



PROSPERITY INITIATIVE

FLORIDA CHAMBER FOUNDATION PROSPERITY INITIATIVE

Currently there are 870,505 children living in poverty in Florida's 983 zip codes. Half of them live in just 150 zip codes.

The Florida Prosperity Initiative was born out of the idea that the zip code a person is born into should not dictate the future of their lives.

We believe no child should wonder where their next meal will come from. We believe that no child should wonder where they will sleep at night. We believe that no child should worry about who will protect them.

Part of the **Florida Chamber Foundation's Florida 2030 Blueprint**, the goal of the Florida Prosperity Initiative is to **reduce Florida's childhood poverty rate to less than 10%** and create a pathway to prosperity for everyone who wants to achieve it.

The 10 Root Causes of Generational Poverty

Our research into childhood poverty identified ten root causes that create the cycle of generational poverty;

- Lack of employment opportunities
- Lack of education & workforce development
- Unaffordable and unattainable housing
- Poor transportation options
- Disproportionate adverse health outcomes
- Food insecurity
- Unaffordable & unattainable child care and family care
- Unsafe environments,
- Imbalance of outcomes in the criminal justice system,
- Lack of community voice and self-agency

Our passion to ensure every person has the opportunity to reach their fullest potential is why, six years ago, we created the Florida Chamber's Prosperity Initiative.

"Our goal should not be temporary relief for the poor, but rather to attain enduring equity by eradicating the underlying pathology of poverty that has precluded 3 million Florida residents from achieving their God-given potential."

- H. Wayne Huizenga Jr.,
President, Huizenga
Holdings, Inc.

**FLORIDA
CHAMBER**
Foundation

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Because we are firmly committed to **end the inequality of opportunity that exists in Florida**, we've taken the full strength of our voices to Capitol Hill and we have advocated for change before lawmakers in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C. Our passion to secure Florida's future is stronger today than ever.

The Florida Prosperity Initiative efforts include:

- **Zip Code level data** research that helps local communities identify which zip codes are most in need of help and how to best allocate resources
- A **statewide Advisory Board** made up of business leaders who acknowledge and are committed to creating equality of opportunity for all Floridians
- Creating a framework to create **countywide prosperity efforts and zip code champions** in every community in Florida
- An **annual Summit** that brings together the business community to learn more about the root causes of poverty and share solutions
- Creating a **resource center of Promising Practices** from which county and zip code champions can gain insight
- **Advocacy** at the local, state, and national level

We have seen what happens when we unite business for good at the statewide level, now it's time to unite your local business community. We are inviting you to join the Prosperity Initiative and make a commitment to the most vulnerable communities.

As business leaders, we can be the agents of change in each of the ten root causes of poverty.

Reducing childhood poverty to less than 10 percent is an audacious goal, but it can be done if we target our efforts to areas within our communities most in need. One zip code at a time. One neighborhood at a time



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Proponents of Prosperity

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- H. Wayne Huizenga Jr., President, Huizenga Holdings, Inc.

"I don't know that there is a way to completely eradicate it, but we should be **creating a society where someone born into poverty doesn't have to stay that way.**"

- Will Weatherford, Former Speaker, Florida House of Representatives

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

- Forough Hosseini, ICI Homes

"**No child in Florida should go to bed without knowing if they will eat tomorrow.** Sadly, for 870,505 children in Florida, that is a reality. Through the Florida Chamber's Prosperity Initiative, Florida's businesses have the opportunity to lead in helping Florida's children move from poverty into prosperity."

- Karen Moore, Founder & CEO, Moore, Inc.

"We believe that **private philanthropy has an important role to play** in shaping Florida's great future."

-David Odahowski, President, Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation