




# Leading Florida To Less Poverty Through More Prosperity

Mark Wilson, President & CEO, Florida Chamber of Commerce

**FLORIDA  
CHAMBER**  
*Foundation*

# www.FloridaChamber.com/ProsperityInitiative

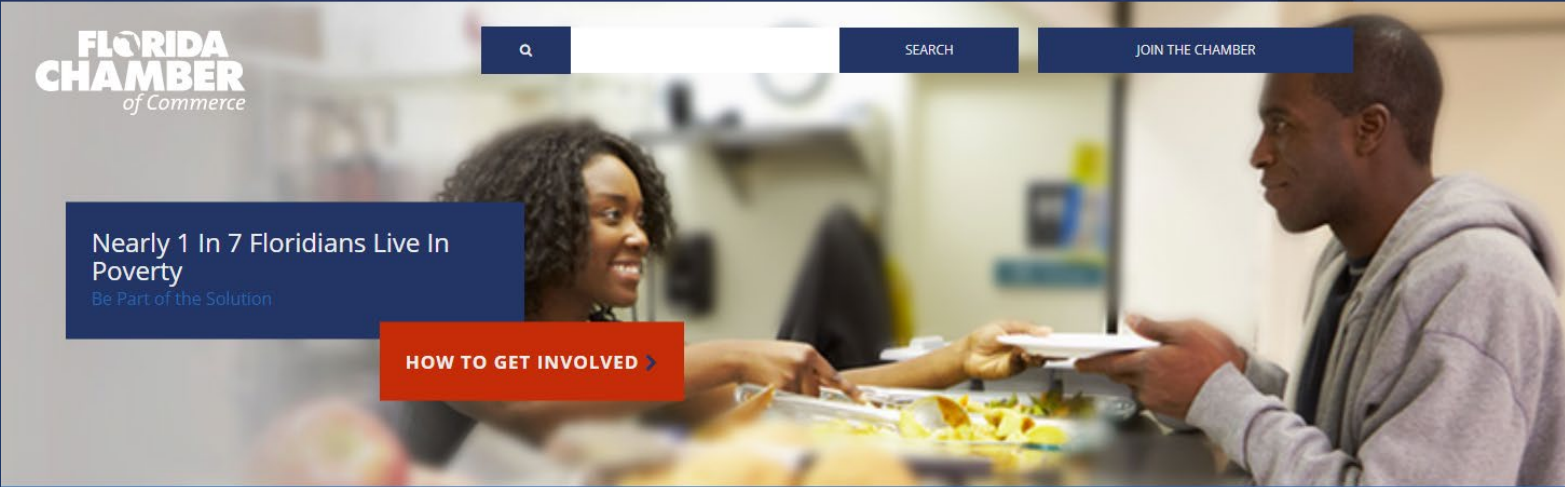
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Q

SEARCH


JOIN THE CHAMBER



Nearly 1 In 7 Floridians Live In Poverty  
Be Part of the Solution


HOW TO GET INVOLVED >

Florida, like many states across the nation, has a poverty problem. Nearly one in four Florida children live in poverty. Five million Floridians are on food stamps, and more than half of all Florida students are eligible for free and reduced lunches and more than 3.3 million Floridians don't know where their next meal will come from. There will always be poverty, the kind that results from temporary setbacks such as job loss, sudden illness, foreclosures, or unexpected challenges, and the Florida Chamber believes social safety nets are needed and necessary to help bridge the crises. The goal of these programs should be to get Americans who have fallen on hard times back on their feet. Florida's business community can help break this cycle and create greater opportunities for the next generation. By incorporating greater educational opportunities and allowing free enterprise to create more private-sector jobs, we can make generational poverty a thing of the past and the American Dream of economic freedom a reality.

Video


WATCH VIDEO >

**Robin Safley on Paths to Prosperity, Food and More**  
**Katherine Bustamante**  
Learn More About the Prosperity Initiative We caught up with Robin Safley, Executive Director of Feeding Florida to discuss issues like food...

Best Practices

LEARN AND SHARE >

**Promising Practices and Resources**  
**Florida Chamber Foundation**  
Learn About the Prosperity Initiative Share Your Promising Practice Promising Practices What programs and initiatives work in different communities around the...

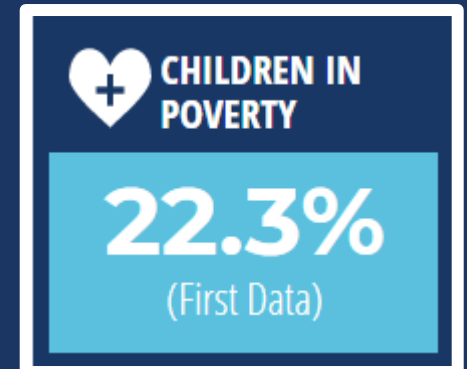
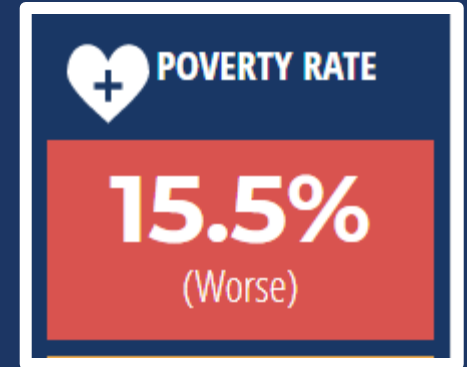
Upcoming Events

WEBINARS & MORE >

**Stay Involved in the Conversations**  
**Katherine Bustamante**  
Learn About the Initiative Prosperity & Economic Opportunity Webinar and Call: Justice July 26, 2018 2:00 p.m. EDT Help us continue the...

