott Letter to Secretary Kenneth Detzner, June 2, 2017, and House Bills 1-A, 3-A and 8-A.

Trust Fund Sweeps

In the FY 2017-18 budget, the Legislature swept "unencumbered cash balance amounts" that total $542.3 million from 28 trust funds to General Revenue. Trust funds are earmarked for specific purposes from dedicated sources in statute.

The governor vetoed $94 million of these sweeps, $72 million of which came from one specific economic development trust fund. These funds were subsequently appropriated for economic development purposes when the Legislature reconvened in special session.

Of particular note, s. 201.15, Florida Statutes, designates the funding to be set aside for affordable housing from documentary stamp taxes. The funding projected to be available in FY 2017-18 is $291.4 million. Instead of spending all these funds on their intended purpose, the Legislature appropriated $137 million of the funds for affordable housing and used $154.4 million for other purposes.

The Legislature asserts that it is not bound to appropriate trust funds based on current statute.

In the case of affordable housing alone, each dollar of state investment yields $4 to $6 in short- and long-term returns to the state. Sweeping these funds does not make sense, from neither a policy nor an economic perspective.

Tax Expenditures and the Impact on Revenues

Tax expenditures are exemptions, credits, refunds and deductions authorized by the state that would otherwise be collected from individuals and businesses. Because these funds are not paid to the state or are refunded, they are unavailable to support needed services. The magnitude of tax expenditures in Florida is worth noting.

The projected tax expenditures for FY 2017-18 total almost $20 billion, an increase of more than $2 billion over the current fiscal year. More than half of the increase comes specifically from corporate income tax credits, which increase from $1.4 billion to $2.9 billion. Since 2010, $4 billion in revenue has been removed from state coffers through tax expenditures.

While the Legislature must make expenditures through the state budget every year, it is not required to review tax expenditures after they are enacted. As a result, once the tax expenditure is codified in statute, it is largely forgotten (except by those who directly benefit from the statute).

Tax expenditures are a cause for concern when policymakers project future deficits and respond by cutting budgets without revisiting the tax expenditures that contribute to the shortfall. As the Legislature balances the state budget, it would be wise to revisit the tax expenditures that could be recouped to support state services.

Relying on tax reduction or exemptions to bolster the state economy is a poor substitute for adequately investing in the things central to Florida's economic growth, such as education, adequate infrastructure, affordable housing and access to health care. With a growing population, tax expenditures for the few preclude spending for services that genuinely support Florida's families. Core services cannot be sacrificed for tax breaks.

Tax Reductions Included in the New Budget

The package of tax cuts is much smaller than that proposed by the governor or enacted by the Legislature in prior years. This year's package totals almost $120 million in General Revenue reductions for FY 2017-18 and almost $90 million each year thereafter.

Specifically, the budget includes the following sales tax revisions:

- The sales tax on commercial rent is permanently reduced from 6 percent to 5.8 percent. This reduction results in a recurring tax loss of $54 million per year.

- The back to school tax holiday is reenacted for three days, from August 4 – 6. The

holiday results in a one-time tax loss of almost $27 million.

- The disaster preparedness sales tax holiday is reenacted for three days, from June 2 – 4. The holiday results in a one-time tax loss of almost $3.6 million.

- Specific feminine hygiene products are exempt from sales tax. This exemption results in a recurring loss of $8.9 million.

The Legislature also passed a bill to put a constitutional amendment on the statewide ballot that would increase the homestead exemption for local property taxes from $50,000 to $75,000 on homes valued at $100,000 or more. While the higher exemption would not affect local funds for public schools, the statewide impact is projected to cost local governments $800 million annually, based on current millage rates.

