

From: Governor's Press Office [Governor'sPressOffice@eog.myflorida.com]
Sent: 11/2/2017 4:40:03 PM
Subject: Gov. Scott Proposes \$10 Million Investment for DCF to Keep Children Safe



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 2, 2017

CONTACT: GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE
(850) 717-9282
media@eog.myflorida.com

Gov. Scott Proposes \$10 Million Investment for DCF to Keep Children Safe

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Today, Governor Rick Scott announced he will propose a more than \$10 million investment for an additional 130 Child Protective Investigator (CPI) positions and Florida Abuse Hotline counselors within the Florida Department of Children and Families. This investment will address retention and workload statewide as these individuals continue to focus on keeping vulnerable children safe. Under Governor Scott, the number of CPIs has increased by nearly 300 and the number of Florida Abuse Hotline counselors has increased by nearly 50. In 2012, Governor Scott approved a pay raise for child protective investigators which increased pay by more than \$3,700 per employee.

Governor Scott said, "Every child deserves a bright future and we must do everything we can to ensure all children are given the best opportunity to live happy, healthy lives. Florida's Child Protective Investigators and Florida Abuse Hotline counselors tirelessly work to protect children all across our state, and I am proud to announce this \$10 million investment in DCF to help with workload and retention. I look forward to working with the Legislature to support this funding as we continue to work together to keep vulnerable children safe."

DCF Secretary Mike Carroll said, "The Florida Abuse Hotline is the first and most essential step in the process of protecting the vulnerable and additional resources will allow DCF to continue to make thorough and informed assessments to ensure child safety while providing even better customer service. The job of child protective investigators is another critical element in maintaining the safety of Florida's children and it is never an easy one. Additional investigators will allow DCF to keep caseloads low so that investigators have the time and resources they need to make the best decisions possible in the interest of the children we serve."

More details on the Governor's proposed budget will be made available in the coming weeks.

###