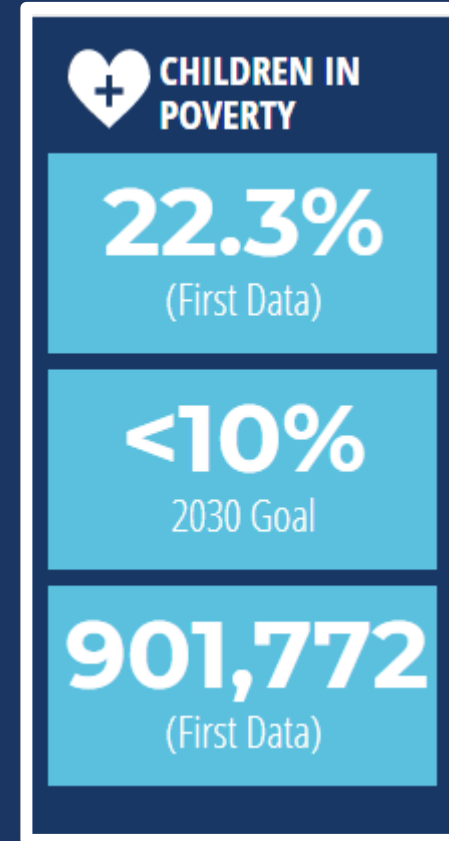
# Why the Florida Chamber Foundation is Leading the Effort

- > 3,000,000 Floridians in poverty
- 901,772 kids in poverty
- 46% of Floridians can't afford basic needs
- (ALICE/United Way).



# Florida 2030 Blueprint Goal

Less than 10% of  
Florida children will  
live in poverty, and  
100% will have a  
pathway out.



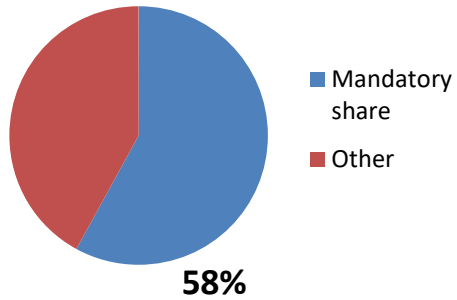
[www.FloridaChamber.com/Florida-2030](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/Florida-2030)

# Keys To Success

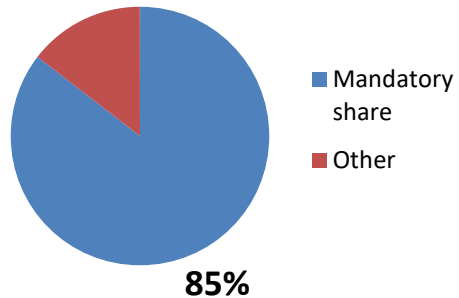
- Always putting the long-term ahead of the short-term.
- Expect setbacks, naysayers and criticisms.
- Remember that awareness really matters!
- Private sector best practices are more efficient and effective than government solutions.