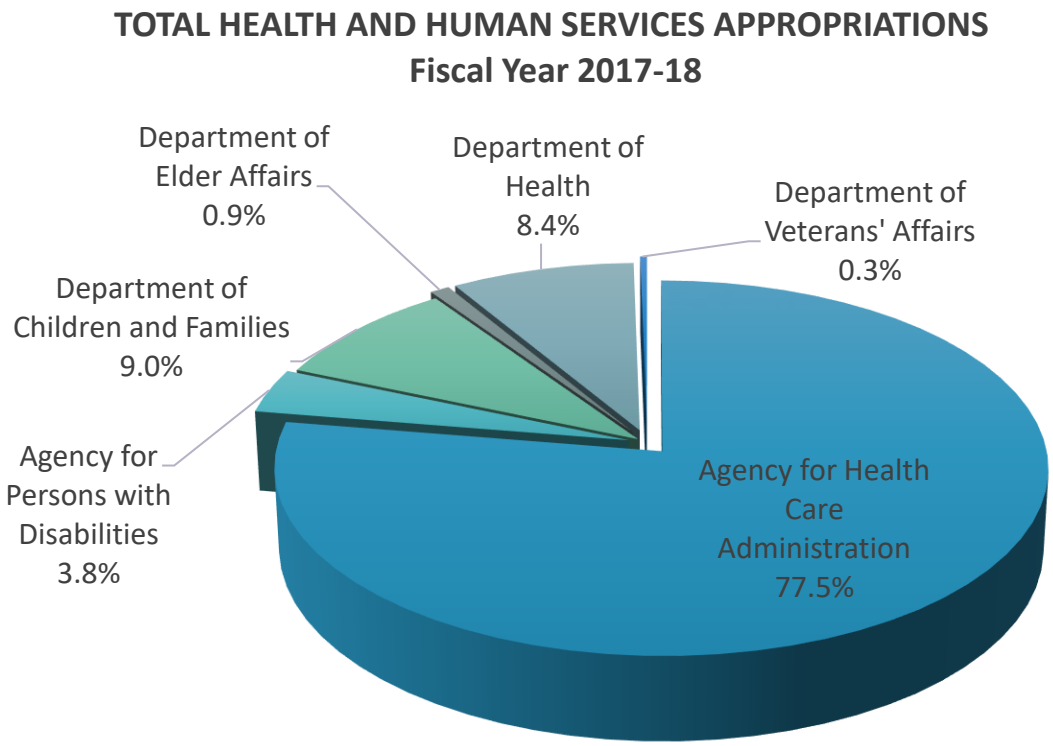
In addition, legislation passed for a second constitutional amendment to permanently retain the current 10 percent cap on millage increases for non-homestead residential property taxes. If the amendment passes, the statewide impact is projected to cost local governments another $430 million.

Health and Human Services

The FY 2017-18 budget includes $34.2 billion, or 41.4 percent, for health and human services to address the health and well-being of children and families, veterans, the elderly and persons with disabilities. The adopted budget represents a decrease of almost $145 million from the current year.

The state's health care appropriations total $29.3 billion, or 36 percent, of the FY 2017-18 budget. Based on the current appropriation, federal funds account for 60 percent of health care funding, while state funds account for the remaining 40 percent.

The distribution of funds in health and human services follows.



Data Source: The Florida Legislature. Conference Report on Senate Bill 2500, Governor Rick Scott Letter to Secretary Kenneth Detzner, June 2, 2017, and House Bill 8-A.

Agency for Health Care Administration

The FY 2017-18 budget includes a $26.4 billion for the Agency for Health Care Administration. This spending level is a decrease of $248 million from the current fiscal year. Notable aspects of the budget include the following:

- The FY 2017-18 budget does not include funding for the Low Income Pool (LIP), which is funded at $600 million in the current year. LIP funds are used to reimburse hospitals that provide uncompensated care services to uninsured and underinsured Floridians. The state is currently in negotiations with the federal government regarding the terms and conditions of the federal funding, but the maximum funding that could result is $1.5 billion ($900 million in federal funding and $600 million in state funding). Once the negotiations are final, the agency will return to the Legislative Budget Commission with an expenditure plan for the Legislature's approval.

- The Legislature cut $521 million from hospitals that provide services to Medicaid recipients. This cut also reflects the expectation that funds will be restored once the negotiations with the federal government are complete and the Legislature approves the expenditure plan.

- Funding for KidCare is increased by $62.3 million to meet increased enrollment eligibility. KidCare provides health insurance coverage to uninsured children whose family income is 200 percent or less of the federal poverty level ($49,000 for a family of four in 2017).

The need to restore funding to the health and human services budget cannot be overemphasized. With health care policies in flux at the federal level, it is crucial that the state continue support for health care access and services. Census data for 2015 reveal that 2.6 million Floridians (13.3 percent) were uninsured.

A thriving Florida starts with a healthy Florida.

Agency for Persons with Disabilities

For FY 2017-18, the total funding for the Agency for Persons with Disabilities is $1.3 billion, a decrease of $24.1 million from the current year.

- Funding for Home and Community Services is increased by almost $14 million over the current year. Moreover, the funding covers the 341 high-priority persons on the waitlist for these services. Funding does not address 20,000 Floridians who are eligible for the services, but who are not assigned to the highest priority categories. Home and Community Services enables persons with developmental disabilities to live in a safe place, perform daily activities and receive needed medical and dental services.

Department of Health

The total FY 2017-18 budget for the Department of Health is $2.9 billion, an increase of $14.8 million over the current year. The budget includes:

- Federal funding of $580.6 million, an increase of $57.8 million, to provide food assistance to low-income Floridians.

- Funding of $72.4 million, an increase of $5 million in federal funds, for the evaluation of young children and early intervention with those found to have special developmental needs.

- Elimination of $10 million and 344 jobs from county health departments; however, the Legislature specifically created 15 positions for epidemiologists who will be distributed throughout the state.

One of the Legislature's reduction strategies is to eliminate positions that have been vacant long-term. County health departments employ a variety of allied health professionals. Finding qualified applicants and providing the conditions that make county health employment attractive can be challenging. As a result, the budget directs the department to conduct a comprehensive workforce analysis regarding the county health departments and report its findings to the Legislature at the end of November.

County health departments are the front-line defense in preventing and containing diseases. They provide primary medical services to low-income Floridians. Adequate staffing for the departments is fundamental to a healthy Florida.

