

# FLORIDA UNITED WAYS CONSENSUS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

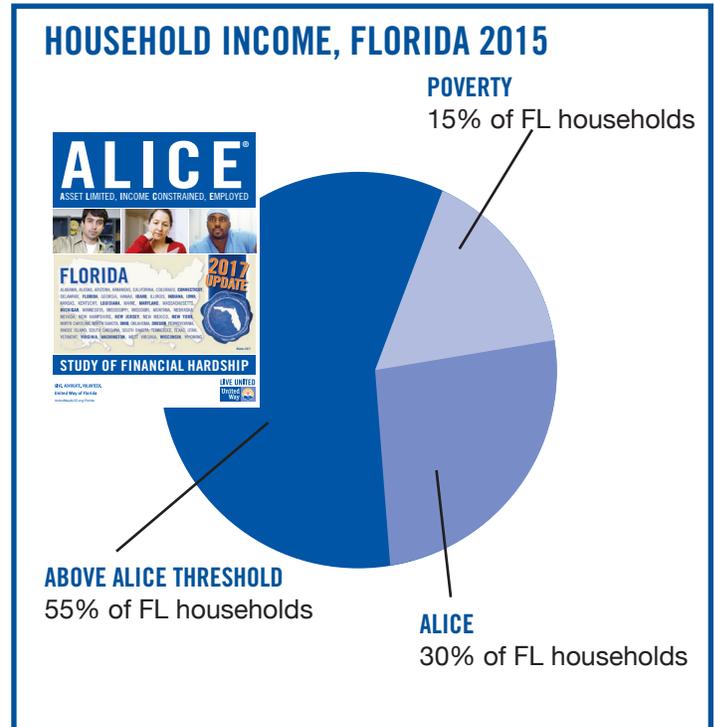
## ALICE: ASSET LIMITED, INCOME CONSTRAINED, EMPLOYED

Florida's United Ways have released an updated ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Report documenting the ongoing financial hardship of low-income working families in Florida. It shows that 15 percent of Florida households still fall beneath the poverty line and 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 2017 Florida Legislature to help working families and individuals who struggle to pay for their basic necessities.



### FINANCIAL STABILITY

**Earned Income Tax Credits Boost Family Income**  
but one in five don't claim them

Source: IRS (2016)

### EDUCATION

The achievement gap starts early  
Words heard by age three:  
30 million word gap

Family Type	Words Heard by Age Three
Professional families	45M
Low-Income families	26M
Families in poverty	13M

Source: Hart & Risley (2003)

### HEALTH

**43%**  
of Floridians skipped needed healthcare due to costs

Source: Commonwealth Fund (2014)

For additional information, please contact The United Way of Florida at (850) 488-8276

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## Policy recommendations



### FINANCIAL STABILITY

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



### EDUCATION

INCREASE School Readiness funding by \$85 million, and SUPPORT Performance Funding legislation, to expand quality early childhood education opportunities.

REVISE Gold Seal requirements for accrediting agencies.  
DEVELOP coordinated early learning assessment and accountability measures for School Readiness, VPK and Kindergarten readiness.

INCREASE funding for Help Me Grow by \$2 million to provide statewide access to information and referrals to community supports for parents.



### HEALTH

SUPPORT legislation to expand access to dental care for children.

RESTORE funding for KidCare outreach and enrollment to reduce the number of uninsured children in Florida.

MAXIMIZE funding for home and community-based services for older adults to reduce the cost burden for Florida families and taxpayers.