ALICE

- 32% of Florida households are ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed).
- 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.