Department of Elder Affairs

The total FY 2017-18 funding for the Department of Elder Affairs is $313.8 million, an increase of $3.6 million over the current year. The funding includes:

- $25 million, an increase of $2.8 million, for the Alzheimer's Disease Initiative. The additional funding will serve almost 250 frail elders waiting for services such as day care, respite, counseling, education and medical equipment and supplies that enable participants to remain in their homes.

- $69.9 million for elderly community care, an increase of $3.5 million. The service enables the elderly to remain in their homes.

To the extent that the state can support independent senior living, the seniors tend to be happier and healthier. In addition, nursing home care is significantly more expensive than assisted care in the senior's home. Such services benefit both the elders and the state, especially as normal population aging and a relatively high inflow of low-income seniors from

out of state will increase the demand for such services within the next decade.

Department of Children and Families

Total funding for the Department of Children and Families (DCF) is $3.2 billion, an increase of $64.9 million over the current year, for FY 2017-18. The funding includes:

- Nominal increases for community-based substance abuse, mental health, family interventions and children's community action services. Florida currently ranks last among the states for per capita mental health funding.

- New federal funding of $27.2 million for community-based services and medication to help opioid addicts achieve and maintain sobriety.

- Nominal increases for family safety and preservation, two-thirds of which is dedicated to child welfare and addressing domestic violence.

- $147.1 million to fund cash assistance for basic necessities to Florida's lowest-income families. This funding represents an $11.8 million decrease from the current year.

Services funded through the DCF are intended to support families in financial or interpersonal crisis. The services provided by the department help stabilize families and provide a variety of supports to restore healthy, productive lives. Withholding funds for these purposes is needlessly punitive and short-sighted for the long term.

Department of Veterans' Affairs

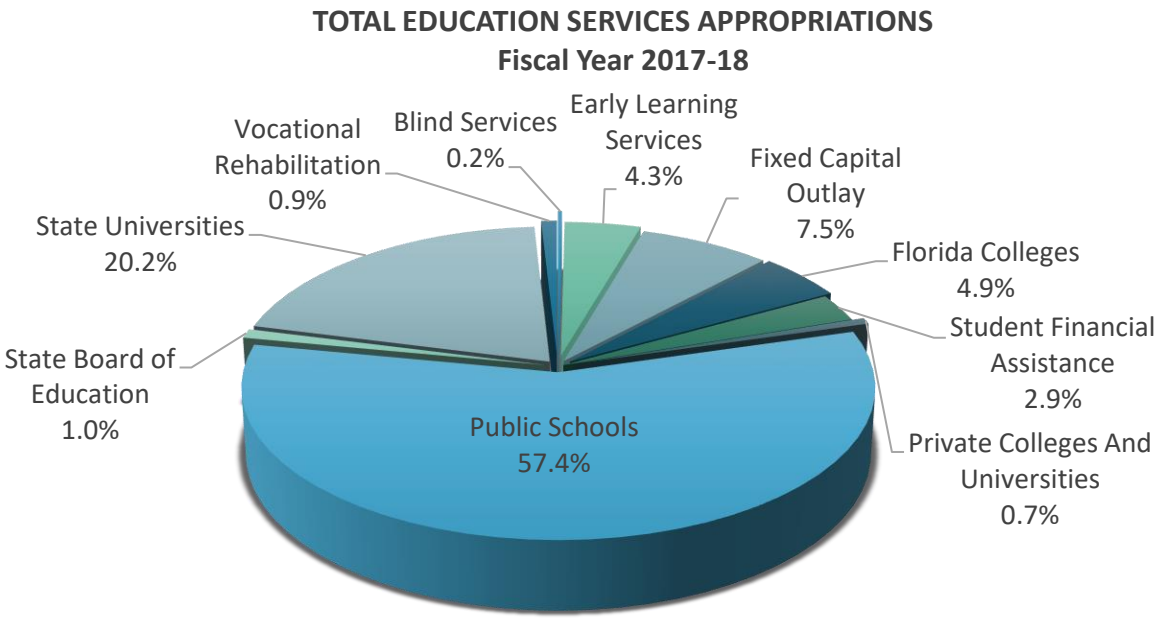
Total funding for the Department of Veterans' Affairs is $149.5 million, an increase of $43.9 million over the current year. Highlights of the funding include:

- $31.9 million to complete construction of a veterans' nursing home in St. Lucie County. This will be the seventh such facility in the state.

- $8.6 million to renovate a former U.S. Navy hospital in Orlando into an eighth veterans' nursing home. The federal government transferred the hospital to the state.

Education

The total FY 2017-18 funding for education is $24.6 billion, an increase of almost $710 million over the current year. The increase primarily accrues to the benefit of state universities through two new programs to increase state university prominence and competitiveness.



Data Source: The Florida Legislature. Conference Report on Senate Bill 2500, Governor Rick Scott Letter to Secretary Kenneth Detzner, June 2, 2017, and House Bills 1-A, 3-A and 8-A.

