

# FLORIDA ALICE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



**46%** of Florida households struggle to afford the basic necessities of housing, child care, food, technology, health care and transportation.

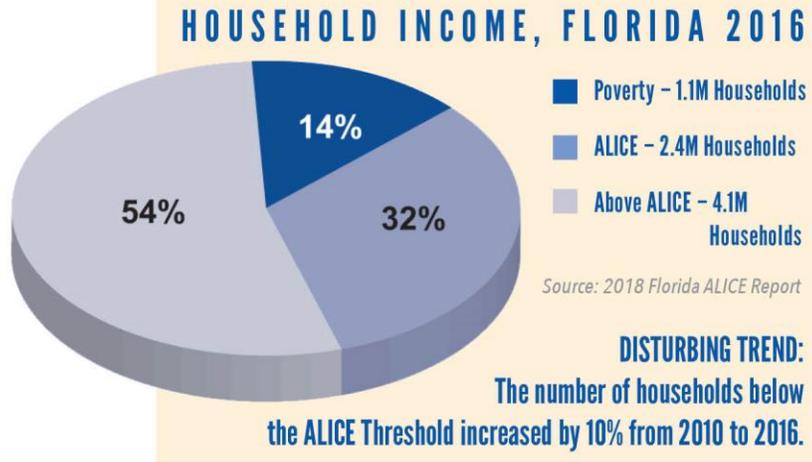


In 2014, the United Way's groundbreaking **Florida ALICE Report** put a disturbing new spotlight on workers who collectively form the backbone of Florida's economy. **ALICE** is an acronym for **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed. "Employed" is the critical word. **ALICE** represents households that have incomes above the Federal Poverty Limit, but consistently struggle to afford basic needs, such as housing, food, healthcare, childcare, and transportation.

Of Florida's 7.6 million households, 14% (1.1 million) lived in poverty in 2016 and another 32% (2.4 million) were **ALICE**. Combined, 46% (3.5 million) of Florida households had income insufficient to consistently afford their basic needs, an increase of 10% since 2010.

**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 2016 basic household expenses increased by 20% for a Florida family of four while median wages increased 13%.*



**ALICE** workers are essential to the fabric of our society and our economy. **ALICE** works in jobs that are integral to our communities, from childcare educators and home health aides to mechanics and hospitality workers; workers we rely on every day. The future success of our communities is directly tied to the financial stability of **ALICE** households. When **ALICE** suffers and is forced to make difficult choices, we all face serious consequences.

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

The 2020 Florida United Ways 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.

 <p><b>46%</b></p> <p>of all Florida families with children live below the ALICE threshold</p>	 <p><b>60%</b></p> <p>62% of Black households and 58% of Hispanic households live below the ALICE threshold</p>	 <p><b>80%</b></p> <p>of single female-headed households live below the ALICE threshold</p>	 <p><b>49%</b></p> <p>of Florida's counties - 32 counties - have 50% or more of their populations living below the ALICE Threshold</p>
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## FINANCIAL STABILITY

### Priority

**INVEST** \$1.2 million in state funding to expand the capacity of income tax consulting and preparation assistance programs statewide.

### Support

**INCREASE** access to affordable housing by appropriating all Sadowski Housing Trust Funds for their intended purpose.

**CAPITALIZE** on opportunities to enhance Florida workforce development activities and initiatives.



## QUALITY EARLY LEARNING

### Priority

**SUPPORT** quality and accountability provisions of HB 1091.

### Support

**IMPLEMENT** a coordinated child assessment system for VPK and kindergarten.

**EXPAND** Early Childhood Educator INCENTIVES\$ Florida statewide at \$750,000.

**MAINTAIN** T.E.A.C.H. funding at \$10 million.

**EXPAND** Help Me Grow statewide by increasing its budget to \$4.5 million.



## ENSURING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

### Support

**DELETE** statutory language which restricts access to federal dollars for school-based mental healthcare.

**INCREASE** targeted funding for prevention and treatment services for substance use disorders and mental 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** creation of a centralized portal and peer support referral network through 2-1-1.

**SUPPORT** addition of language in the Military and Veterans Active Duty charter to standardize transfer of college credits.