# Mandatory Spending as a Share of Total Revenues

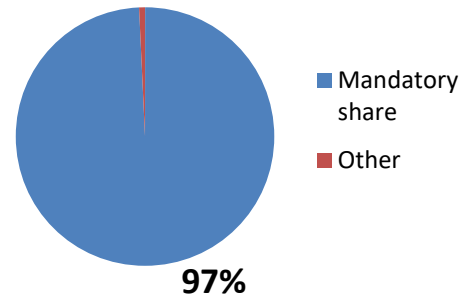
FY 2000



FY 2018



FY 2029



## Mandatory Spending

- Social Security
- Medicare
- Debt Services
- Other Entitlements

## Discretionary Spending

- Military/Defense
- Transportation

**Mandatory Spending (Entitlements + Net Interest)**



# 10 Root Causes of Poverty

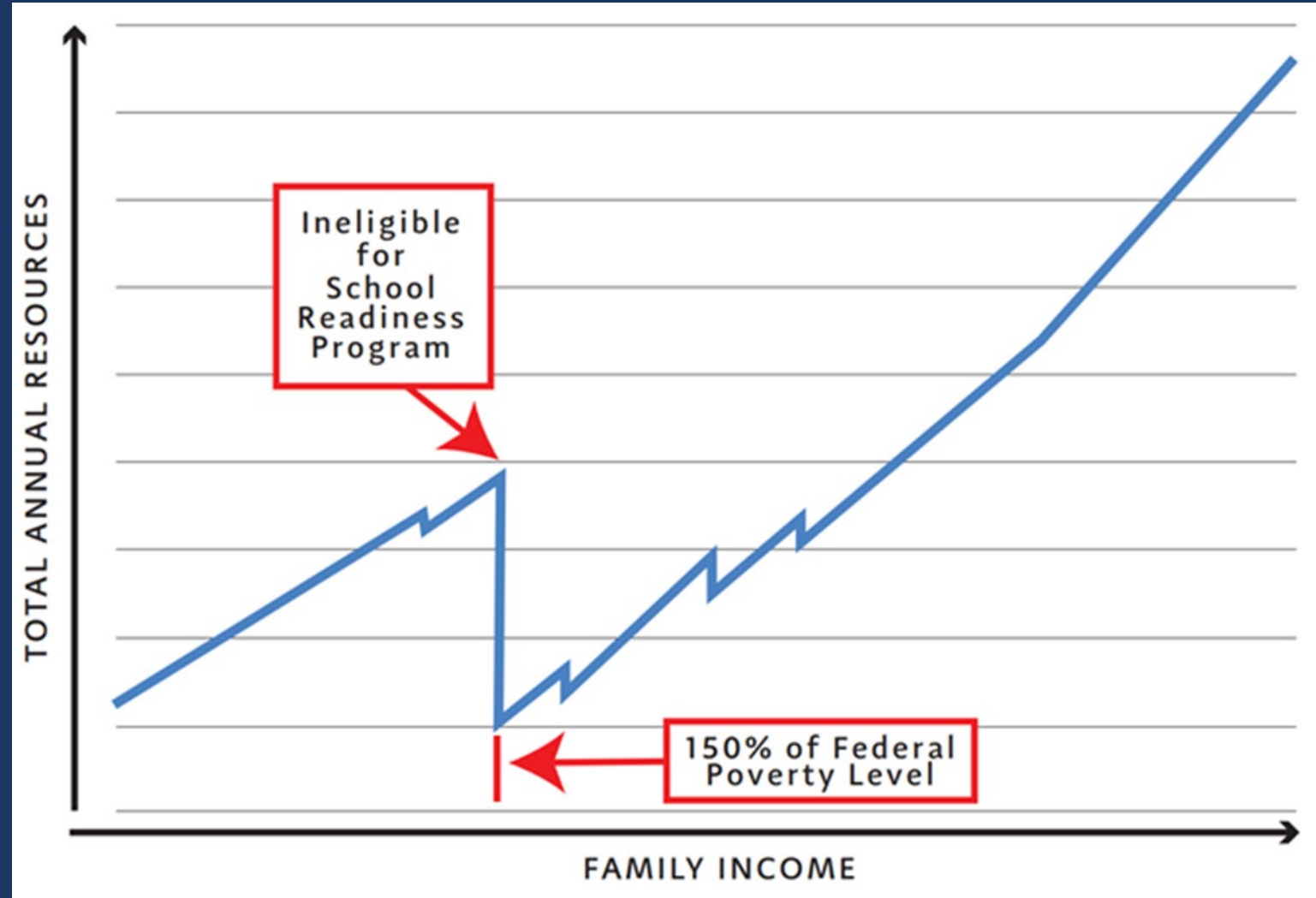
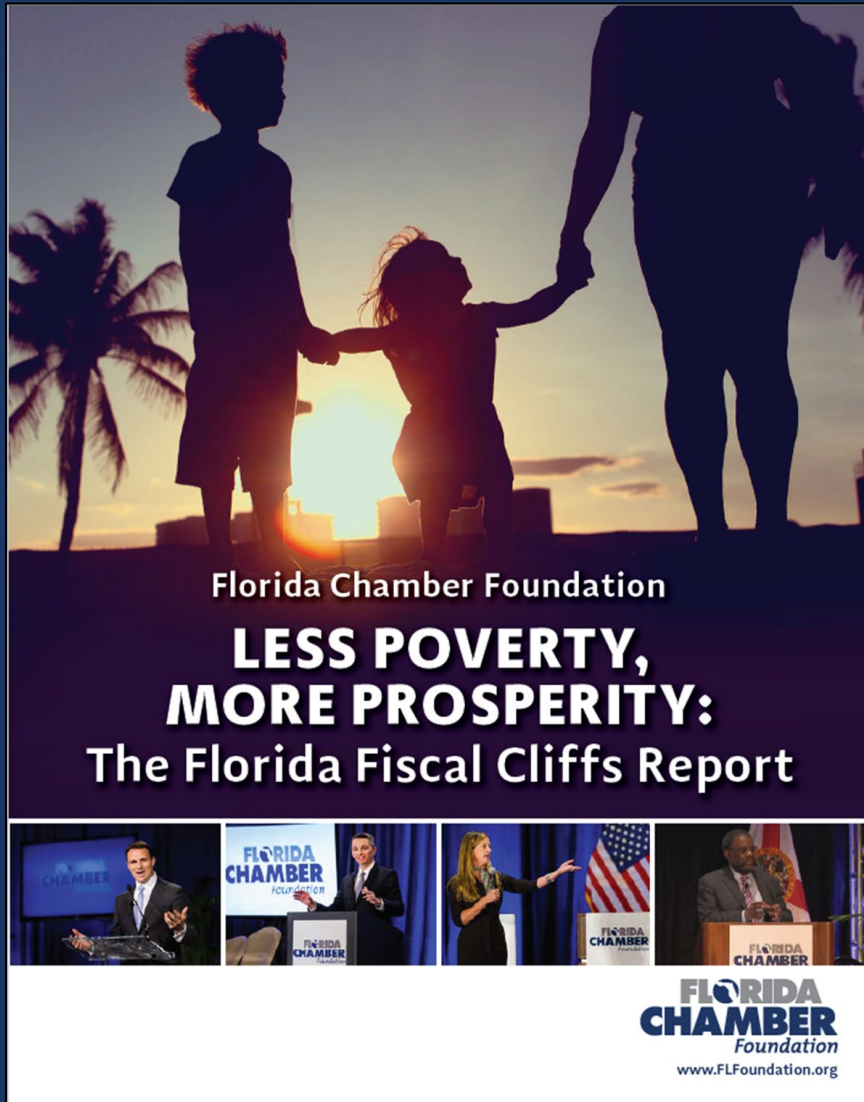