The noteworthy aspects of the education budget include:

- Total funding for K-12 public schools increased 3.2 percent over the current year to $14.1 billion. Per student funding is $7,296, an increase of $100, or 1.39 percent, over the current year.

- Funding for voluntary prekindergarten (VPK) is $396.8 million, an increase of $1.6 million over the current year. The increase offsets projected enrollment growth, but does not include an increase in the allocation for instruction.

- Funding for public college instruction is almost $973 million, a nominal increase of $17.3 million (2 percent) over the current year.

- Funding for state university instruction is almost $4.1 billion, an increase of $278.7 million (7 percent).

- Funding for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program is $397.3 million, an increase of $180 million over the current year (83 percent). The increase is limited to the highest-level scholars to cover 100 percent of tuition and fees, including summer semester, and $300 each fall and spring semester to offset the cost of textbooks.

The FY 2017-18 funding for public schools is dismal. At $7,296 per student, the funding is still less than the $7,306 per student that the Legislature adopted 10 years ago. Funding would have to increase to $8,577 per student to have same buying power as the FY 2007-08 funding. Fully restoring this funding would require an additional $3.8 billion.

The $100 increase in per student funding required an additional appropriation of $215 million during the special session. Of the $100 increase, $94.65 consists of state funds and $5.35 comes from local property taxes.

Unlike traditional public schools, charter schools fared well in the budget. They had the same level of funding as traditional public schools, $50 million, for building maintenance, repair and renovation. Charter schools represent 15 percent of all public schools.

In separate legislation, House Bill (HB) 7069, $140 million is earmarked for charter schools to serve students who attend persistently failing schools. The bill includes a loan program to help such charter schools get established. It reallocates federal funding for schools that serve low-income students so that it includes charter schools. The bill also ensures that they receive their proportionate share of any discretionary millage levied by a school district.

Additionally, HB 7069 expands the Best and Brightest Teacher Program. It significantly restructures the program to provide $6,000 for highly effective teachers who earned required scores on the SAT or ACT examinations as high school students. For teachers who do have the required examination scores, a highly effective teacher will earn a maximum of a $1,200 bonus and an effective teacher will earn a maximum of $800. The bill also expands the program to include principals. Principals in high-poverty schools that have a high number of Best and Brightest Teachers will earn a bonus of $5,000, while their counterparts in schools that serve more affluent students will earn $4,000. Another part of the bill removes the limits on bonuses for high school teachers whose students perform well in advanced courses. HB 7069 awaits approval by the governor.

While the funding in the budget for the state's voluntary prekindergarten program maintains last year's level, it is worth noting that per-student funding in FY 2007-08 was $240 higher. Funding for prekindergarten should be a high priority for funding restoration.

Total funding for the State University System increased by $213 million (4.5 percent). The increase reflects the Senate leadership's support for university funding as one of its top priorities.

While the budget reflected the Senate's added financial support for state universities, the Governor vetoed almost $138 million in funding for facilities and programs. The Legislature agreed during special session to restore $58 million of the vetoed funds.

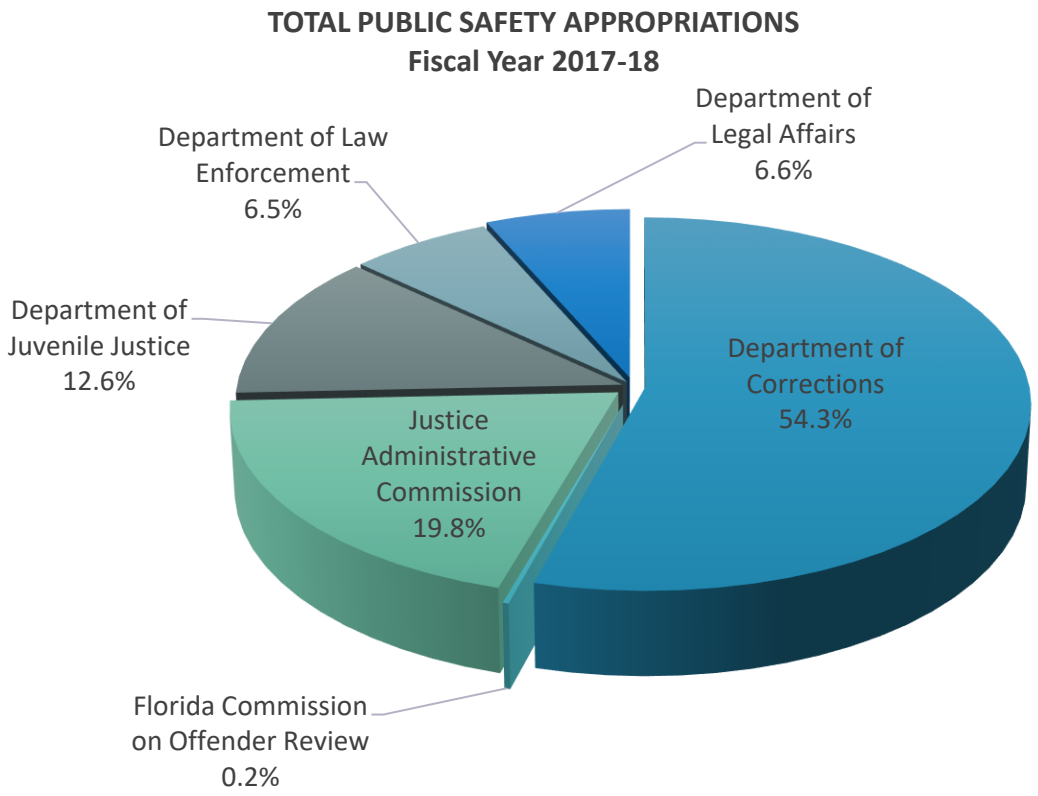
In separate legislation that was subsequently vetoed by the Governor (SB 374), the Legislature sought to create two new programs to improve state university prominence and

