FLORIDA ALICE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

In 2014, the United Way’s groundbreaking Florida ALICE Report put a disturbing new spotlight on workers who collectively form the backbone of Florida’s economy. ALICE is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. “Employed” is the critical word. ALICE represents households that have incomes above the Federal Poverty Limit, but consistently struggle to afford basic needs, such as housing, food, healthcare, child care, and transportation.

Of Florida’s 7.8 million households, 13% (1.0 million) lived in poverty in 2018 and another 33% (2.6 million) percent were ALICE, including nearly 60% of Florida’s black and brown families. These numbers have skyrocketed during the COVID-19 pandemic. ALICE families live on the brink of financial disaster every day; just one car breakdown, medical emergency, or other unanticipated expense away from falling into poverty.

Between 2010 and 2018 basic household expenses increased by 20% for a Florida family of four while median wages increased 13%.

The “ALICE Threshold” is the conservative cost, calculated by county and statewide, of the six basic necessities for a household to survive: housing, transportation, child care, health care, food, and technology.

Florida United Way 2020 Consensus Legislative Agenda provides policy makers opportunities to help ALICE become more financially stable and self-sufficient; opportunities that will improve the quality of life and the economy for all of us in the Sunshine State.

For additional information, please contact The United Way of Florida at (850) 488-8287 • uwof.org
FINANCIAL STABILITY

**Support**
- **INCREASE** access to affordable housing by appropriating all Sadowski Housing Trust Funds for their intended purpose
- **SUPPORT** keeping Floridians in their homes and mitigating the long-term impact facing people who are evicted from their homes
- **CAPITALIZE** on opportunities to enhance Florida workforce development activities and initiatives

QUALITY EARLY LEARNING

**Priority**
- **IMPROVE** transparency, accountability, and performance of the state’s early learning programs (School Readiness and Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten), thus benefiting those who fall within the ALICE population, with a focus on equitable outcomes for children

**Support**
- **INCREASE** professional development opportunities and incentives for early learning educators including Pre-Kindergarten Instructors and School Readiness teachers and providers
- **EXPAND** access to family support services that link families to local resources

ENSURING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

**Support**
- **IMPROVE** access to affordable healthcare for Floridians, with a focus on vulnerable low-income populations.
- **MAINTAIN** targeted funding for prevention and treatment services for all behavioral health services
- **MAXIMIZE** home and community-based services for older adults to reduce nursing home costs and waitlists

SUPPORTING FLORIDA’S VETERANS

**Priority**
- **SUPPORT** a MISSION UNITED initiative to enhance system navigation utilizing peer support to ensure every Veteran and their family that needs assistance has an in-person contact that they can utilize to access services beyond the referral process to align with the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs

**Support**
- **SUPPORT** recommendations of the 2019 FDVA Forward March report to reinforce best practices, reduce redundancies and implement solutions to fill gaps