

## 2017 Florida Budget Concerns

- The Florida Senate is proposing an \$83.2 billion budget for the next fiscal year that begins July 1, 2017, about \$1.9 billion more than the Florida House proposal.

### Reduced Funding for Memory Clinics

- Protect and continue funding for Florida Memory Disorder Clinics as defined in Florida Status 430.502. Proposed budget funding was restored for some of the Memory Clinics with nonrecurring funding.
- Florida is #2 in the nation for residents over the age of 65 with Alzheimer's disease.
- By 2025, the **State of Florida is predicted to have a 41% increase in Alzheimer's disease rates.** The economic impact of this disease will be overwhelming.
- People who receive **active (and early) medical care** and caregivers who receive appropriate supportive services **reduces premature institutionalization and saves tax dollars.**
- **In the last fiscal year alone, the Memory Disorder Clinics of Florida:**
  - ◊ Completed 9,810 medical memory evaluations, saw 4,745 new patients, with 16,569 office visits made by patients and their caregivers.
  - ◊ Evaluated 7,006 people with dementia, accompanied by 2,977 family/significant others.
  - ◊ 26,739 referrals were made to medical or community services for patients and families.

### Reduction in Food Stamp Eligibility (HB581)

- HB 581 limits eligibility for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to families that earn less than 130 percent of the federal poverty limit or \$2,633 a month for a family of four. Effective for all initial application and recertification for SNAP benefits after January 1, 2018.
- The average person who receives SNAP earns \$2,000 a year and often times SNAP is the only form of government assistance eligible to them.
- DCF estimates that at least 229,311 (6.8%) of SNAP recipients will no longer be eligible based on the income and asset limit changes; the largest group of recipients affected would be children, with at least 157,078, or 8.5% of all children receiving SNAP losing eligibility. Additionally, 2,257 or 3.4% of able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) would lose eligibility and 44,337 or 5.2% of people who are elderly or with a disability SNAP recipients would lose eligibility.
- These numbers could be higher because DCF does not currently collect asset information for all recipients, and these numbers are only for those recipients for whom DCF has asset information. The bill also requires DCF to contract with a vendor to provide verification of liquid assets to address possible errors or fraud.

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### Cuts in Medicaid Funding To Hospitals

- ▶ The Florida House and Senate are planning big cuts to Florida hospitals and those groups say it will hurt medical care access for the poor and disabled.
- ▶ Many Florida hospitals serve people who are uninsured or on Medicaid. They get reimbursed in a variety of ways, including a base rate reimbursement, Medicaid enhancement payments and help absorbing uncompensated care. The state and federal government pay a certain rate for services for people on Medicaid, but it's less than the actual cost of services.
- ▶ The Florida House is proposing cutting the base Medicaid rate by 7 percent, which means:
  - ◊ Florida hospitals will get paid less for patients on Medicaid.
  - ◊ Florida hospitals will also get less federal matching funds, so hospitals may see a \$622 million loss next year.
  - ◊ Florida hospitals could be forced to offer fewer services or pass more of the cost onto people with private insurance.
- ▶ The Senate isn't proposing a rate reduction, but it is considering cutting Medicaid supplemental payments by \$99 million or a \$258 million loss with a federal match. The House also wants to trim \$477 million in supplemental payments to hospitals.
- ▶ Florida has supplemental funding programs for hospitals, physicians, and other Medicaid providers to ensure access to hospital inpatient and specialty care.
- ▶ A Florida Hospital Association survey, conducted by Public Opinion Strategies from March 1 through March 5, found 45 percent of Floridians said they would like to see Medicaid funding increased, while 29 percent said they believe state funding should stay the same. Just 8 percent said funding for the programs should be decreased.
- ▶ When respondents were asked about a few specific areas the Legislature will be spending money on this year, 61 percent of Floridians said the state should increase funding for Medicaid.

