



Florida's United Ways urge the 2026 Florida Legislature to invest \$1.2 million in state funding to expand the statewide capacity of VITA (Volunteer Income Tax preparation Assistance).

- This \$1.2 million investment can help bring \$75.6 million in refunds, through VITA programs across every county in the state, to Florida showcasing a deep ROI.
- Local partner data shows the average taxpayer receiving Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) from VITA had a gross household income of \$29,000 and the IRS reports that statewide the average EITC amount is \$2,689 – nearly a month's worth of income, or enough for a mom to pay for childcare for a child for three months, for a low-income family.
- The IRS estimates that 18% of eligible Florida taxpayers don't claim the EITC Credit they've earned. Every year, an estimated \$1.2 billion in EITC credits alone are left on the table and not invested in Florida's economy.

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 2024, with investment by the Florida Legislature, nearly 72,000 tax returns were prepared and accepted throughout Florida yielding \$77,000,000+ in refunds to low-to-moderate income Florida families.
 - United Way's VITA program achieved 237% of our responsibility goal with our state appropriation.
 - A total of 2,099 IRS-certified volunteers were utilized to provide this service.
 - 262 sites across Florida provided free tax preparation.
 - \$21,309,783 was received by taxpayers in Earned Income Tax Credits – credits specifically for working low- to-moderate income families.
 - \$16,934,296.17 was received by taxpayers in Child Tax Credits and Additional Child Tax Credits – specifically for helping working families.

ALICE

- 34% of Florida households are **ALICE** (**A**sset **L**imited, **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 aids and more.
- They work hard, live above the Federal Poverty Level and still cannot consistently afford the basics of housing, food, health care, childcare, 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.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Melissa Nelson, CEO, United Way of Florida – Melissa@UWOF.org or (850)488-8276