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Governor

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Florida Department of Elder Affairs Applauds Governor DeSantis' Florida Leads 2021-2022 Budget for Keeping Seniors First

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Under the leadership of Governor Ron DeSantis, the Florida Leads budget for the Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) includes significant investments that allow seniors to live and age well in their own communities.

"Governor DeSantis continues to put Florida's seniors first," **said DOEA Secretary Richard Prudom**. "He is helping us improve the lives of over 5.5 million adults over the age of 60 in our state by focusing on programs that are innovative and increase access to care for older Floridians. I applaud the Governor for taking steps to keep Florida seniors a top priority and making Florida a place where all people may look forward to living well and aging well."

The Florida Leads budget again places seniors first by demonstrating a continued commitment to care for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD).

"The Governor has maintained an infrastructure that continues to care for the estimated 580,000 Floridians living with Alzheimer's disease," **said Florida Alzheimer's Association Vice President of Public Policy Michelle Branham**. "Services such as Memory Disorder Clinics, home and community-based care, adult day care, and care for family caregivers are all vitally important to assisting families living with any form of dementia."

Additionally, the budget continues strengthening programs to promote the well-being, safety, and independence of Florida's older adults through the Aging Network, which involves 11 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) throughout the state.

"The Governor's budget supports strong partnerships between and among AAAs, our local area providers, and DOEA," **said Elder Options Chief Executive Officer, Kristen Griffis**. "The Governor has bolstered our unified information system and increased access to all Floridians seeking long-term care resources."

The continued investments in the Governor's Florida Leads 2021-2022 budget advance the mission and the vision of DOEA—to help all Floridians live well and remain independent—and ensure Floridians in all communities and life stages have opportunities to achieve healthier outcomes and societal contributions.

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About the Florida Department of Elder Affairs

The Florida Department of Elder Affairs, the State Unit on Aging, helps Florida's elders to remain healthy, safe, and independent. The Department provides most direct services through its Division of Statewide Community-Based Services, which works through the state's 11 Area Agencies on Aging and local service providers to deliver essential services to a vital segment of the population. For more information, please visit www.elderaffairs.org.