competitiveness, and the budget funds a cumulative $500 million for both. One program would have provided a framework for funding preeminent scholars and the research facilities that support such scholarship. The second program would have provided a corresponding framework for enhancing graduate and professional degree programs in medicine, law and business to expand the economic impact of the universities. Funds remain in the budget for both programs, regardless of the veto of the legislation.

In addition to the increases in the Bright Futures Scholarship Program, the Legislature increases funding for the state's primary need-based financial aid program by 77 percent to a total of $277,477,831. The funding for the Florida Student Assistance Grant is increased for students attending state universities, public colleges, technical centers and private colleges and universities. The budget also includes $500,000 for a new grant program for farmworkers and their children who attend college.

Public Safety

The FY 2017-18 budget includes $4.5 billion for services such as corrections, juvenile justice, state attorneys and public defenders. The adopted budget represents an increase of almost $27



Data Source: The Florida Legislature. Conference Report on Senate Bill 2500, Governor Rick Scott Letter to Secretary Kenneth Detzner, June 2, 2017.

million over the current year.

Department of Corrections

Total funding for the Department of Corrections is $2.4 billion, an increase of almost $26 million over the current year. Funding for the department includes:

- Funding for 131 additional mental health professionals. In addition, the budget increases the base salary for correctional officers by $2,500 percent and allows "signing bonuses" of $1,000 for new correctional officers. The department continues to need more than 500 correctional officers in addition to those funded for 2017-18 to be fully staffed.

- An increase of more than $50 million for inmate health services over the current year.

- A decrease of 5 percent in the maintenance and repair budget for correctional facilities from the current year.

Correctional facilities have experienced long-term difficulties in attracting and retaining correctional officers. Current correctional officers work significant overtime, both to meet staffing needs and to increase their take-home pay. Extended periods of working overtime compound job-related stress and lead to burnout. The problem is exacerbated when local employers pay comparable or higher wages for less stressful employment. It remains to be seen whether or not the salary increase will affect turnover.

Funding for facility maintenance, renovation and repair is another long-standing problem for the prison system that is only compounded by the reduction in funding. The list of maintenance issues is long, including issues like fencing in disrepair and perimeter security systems that are outdated and in poor operational condition. Such conditions affect the safety and security of the public, correctional staff and the inmates themselves.

Department of Juvenile Justice

Total funding for the juvenile justice system is $560.7 million for FY 2017-18, an almost $20 million increase over the current year. The most notable movement in the budget is the increasing emphasis on non-secure residential commitment, with decreased funding for secure commitment.

Research indicates that prevention and early intervention is much more effective in deterring repeated juvenile offenses. Moreover, counties vary considerably in the extent to which they employ early intervention in lieu of the judicial system. The Legislature would be well advised to examine the state in light of the disposition of juvenile cases and conclusions of existing research of juvenile justice, and reassess the most effective and efficient use of state funds.

Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Total funding for the Department of Law Enforcement is $291.2 million, a decrease of almost $1 million from the current year. The funding for the department includes:

- A net increase of 60 personnel, with reallocations of personnel in the agency, resulting in an increase of 100 positions within investigative services.
- An increase of $16.1 million, a 20 percent increase over current year funding, for investigative services.
- An increase of $3.1 million, a 5 percent increase over current year funding, for crime lab services. With this funding, the department will continue to reduce the backlog of processing rape kits.

