

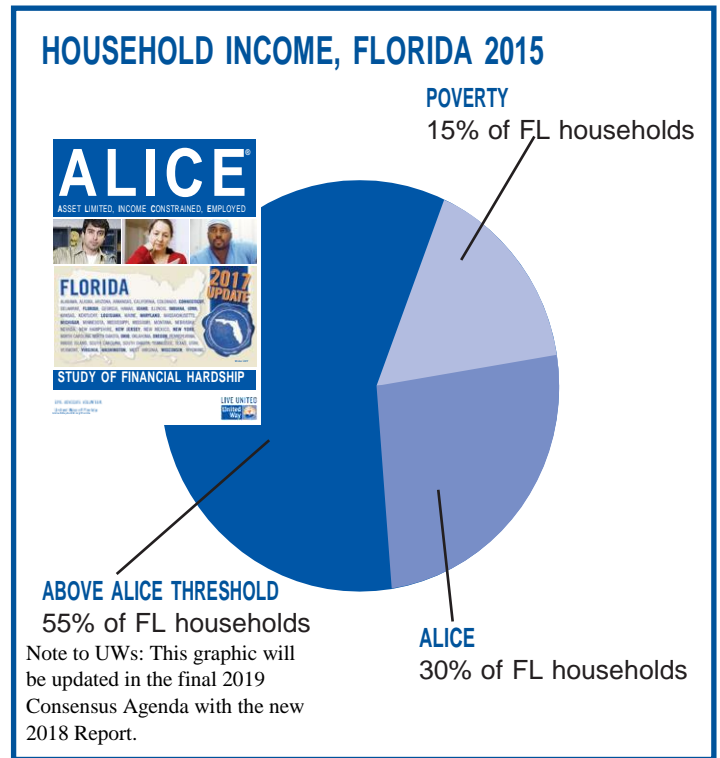
## ALICE: ASSET LIMITED, INCOME CONSTRAINED, EMPLOYED

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 reveals 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, coworkers 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 have developed this Consensus Legislative Agenda for the 2019 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

63% of early childhood educators rely on public assistance

Source: Hart & Risley (2003)

### HEALTH

43% of Floridians skipped needed healthcare due to costs

Source: Commonwealth Fund (2014)

## Policy recommendations



### Financial Stability

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

**INCREASE** access to affordable housing and utilize the Sadowski Housing Trust Funds only for their intended purposes.

### Quality Early Learning



**USE** increased Federal Funding for school readiness to implement HB 1091.

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

**FUND** Child Care WAGE\$ Florida Infrastructure at the state level.

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

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



### Expanding Access to Healthcare

**SUPPORT** legislation that expands access to quality healthcare in Florida.

**MAXIMIZE** home and community-based services for older adults to reduce nursing home costs and waitlists.

**INCREASE** prevention and treatment services funding for substance use disorders and mental health.



### Supporting Florida's Veterans

**ADDRESS** challenges US military veterans face relating to their health (including behavioral health), affordable housing and employment.