- Job Opportunities
- Education / Training
- Housing
- Transportation
- Health
- Food Security
- Child & Family Care
- Safety
- Justice
- Agency-Community Voice



**“Smart People, Stupid Systems”**

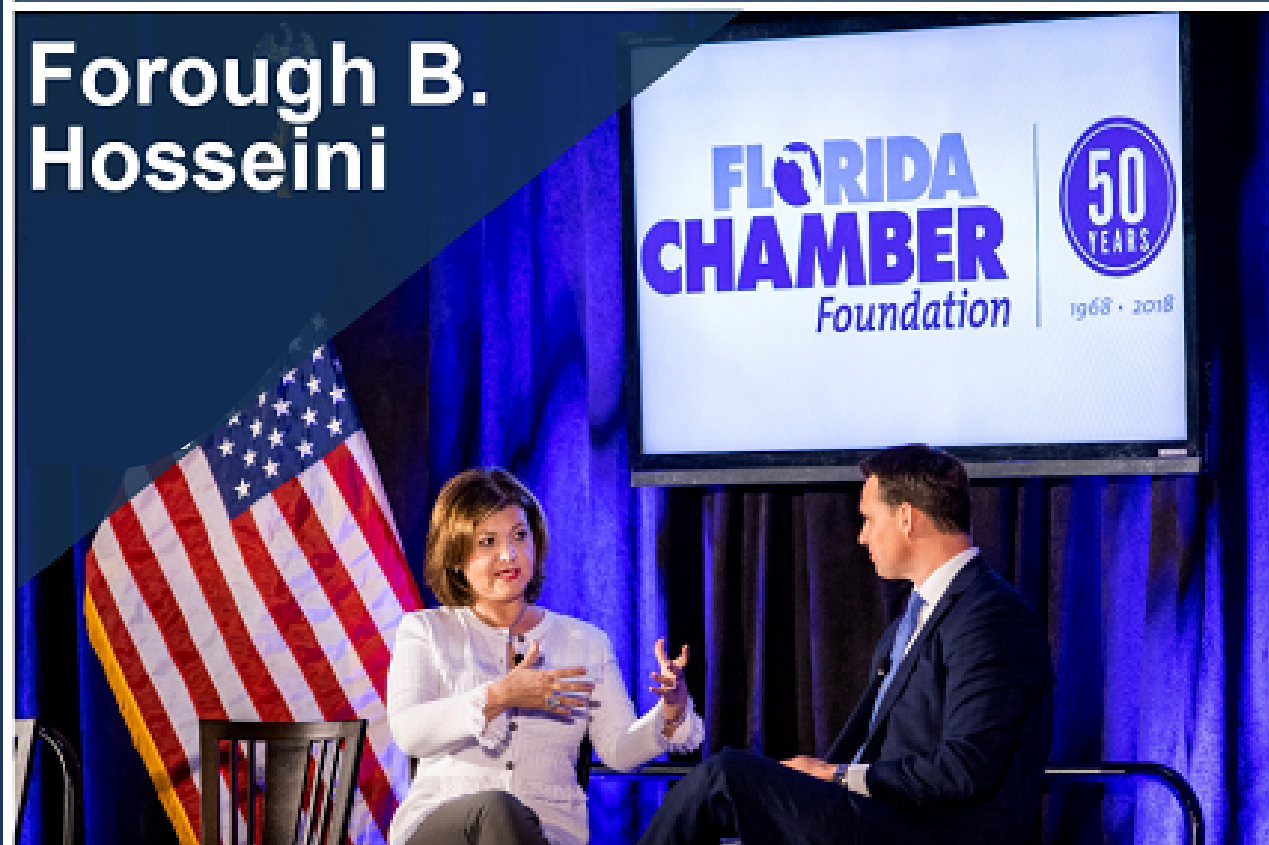
# The Florida Chamber Foundation Fiscal Cliffs Report (\$9/hr v.s. \$25/hr)