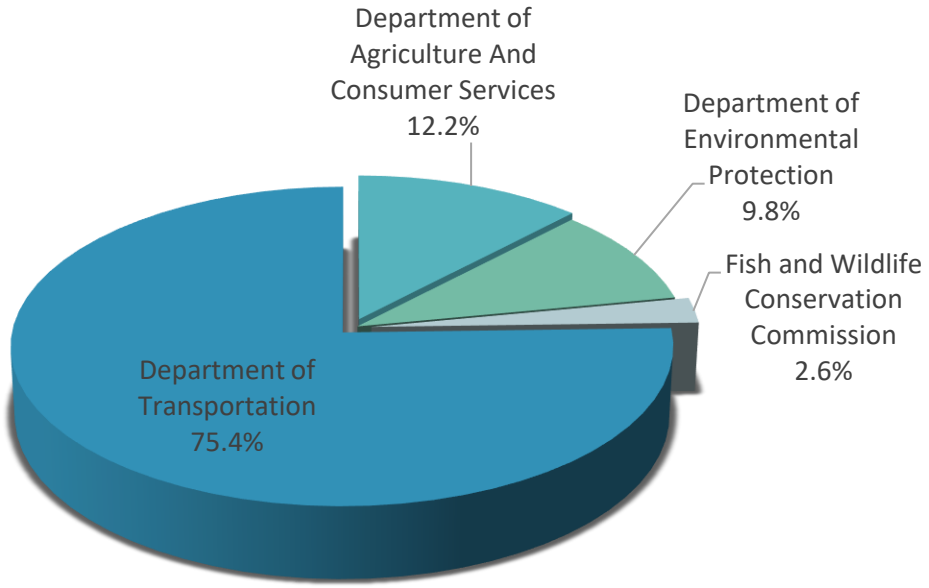
The highest priority for the department was the addition of agents to investigate potential threats of terrorism to the state. This prioritization is reflected in the allocation of resources within the agency.

Natural Resources and Transportation

The total funding for services within natural resources, environmental protection, agriculture and transportation is almost $14.4 billion, a decrease of 1.8 percent from current year funding.

The distribution of funds in these budgets follows.

TOTAL NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT, GROWTH MANAGEMENT AND TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATION
Fiscal Year 2017-18



Data Source: The Florida Legislature. Conference Report on Senate Bill 2500, Governor Rick Scott Letter to Secretary Kenneth Detzner, June 2, 2017, and House Bill 1-A.

Department of Transportation

Total funding for transportation is almost $10.9 billion, a nominal increase over the current year. Notable features of the funding include:

- $307 million for bridge construction, a decrease of almost 60 percent from the current year.
- $314 million for railway development programs, a decrease of almost one-third from the current year.
- $1.3 billion, an increase of more than one-third, for public transit development and right-of-way land acquisition.

The state transportation system is fundamental to the state's economy. Floridians rely on adequate, well-maintained roads to get to and from work on a daily basis. Businesses need the same to move goods and services. Many parts of the state have transportation systems in need of expansion or repair to accommodate growing state needs. The Department of Transportation reports that many urban and inter-regional highways are already heavily congested during peak periods or are expected to be by 2025, despite planned capacity improvements.

Senate Bill 2502 directs the Departments of Transportation and Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to analyze current transportation challenges and how emerging technologies can address those challenges. This analysis is due on January 1, 2018. Based on the results of the analysis, the Department of Transportation is further directed to create the framework for the Florida Smart City Challenge, through which localities will be able to apply for state funds for adoption of emerging technologies that ease current or future traffic congestion.

Department of Environmental Protection

Funding for the Department of Environmental Protection totals $1.4 billion for FY 2017-18, a decrease of almost 19 percent from the current year. This includes:

- An almost 30 percent reduction in water policy and ecosystem restoration funding, from $378 million in the current year to $270 million in FY 2017-18.
- A 44 percent reduction in the State Lands Program, from $304 million in the current year to $169 million in FY 2017-18.
- A $14 million increase over the current year for Everglades restoration, for a total of $203 million in FY 2017-18.
- No funding is expressly appropriated for the Florida Forever Program.

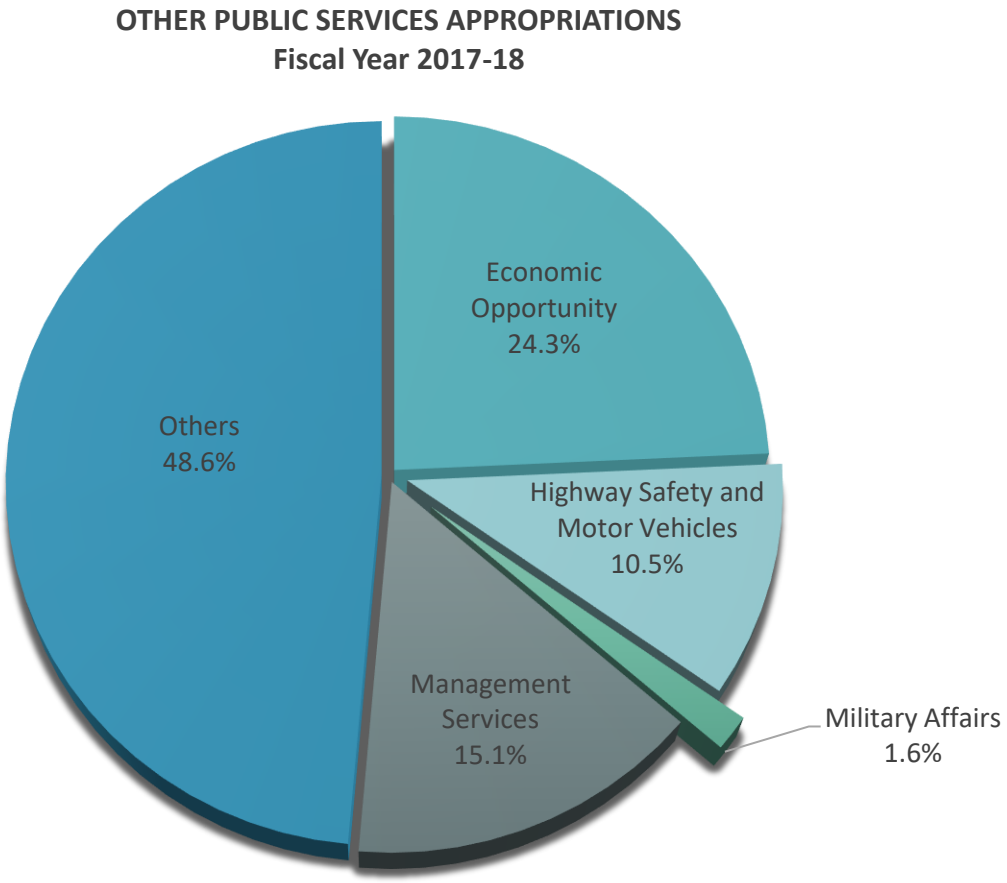
Florida's abundant natural resources are a boon for tourism and a balm for residents. Protecting and preserving the environment is critical to the long-term success of the state. The Legislature provides funding to address the algae bloom crisis of the southeast and southwest coasts. Senate Bill 10 provides $800 million in bonding authority and $64 million in annual repayments for bonds associated with Lake Okeechobee restoration. The majority of the funding is earmarked for land acquisition to provide an additional 300,000 acre feet of water storage south of the lake.

