

**From:** [Arellano, Joey](#)  
**To:** [FLHouseDems](#)  
**Subject:** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Rep. Gantt Responds to DeSantis' Budget Vetoes  
**Date:** Thursday, June 15, 2023 4:57:14 PM

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June 15, 2023

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## **Freshman Representative Gantt Responds to DeSantis' Budget Vetoes**

**MIAMI – Representative Ashley V. Gantt (D-Miami)** returns home from the 2023 Legislative Session after completing her first Legislative Session as a legislator. House District 109 includes the parts of the City of Miami, the City of Opa-Locka, Downtown, Brownsville, Liberty City, Overtown, and Allapattah.

**Representative Gantt** sponsored \$1.3 million in the state's annual budget for community improvements in Miami-Dade County. The projects that were originally included in the budget were:

- **New Horizons After School and Weekend Rehabilitative Program** in the amount of \$500,000.
- **B. Wright Community Underserved Leadership STEAM Program** in the amount of \$100,000 (vetoed).
- **Florida Green Jobs Youth Initiative** in the amount of \$250,000 (vetoed).
- **City of Opa-Locka Senior Programming** in the amount of \$500,000 (vetoed).

“While serving in a super-minority legislature, I remained committed to being the voice for my community to fight for legislation to address pressing issues like gun safety, the state's crippling housing crisis, and public education. This session brought the most repressive legislation attacking Floridians across party lines passed in decades to our state, yet the fight for equality continues,” said **Representative Gantt**. “I am truly proud to pass two pieces of legislation and secure approximately \$1.3 million dollars in the budget for the Governor's approval. Despite bipartisan support in the Legislature, Governor DeSantis vetoed three out of four appropriations projects: a senior citizens programming, a leadership and STEM education program, and a green jobs initiative program. A clear message has been received, Black Floridians suffer under this Governor's administration due to partisan political theatre. The Governor vetoing a majority of Democrats' projects is an indication that he does not understand the concept of serving all Floridians, even in blue districts. Americans everywhere are on notice that he is incapable of doing what is right for those he serves when you dare speak out against his archaic and repressive policies.”

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