# PROMISING PRACTICES

**Forough B.  
Hosseini**

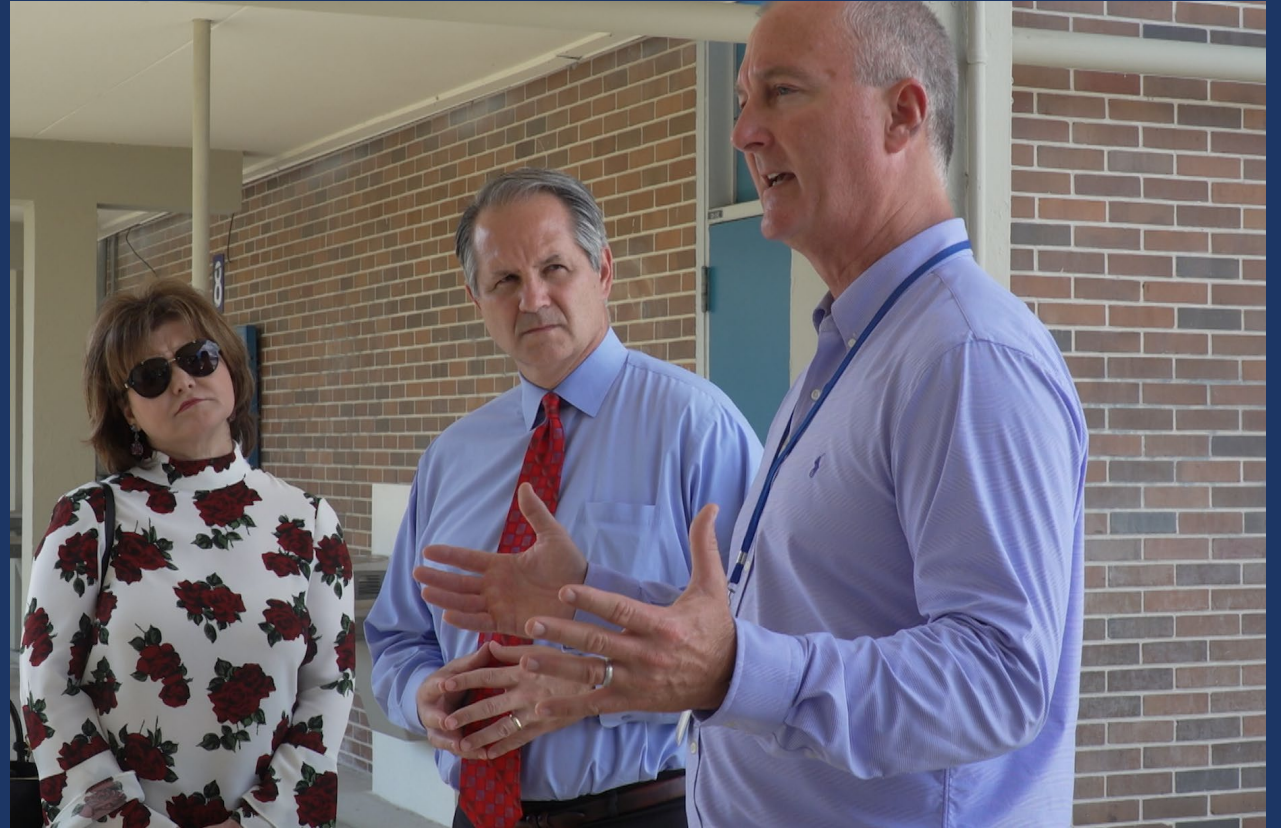


“Some community issues are too massive for any single nonprofit to solve and yet too important for community leaders to ignore.

