

FY 2018-19 Budget continued.....

\$101 million for the Florida Forever land buying program.....the largest financial commitment to the program since the state budget was undermined by the last recession.

The final budget “swept” \$185 million from the Sadowski (affordable housing) Trust Fund leaving \$109 million for housing purposes.

As for health care, it includes a \$130 million increase in Medicaid funding for nursing home rates as well as an agreement to add \$319 million in Medicaid funding for “safety-net hospitals”. The House was adamant in maintaining funding for safety-net facilities but later, the House and Senate reached an agreement on how to reimburse hospitals for treating low income and uninsured patients.

It includes a \$121 million increase as part of the permanent expansion of the Bright Futures scholarship program that will provide more financial aid to more than 90,000 students attending state universities and colleges (see [S 4](#) – Higher Education).

The budget is en route to the Governor. He can sign it or veto it or “line-item” specific projects.