Florida's beaches are the most important natural attraction for tourists. Currently, half of the 407 miles of beaches identified as critically eroded have not been restored or maintained. Although funding increased from $33 million to $50 million for FY 2017-18, budget allocations for beach restoration and nourishment have fallen short by an average of $40 million per year

for the last decade. Each dollar the state invests in its beaches generates $5.40, so the investment more than pays for itself.

Other Public Services

The total funding for other public services totals almost $4.5 billion for FY 2017-18. This funding represents a reduction of one 1 from the current year.



Data Source: The Florida Legislature. Conference Report on Senate Bill 2500, Governor Rick Scott Letter to Secretary Kenneth Detzner, June 2, 2017, and House Bill 1-A**.**

Economic Development

Despite House leadership's support for eliminating Enterprise Florida, the state's economic development arm, and Visit Florida, the state tourism marketing entity, neither was repealed. Both were fiscally constrained and subject to stringent new accountability requirements. In the

case of Enterprise Florida, the regular session funding for economic development contracts was limited to payments for contracts currently executed, but not for new contracts.

During the special session, the Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 1 A, which creates a new Florida Job Growth Grant Fund to support the public infrastructure necessary for local economic recovery, as well as workforce education that yield transferable, sustainable skills consistent with local demand. The legislation also institutes additional accountability and transparency measures through which Enterprise Florida and Visit Florida operate.

HB 1 A includes $85 million for the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund. It also provides $76 million for the operations of Visit Florida. This bill also includes the $50 million appropriation for repair of the Herbert Hoover Dike at Lake Okeechobee.

Funding for affordable housing increased from $200 million to $250 million for FY 2017-18. The Legislature appropriated $137 million, plus $113 million in nonrecurring funds from proceeds of the Affordable Housing Guarantee Program.

The Legislature swept an additional $154 million from trust funds that are specifically earmarked for affordable housing. These funds could have been used to further expand the availability of affordable housing in Florida. State investments in such housing not only benefit hard-working Florida families, they also return $4 - $6 for every $1 invested by the state.

State investments in economic development must generate economic opportunities for all Floridians, rather than a few selected corporations. Investments in state services such as infrastructure, education and health care represent investments in economic development with significantly greater returns than those generated through corporate handouts.

Tables

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS All Funds						
SERVICE AREA	Fiscal Year 2017-18		Fiscal Year 2016-17		Difference	
	Dollars	Percentage	Dollars	Percentage	Dollars	Percentage
Education	24,564,056,305	29.7%	23,856,739,221	29.0%	707,317,084	3.0%
Health and Human Services	34,156,979,211	41.4%	34,313,878,697	41.7%	(156,899,486)	-0.5%
Public Safety	4,466,452,256	5.4%	4,450,619,691	5.4%	15,832,565	0.4%
Natural Resources/Environment/Growth Management/Transportation	14,378,466,349	17.4%	14,636,816,825	17.8%	(258,350,476)	-1.8%
Judicial Branch	513,814,134	0.6%	524,015,884	0.6%	(10,201,750)	-1.9%
Other Public Services	4,514,745,392	5.5%	4,566,820,174	5.5%	(52,074,782)	-1.1%
TOTAL AGENCIES	82,594,513,647	100.0%	82,348,890,492	100%	245,623,155	0.3%

