



The Arrington Articles

Session Recap

Hello <<First Name>>,

As of June 16th, the Florida Legislature officially concluded the 2025 legislative session by passing the 2025-2026 budget. I am proud to announce that we secured over **\$13 million dollars** across **18 different projects** that will benefit Central Floridians. These projects will improve our roadways, increases services for at-risk seniors, provide necessary support to our veterans and victims of human trafficking, and clean our vital water ways. Below is a deep dive into these 18 projects and an overview of the budget!

If you would like to read the final budget, please click [HERE](#). As a reminder, the Governor has the power to line-item veto before signing the budget into law.

Para Español

Community Projects Sponsored

Economic Development Projects

- [Cross Prairie Parkway Connector](#) -- **\$6,000,000**
 - This project will provide traffic relief and improved public safety by establishing an alternate north-south route for motorists in the City of St. Cloud and southern Osceola County.
- [Columbia Avenue Corridor Improvement Project](#) -- **\$500,000**
 - This project will expand and resurface improve 2.3 miles of busy roadway.
- [St. Cloud Hopkins Park Community Center](#) -- **\$500,000**
 - This project provides funds to promote better student performance and community safety.

Conservation Projects

- [North Lake Toho Vegetation Reduction Project](#) -- **\$1,300,000**
 - This project will treat approximately 100-acres of invasive vegetation on the lake, improving storm drainage.
- [Hubbs SeaWorld Research Institute Indian River Lagoon Restorative Aquaculture Station Enhancements](#) -- **\$964,700**
 - This project will enhance the restoration of critical habitats in the Indian River Lagoon.

Health and Human Services

- [City of Kissimmee Community Engagement Services Pilot](#) -- **\$200,000**
 - Funds from this project are dedicated to a Community Engagement Unit in the City of Kissimmee, designed to assist individuals encountered in difficult, high-risk situations.
- [The Transition House Homeless Veterans Program – Osceola](#) -- **\$400,000**

- This project will provide substance use treatment services specifically dedicated to homeless Veterans who are not currently receiving VA benefits.
- [Central Florida Mobile Diaper Distribution Project](#) -- **\$185,000**
 - This project aims to ensure the health of infants and toddlers and stabilize family households' economic self-sufficiency through the consistent distribution of diapers and essential hygiene resources.
- [Lilly's Warrior Project for Pediatric Patients](#) -- **\$50,000**
 - These funds will support pediatric patients in Central Florida and nearby counties.
- [Came to Believe Recovery Addiction Recovery Pilot Program](#) -- **\$500,000**
 - This project will fund Came to Believe Recovery, which aims to conduct recovery retreats throughout Florida. This will support individuals in need of hope and a plan for an addiction-free future.
- [Jack and Lee Rosen Jewish Community Center – Senior Center](#) -- **\$600,000**
 - This project will use these funds to provide a broad range of programs to support the physical, mental, and social well-being of seniors in our community.
- [Samaritan Village Transitional Safehouse Program for Survivors of Human Trafficking](#) - **\$160,785**
 - This project will expand mental health services, including the addition of a full-time licensed therapist with specialization in trafficking and complex trauma.

Storm Preparedness / Disaster Prevention

- [City of St. Cloud Stormwater Dam System](#) -- **\$300,000**

- The funds requested for this project are for the purchase and rapid deployment of a stormwater management dam during heavy rain events.
- North Kissimmee Stormwater Improvements -- **\$500,000**
 - This project aims to reduce flooding risks for residents that are located within the 100-year floodplain from displacement and storm damage.
- St. Cloud Fire Rescue Boat -- **\$170,000**
 - This project is for the purchase of an emergency response boat for the St. Cloud Fire Rescue Department.

Education

- Explicit Instruction for Emergent Bilingual Students - Osceola County -- **\$500,000**
 - The purpose of this funding is to support emergent bilingual students in language acquisition.
- Junior Achievement of Central Florida Innovation Center Equipment -- **\$400,015**
 - This project will establish an Innovation Center in Lake Nona and offer the JA BizTown program to 30,000 5th-grade students enrolled annually in Orange County Public Schools.
- University of Central Florida - Center for the Study of Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery -- **\$500,000**
 - This project will create an advanced, scalable, and effective AI-based monitoring tool for law enforcement to combat human trafficking activity by monitoring and analyzing buyers' on-line search behaviors.

Budget Highlights

Check out some other wins that were secured in the budget below!