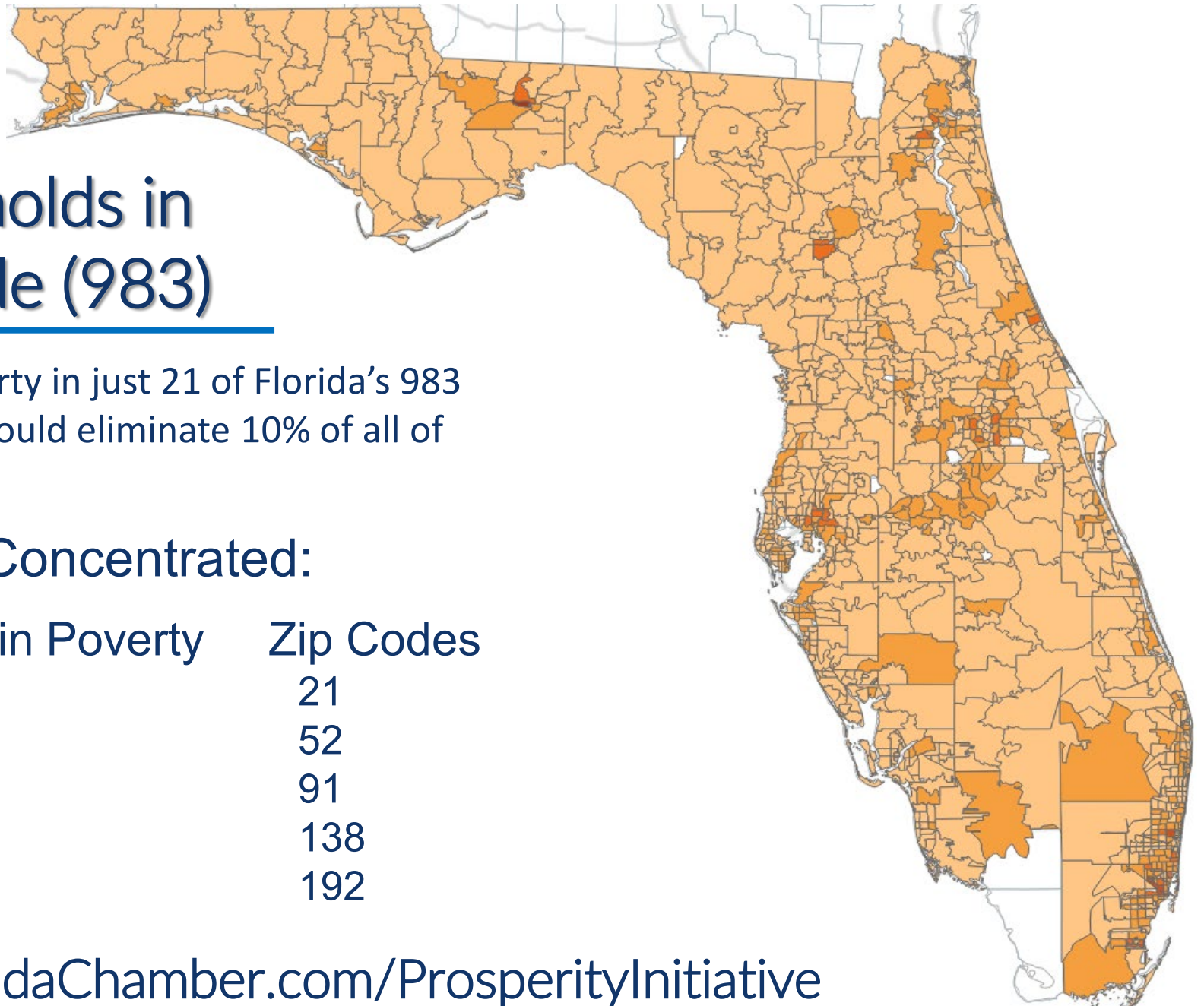
Family and youth homelessness is one such issue for communities around the country.”

[www.FloridaChamber.com/PromisingPractices](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/PromisingPractices)

# Hope Place Visit (Promising Practices Site Visit)



[www.FloridaChamber.com/PromisingPractices](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/PromisingPractices)



# Number of Households in Poverty by Zip Code (983)

“If you eliminated the poverty in just 21 of Florida’s 983 populated zip codes, you would eliminate 10% of all of Florida’s poverty”

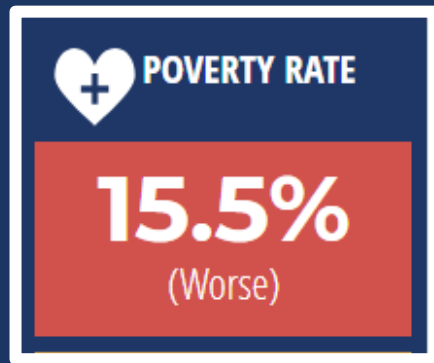
## Poverty is Concentrated:

| Households in Poverty | Zip Codes |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| 10%                   | 21        |
| 20%                   | 52        |
| 30%                   | 91        |
| 40%                   | 138       |
| 50%                   | 192       |

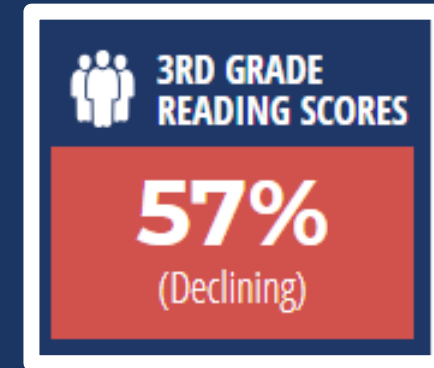


# Poverty Rates and Reading Scores (Palm Beach County)

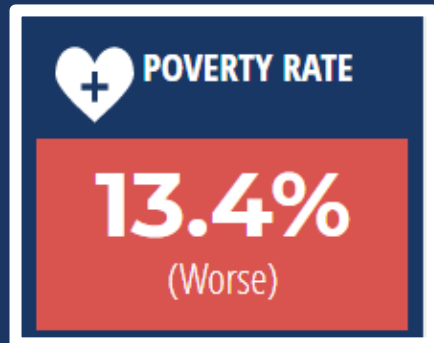
Florida



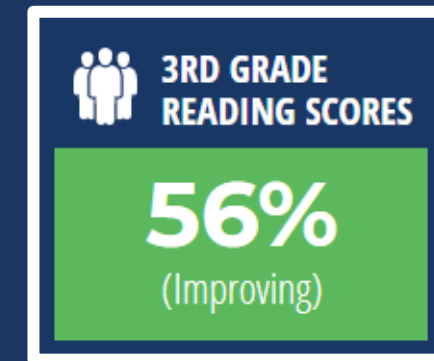
Florida



Palm  
Beach  
County



Palm  
Beach  
County



[www.TheFloridaScorecard.org](http://www.TheFloridaScorecard.org)