GENERAL REVENUE APPROPRIATIONS						
SERVICE AREA	Fiscal Year 2017-18		Fiscal Year 2016-17		Difference	
	Dollars	Percentage	Dollars	Percentage	Dollars	Percentage
Education	16,406,593,247	52.9%	15,503,875,666	51.2%	902,717,581	5.8%
Health and Human Services	9,406,092,264	30.3%	9,490,868,084	31.3%	(84,775,820)	-0.9%
Public Safety	3,668,618,367	11.8%	3,650,499,075	12.1%	18,119,292	0.5%
Natural Resources/Environment/Growth Management/Transportation	327,178,613	1.1%	383,989,789	1.3%	(56,811,176)	-14.8%
Judicial Branch	422,392,045	1.4%	433,641,675	1.4%	(11,249,630)	-2.6%
Other Public Services	778,907,360	2.5%	818,628,798	2.7%	(39,721,438)	-4.9%
TOTAL AGENCIES	31,009,781,896	100.0%	30,281,503,087	100.0%	728,278,809	2.4%

TOTAL EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS All Funds				
Division/Program	Fiscal Year 2017-18	Fiscal Year 2016-17	Difference	
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percentage
Blind Services	57,059,594	55,082,632	1,976,962	3.6%
Early Learning Services	1,061,486,733	1,052,741,564	8,745,169	0.8%
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,837,964,317	2,077,757,277	(239,792,960)	-11.5%
Florida Colleges	1,215,089,569	1,239,957,210	(24,867,641)	-2.0%
Student Financial Assistance	715,526,129	408,132,111	307,394,018	75.3%
Private Colleges And Universities	160,449,589	156,824,053	3,625,536	2.3%
Public Schools	14,108,173,434	13,667,376,466	440,796,968	3.2%
State Board of Education	236,805,038	240,633,150	(3,828,112)	-1.6%
State Universities	4,954,944,631	4,741,594,087	213,350,544	4.5%
Vocational Rehabilitation	219,097,559	216,640,671	2,456,888	1.1%
TOTAL AGENCIES	**24,566,596,593**	**$23,856,739,221**	**$709,857,372**	**3.0%**

TOTAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS All Funds				
Agency	Fiscal Year 2017-18	Fiscal Year 2016-17	Difference	
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percentage
Agency for Health Care Administration	26,351,938,296	26,599,965,816	(248,027,520)	-0.9%
Agency for Persons with Disabilities	1,286,081,351	1,310,145,573	(24,064,222)	-1.8%
Department of Children and Families	3,153,345,608	3,088,406,047	64,939,561	2.1%
Department of Elder Affairs	313,798,938	310,189,199	3,609,739	1.2%
Department of Health	2,902,306,311	2,887,472,913	14,833,398	0.5%
Department of Veterans' Affairs	149,508,707	105,604,149	43,904,558	41.6%
TOTAL AGENCIES	**$34,156,979,211**	**$34,301,783,697**	**($144,804,486)**	**-0.4%**

TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY APPROPRIATIONS All Funds				
Agency	Fiscal Year 2017-18	Fiscal Year 2016-17	Difference	
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percentage
Department of Corrections	2,424,414,113	2,398,633,502	25,780,611	1.1%
Florida Commission on Offender Review	10,473,815	9,889,679	584,136	5.9%
Justice Administrative Commission	884,211,623	889,702,187	(5,490,564)	-0.6%
Department of Juvenile Justice	560,735,951	540,845,687	19,890,264	3.7%
Department of Law Enforcement	291,188,171	291,901,318	(713,147)	-0.2%
Department of Legal Affairs	295,428,583	308,599,318	(13,170,735)	-4.3%
TOTAL AGENCIES	**$4,466,452,256**	**$4,439,571,691**	**$26,880,565**	**0.6%**

TOTAL NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT, GROWTH MANAGEMENT AND TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATIONS All Funds				
Agency	Fiscal Year 2017-18	Fiscal Year 2016-17	Difference	
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percentage
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	1,751,825,376	1,758,006,280	(6,180,904)	-0.4%
Department of Environmental Protection	1,412,412,521	1,741,228,031	(328,815,510)	-18.9%
Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	367,183,709	379,590,430	(12,406,721)	-3.3%
Department of Transportation	10,847,044,743	10,757,992,084	89,052,659	0.8%
TOTAL AGENCIES	**14,378,466,349**	**14,636,816,825**	**(258,350,476)**	-1.8%

OTHER PUBLIC SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS All Funds				
Agency	Fiscal Year 2017-18	Fiscal Year 2016-17	Difference	
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percentage
Economic Opportunity	1,095,829,824	1,114,375,485	(18,545,661)	-1.7%
Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles	472,195,661	467,342,455	4,853,206	1.0%
Military Affairs	72,099,378	71,858,127	241,251	0.3%
Management Services	679,802,283	700,438,945	(20,636,662)	-2.9%
Others	2,195,118,246	2,212,805,162	(17,686,916)	-0.8%
TOTAL AGENCIES	**$4,515,045,392**	**$4,566,820,174**	**($51,774,782)**	**-1.1%**