

## ALICE

- 32% of Florida households are **ALICE** (**A**sset Limited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed).
- **ALICE** families hold jobs, pay taxes, and provide services that are vital to Florida's economy: retail sales, customer service, laborers, hospital workers, health care aides and more.
- They work hard, live above the Federal Poverty Level and still cannot consistently afford the basics of housing, food, health care, child care, and transportation.
- Expenses such as car repairs and health care emergencies can plunge **ALICE** households into financial chaos. When this happens, families, employers and the state budget all lose.

## BACKGROUND: TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE

- The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a work-based tax refund allowing **ALICE** families to recover their hard-earned wages, and is recognized as one of the best anti-poverty tools in the U.S.
- In 2016, IRS-certified volunteers in Florida, working at over 733 tax preparation sites coordinated by United Way, AARP, Military and VITA filed 225,000 tax returns that helped **ALICE** families, the elderly and disabled claim over \$232 million in tax refunds including EITC.
- But more than \$1 billion in potential EITC tax credits and \$193 million in higher-education tax credits are unclaimed by **ALICE** households each year, "left on the table" in Washington.

## UNITED WAY'S REQUEST:

**Florida United Ways urge the 2020 Florida Legislature to invest \$1.2 million in state funding to expand capacity of tax preparation assistance programs statewide that, together with United Ways' match of \$1.8 million, will:**

- Help more than **31,000 ALICE families** in all 67 counties receive more than **\$48 million in tax refunds** and more than **\$13 million in EITCs**;
- Generate **\$2.75 million in state and local sales taxes**; and
- Generate an additional **\$1.1 million in education tax credits** for Floridians pursuing higher education.