

# 2016 FLORIDA UNITED WAYS CONSENSUS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

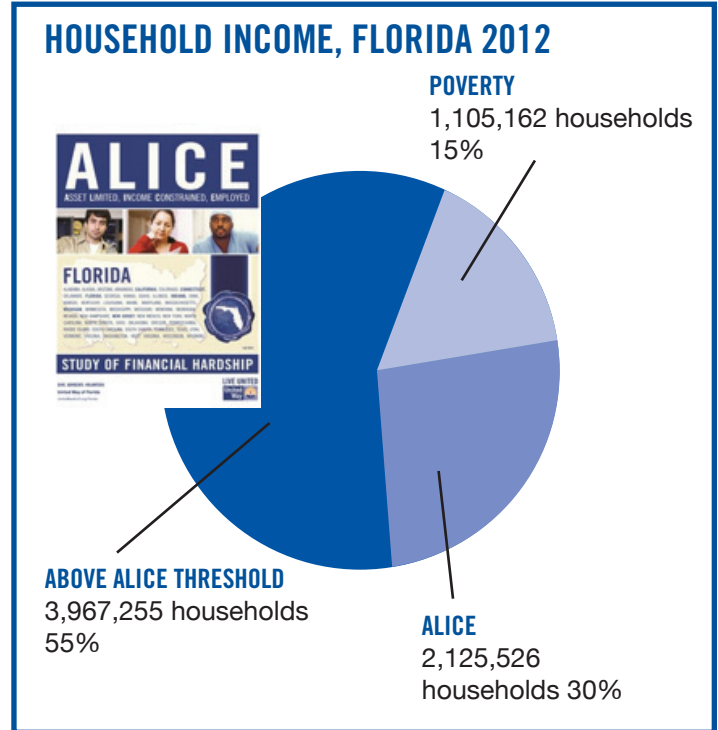
## ALICE: ASSET LIMITED, INCOME CONSTRAINED, EMPLOYED

Last year, Florida's United Ways released a report on ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) documenting the true scope of financial hardship in Florida. It found that while 15 percent of Florida households fall beneath the poverty line, an additional 30 percent experience severe financial strain despite being active in the labor force.

ALICE households are often just one emergency away from falling into poverty.

United Way's policy agenda calls attention to the challenges ALICE families - our friends, neighbors, co-workers and family members - face in Florida.

Drawing from research in the ALICE Report and from the work of nonprofit, business, and government leaders, Florida's United Ways developed a consensus legislative agenda for the 2016 Florida Legislature to help working families and individuals who struggle to pay for their basic necessities.



### FINANCIAL STABILITY

The average EITC tax refund is worth almost **half the annual food budget** of an ALICE family.

### EDUCATION

Throughout Florida the least expensive **childcare costs more than rent** for a 2-bedroom apartment

### HEALTH

**38% of ALICE** households go without health care just to make ends meet.

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## Policy Recommendations



### FINANCIAL STABILITY

INVEST \$1.2 million in state funding to expand the capacity of free tax preparation and financial education programs.



### EDUCATION

LINK School Readiness provider payments to early learning quality standards and the actual cost of providing quality care.

INCREASE School Readiness funding by \$30 million.

RESTORE funding for Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten program to the pre-recession (2007) level of \$2,677 per child.

EXPAND access to early detection and treatment of developmental delays and disabilities by appropriating \$4 million to Help Me Grow.



### HEALTH

APPROPRIATE \$1.1 million in state funds to eliminate the KidCare five-year waiting eligibility requirement for lawfully residing immigrant children.

MAXIMIZE home- and community-based services for older adults to reduce nursing home costs.

REMOVE barriers to technologies that reduce costs and increase access to healthcare.

ADOPT a bipartisan 'Florida plan' to expand health coverage for uninsured Floridians.