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Florida Department of Elder Affairs Secretary Richard Prudom Releases Statement on Governor DeSantis' Signing of the Bold Vision for a Brighter Future Budget

TALLAHASSEE – Today, Governor Ron DeSantis' signed the 2019-20 "Bold Vision for a Brighter Future" budget, which includes increases in funding to support Florida seniors and their families.

"Governor DeSantis is taking Florida to the next level with his commitment to Florida seniors," said Richard Prudom, Secretary for the Florida Department of Elder Affairs. "In less than six months, he has helped us to implement tangible improvements for older Floridians, demonstrated his serious commitment to improving the lives of families affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and has boldly led Florida to achieve the Age-Friendly State designation – only the fourth in the nation. I commend the Governor for walking the walk with his leadership and for taking immediate and meaningful action for Florida seniors and their families."

The Bold Vision for a Brighter Future Budget includes the following funding increases:

- \$3.1 million to provide services for additional elders with Alzheimer's disease and relief for their caregivers through the Alzheimer's Disease Initiative (ADI);
- \$2.1 million for home and community-based services for more seniors at risk for nursing home placement through the Community Care for the Elderly Program (CCE);
- \$2.9 million to improve the Department's client assessment processes and technology, including replacement of the decades-old Client Information and Registration Tracking System (CIRTS); and
- \$2.4 million for the Office of Public and Professional Guardians (OPPG) to serve more Floridians in need of public guardianship

For more information about the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, visit www.elderaffairs.org.

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The Department of Elder Affairs, the State Unit on Aging, helps Florida's elders to remain healthy, safe, and independent. For more information, please visit elderaffairs.org

