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Governor Hobbs Unveils FY2027 Executive Budget Recommendations

Including Funding for Key DES Initiatives

PHOENIX - (January 16, 2026) Today, Governor Hobbs released her FY 2027 Executive Budget, which includes critical funding for the Department of Economic Security (DES) and their ongoing efforts to help individuals overcome obstacles, access meaningful employment, and establish a stable foundation for the future. This proposed investment exemplifies her dedication to the well-being of Arizona's communities.

“The Governor’s Executive Budget marks a pivotal advancement in reinforcing Arizona’s economic framework and fostering a sustainable, affordable future for individuals and families throughout the state,” stated DES Director Michael Wisehart. “By making strategic investments in system modernization and essential programs, the budget reinforces DES’s mission to strengthen individuals, families, and communities for a better quality of life.”

Key DES Initiatives Funded in the Budget Proposal:

- **\$44.83 million for Child Care Assistance.** DES will continue to provide access to care in quality learning environments for approximately 25,000 children while their parents work. These critical resources help support the network of nearly 1,700 certified homes and licensed centers across the state.
- **\$30 million for Power AZ, expanding Utility Bill Assistance across FY2026 and 2027.** DES will administer a new utility assistance program to help families manage energy costs and support working people in our state struggling to make ends meet.
- **\$1.8 million for SUNBucks.** DES will continue its support for Arizona’s school-aged children by providing nutrition benefits during the summer months when schools are closed. For every Arizona dollar invested, DES will receive 44 federal dollars, increasing our ability to support children’s nutrition during the gap between school years.

Additionally, DES appreciates the Governor's commitment to sustaining current funding for the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and Adult Protective Services (APS). The proposed funding for DDD will ensure that its vulnerable population of over 63,000 individuals continues to receive medically essential services, and the \$11.5 million investment into APS will support victims and survivors of crime and allow the program to continue providing vital assistance.

These initiatives represent more than budget allocations; they are investments aimed at making Arizona more affordable, preserving quality of life, and creating an efficient and effective government. Ultimately, the Governor's FY 2027 Budget promises a stronger, more connected Arizona.