# Palm Beach County Under-18 Poverty

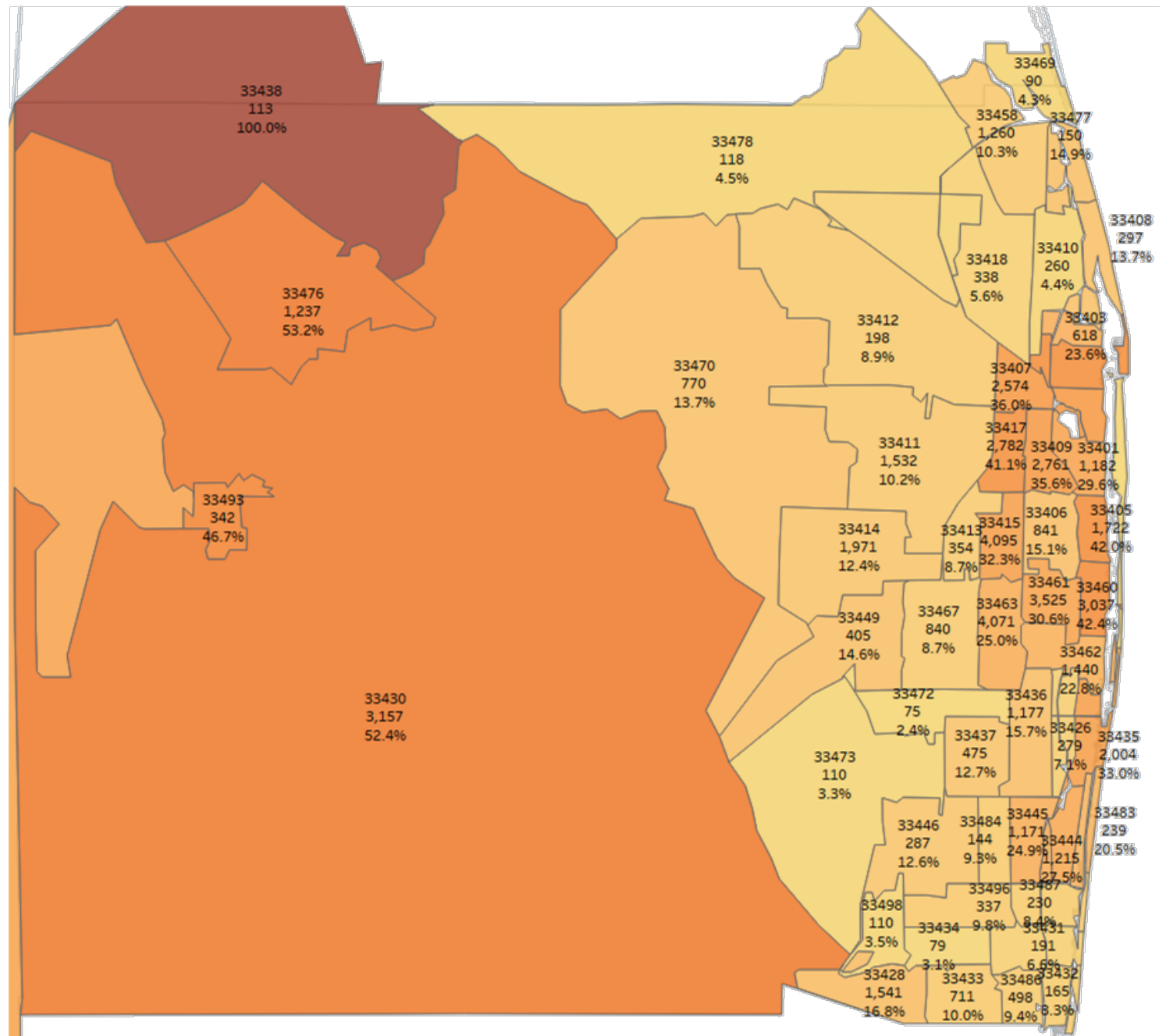
55,843 kids in Poverty

20.3% of kids in Palm  
Beach County

Top Number: Zip Code

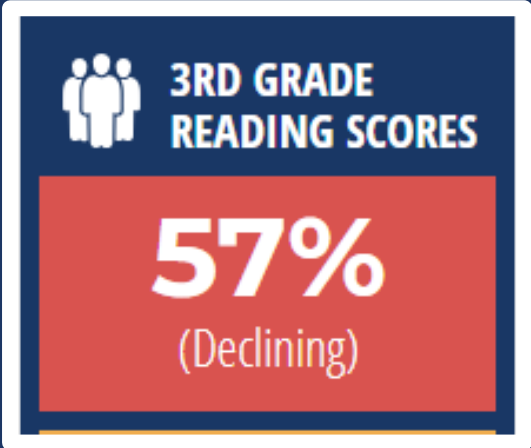
Middle Number: Number of kids in  
Poverty