Total Budget: **115.1 billion dollars**

Pay **increases** for: firefighters, law enforcement, state employees

Education

- Early Learning Total: \$1.6 billion
 - Partnerships for School Readiness - \$34.2 million
 - School Readiness Program - \$42 million **increase**
 - Voluntary Prekindergarten Program - \$431.4 million
- Public Schools Total: \$29.6 billion
 - FEFP Total Funds increase is \$945.2 million or 3.31 percent
 - FEFP increase in Total Funds per Student served by a district is \$142.74, a **1.59 percent increase** (from \$8,987.67 to \$9,130.41)
 - Base Student Allocation (BSA) **increase of \$41.62 or 0.78 percent**
 - Required Local Effort (RLE) **increase of \$529.7 million**; RLE millage maintained at prior year level of 3.087 mills.
- School District Workforce Total: \$771.5 million
 - Workforce Development - \$467.4 million
 - Workload Increase - 18 million
 - Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program for apprenticeships - \$20 million
- Student Financial Aid Total: \$1.08 billion
 - Bright Futures - \$637.7 million
 - Workload increase - \$20.8 million
 - Benacquisto Scholarship Program - \$38.1 million
 - Children/Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans - \$29.1 million

- Workload **increase** - \$7.6 million
- Florida First Responder Scholarship Program - \$10 million
- Open Door Grant Program - \$35 million
- Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Scholarship - \$7 million

Health and Human Services

- Total: \$47.6 billion
 - Fully Fund Florida's Medicaid and KidCare Programs - \$35.6 billion
 - Individuals with Developmental Disabilities Pilot Program - \$44.2 million
- Department of Veterans Affairs Total: \$239.9 million

Criminal and Civil Justice

- Total: \$7.6 billion
- Salary Increases for Law Enforcement Officers of Fiscally Constrained Counties - \$5 million
- Department of Justice
 - Florida Scholars Academy - \$2.4 million
 - Pace Center for Girls - \$2.4 million

Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development

- Total: \$17.9 billion
- Department of Commerce
 - Hometown Heroes Housing Program - \$50 million GR
 - State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program - \$163.8 million
 - Affordable Housing (SAIL) Program - \$71.2 million

- Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Total: 623.9 million
 - Additional Equipment for the Florida Highway Patrol - \$4.3 million
- Department of Military Affairs Total: 130.7 million
 - Florida State Guard
 - Training and Recruitment Resources - \$5.8 million
 - Operating Expenses - \$25.7 million
- Department of State
 - Cultural and Museum Program Support Grants - \$20.8 million
- Department of Transportation
 - Transportation Work Program - \$13.8 billion

Agriculture, Environment and General Government

- Total: \$9.7 billion
- Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
 - Feeding Programs - \$53.7 million
- Department of Citrus Total: \$35.2 million
- Department of Environmental Protection
 - Everglades Restoration - \$691.5 million
 - Water Quality Improvements - \$675.2 million
 - Flood and Sea-Level Rise and Planning Grant Programs - \$170 million
 - Apalachicola Bay Area of Critical State Concern - \$5 million
 - Beach Management Funding Assistance - \$53 million
 - State and Local Parks - \$28.2 million
- Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Total: \$569 million
- Department of Financial Services
 - My Safe Florida Home Program - \$280.0 million

Pride Month



Current Design Concept of the Future Pulse Memorial.

This June marks nine years since the heartbreaking tragedy at Pulse nightclub in Orlando, where 49 lives were taken in an act of hate. We pause to remember the victims, honor the survivors, and stand in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community.

As we reflect on the lives lost and the strength of those impacted, we also look ahead with hope. Plans for the Pulse Memorial are moving forward, ensuring that this space becomes a permanent place of remembrance, reflection, and education.

Helpful Links

Visit www.flsenate.gov to “find your Senator” and to sign up for alerts on specific legislation, committees, senators, or keywords.

To view our Legislative page which includes our office contact information, sponsored legislation, along with the committees I serve on: <https://bit.ly/Arrington25>

Don't forget to sign up for our email updates: [Here](#)

Follow on all social channels [@Arrington4fl](#)

Watch committees or legislative session live or afterwards at www.TheFloridaChannel.org



It is an honor to serve as your voice in Tallahassee. Thank you for the privilege of representing Central Florida. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out to our office — we are here to help.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Kristen Arrington".

Senator Kristen Arrington