Bottom Number: Under-18 Poverty  
Rate





# Florida's 2018 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading Scores

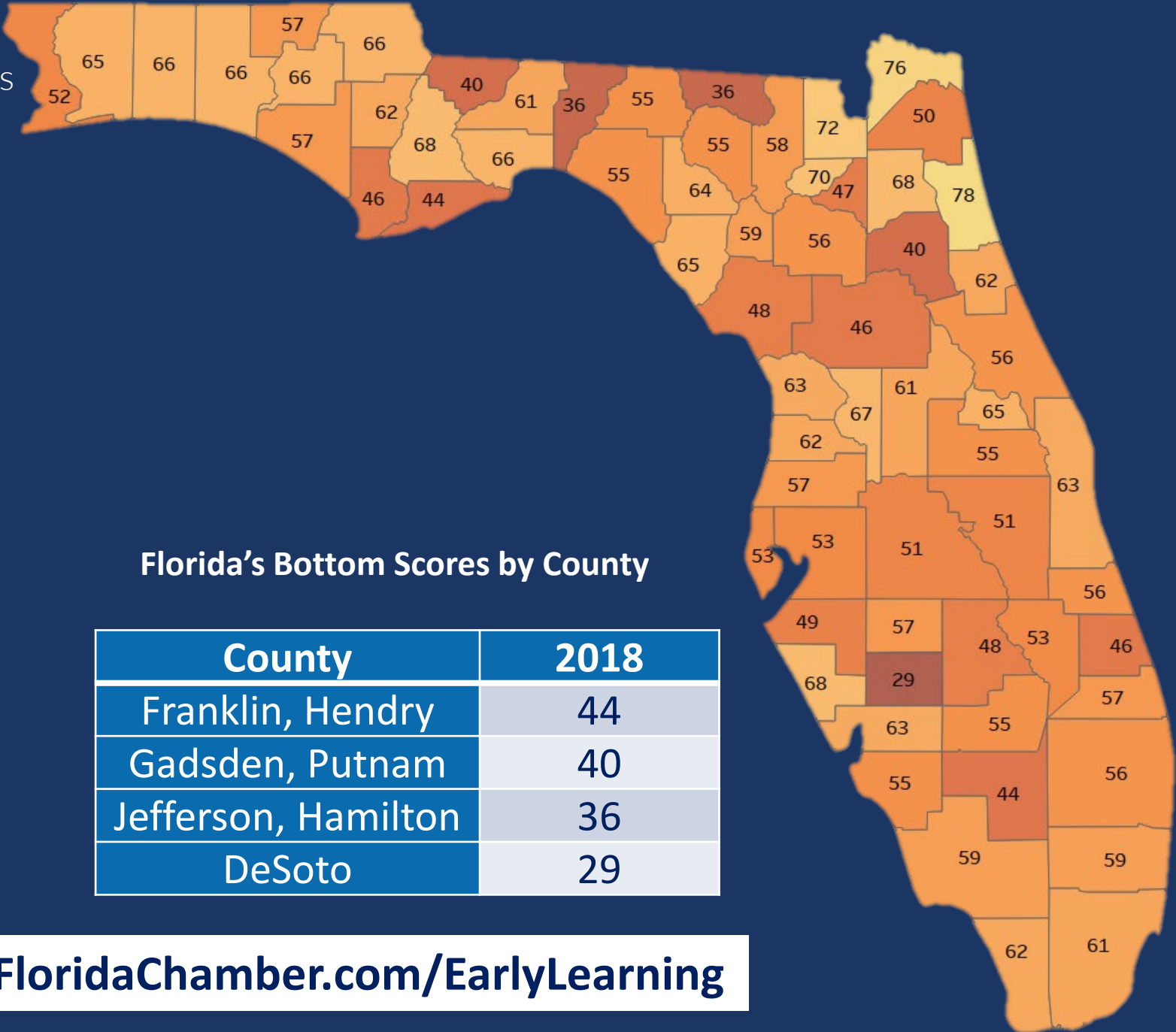


Florida's Top Scores by County

| County    | 2018 |
|-----------|------|
| St. Johns | 78   |
| Nassau    | 76   |
| Baker     | 72   |
| Union     | 70   |

Florida's Bottom Scores by County

| County              | 2018 |
|---------------------|------|
| Franklin, Hendry    | 44   |
| Gadsden, Putnam     | 40   |
| Jefferson, Hamilton | 36   |
| DeSoto              | 29   |



# Uniting Business for Florida's Future

## Florida Chamber Foundation 2030 Blueprint Goal

By 2030, 100% of Children are  
Ready for Kindergarten

By 2030, 100% of Florida's 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders  
Read At or Above Grade Level.

FL Rate – 57%

## Owner of Goal

The Children's Movement  
of Florida



[www.childrensmovementflorida.org](http://www.childrensmovementflorida.org)

Business Alliance for Early Learning

[www.FloridaChamber.com/EarlyLearning](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/EarlyLearning)

# Four Ways To Make a Difference

1. Download this Presentation at [www.FloridaChamber.com/MoreProsperity](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/MoreProsperity), and share at the office and at home.
2. Learn about the Florida Chamber's Prosperity's Initiative at [www.FloridaChamber.com/ProsperityInitiative](http://www.FloridaChamber.com/ProsperityInitiative).
3. Provide promising practices and ideas for the Florida Prosperity Initiative.
4. Contact Florida Prosperity Initiative's Tracey Lowe at [tlowe@flchamber.com](mailto:tlowe@flchamber.com).