



Prepare 2013

PUBLIC POLICY STRATEGIES FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE





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- Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (FL-GA District)
- MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
- The Mosaic Company Foundation
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CHILDREN NEED HEALTH CARE

IMPLEMENTING THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT IN FLORIDA: MEDICAID EXPANSION

A major provision of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, or federal health care reform, is the expansion of Medicaid, the national medical assistance program that provides access to health care for low-income families and individuals, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities. After initially opposing the Affordable Care Act, Florida leadership is struggling with implementation in the state now that it is the law of the land, including the establishment of health care insurance exchanges and the optional expansion of Medicaid.

In its landmark decision during the summer of 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Affordable Care Act, which required all states to expand their Medicaid programs to cover most people with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level. But the Supreme Court held that states that do not implement the expansion for adults will not lose federal funding for existing Medicaid programs, which effectively means each state has the choice of whether to go forward with Medicaid expansion.

Even so, the law mandates that states increase the income limit for children ages 6 through 18 to 138% of the poverty level by 2014 no matter their decision regarding eligibility expansion for adults. Beyond this, however, if Florida increases the Medicaid income limit for adults, even more children will gain coverage. It is well-established that providing coverage to parents leads to higher rates of coverage for their children. In fact, the Affordable Care Act requires that children be covered before their parents can enroll.

In making this decision, the Florida Legislature has a historical opportunity to extend health care coverage to approximately one million low-income, working Floridians who currently have no prospect of obtaining affordable coverage. This expansion would reduce the number of uninsured Floridians by as much as 50% with virtually all of the costs paid for by the federal government. Not only will expanding Medicaid have a positive impact on the lives and health of Florida's citizens, it will bring more than \$24 billion of federal funding into the state economy.

Specifically, the Florida Legislature's Social Services Estimating Conference projects that between state fiscal year 2012-13 and 2022-23, the expansion of Medicaid will cost Florida \$1.7 billion, while bringing in more than \$24.5 billion in federal funding. The federal government will cover the costs of expansion during the



first three years, and the state in later years will start to fund programs, eventually paying 10% of the costs. Thus, the “cost” to Florida is more accurately characterized as a relatively small “investment” that is guaranteed to yield high returns.

Recently, Gov. Rick Scott voiced his support for the expansion of Medicaid eligibility in Florida over the next three years, although other members of the Florida Cabinet continue to oppose it. Ultimately, the Legislature will decide during the 2013 legislative session whether to approve the governor's proposal and if Florida will move forward with the optional expansion. Select committees are analyzing the fiscal and social impacts of Medicaid expansion. Only one side of the Legislature (House or Senate) is needed to block expansion.

The billions of federal dollars Medicaid expansion will bring into Florida will provide needed support to hospitals, serve as an economic boost to the health care industry and community, and create thousands of permanent new jobs for Florida residents. Extending Medicaid coverage to many of the poorest uninsured people in the state will save lives and improve the health and productivity of communities. Medicaid expansion is a momentous opportunity that Florida cannot afford to forego; therefore, Florida Impact supports the expansion of Medicaid and urges the Legislature to ensure this indispensable service for our most vulnerable citizens.

Source: Florida Legal Services, Florida CHAIN

CHILDREN NEED NUTRITIOUS FOOD

EXEMPTING AFTERSCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM SPONSORS FROM FULL CHILD CARE LICENSE REQUIREMENT

With passage of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act in December 2010, Florida gained access to the supper component of the Afterschool Meal Program (AMP). Prior to this, nonprofits could only receive federal reimbursements for snacks. Unfortunately, our state's acquisition of this much-needed federal resource on behalf of Florida's children has been impeded during the past two years, partly due to our current child care licensure requirement.

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) administers the AMP and must comply with the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) requirement that all participating sites have a child care license or proof of exemption from licensure. While the federal regulations governing the program do not require child care licensure, they do require DOH to adhere to licensing requirements if they exist at the state and local level. Those sites that are exempt from licensure are required to meet all local health and safety standards.

Providing meals at otherwise exempt afterschool sites is all that triggers the requirement for a child care license. This invites unnecessary regulation of afterschool programs while wasting state resources to review and approve a full child care license application just to add a few meal components to an afterschool program. As a consequence, millions of federal dollars meant to address childhood hunger in our state potentially go unused (\$15.7 million among existing AMP providers in Dade and Broward Counties alone).

The additional requirement of a child care license would be excessive and unreasonably burdensome for nonprofit AMP sites — like faith-based facilities and parks and recreation programs — which are already monitored for compliance throughout the year. In addition to extensive application and



ABOUT THE AFTERSCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM

The Afterschool Meal Program is a federal program that provides reimbursements (\$3.0875 per meal; \$0.78 per snack) to sponsors that provide nutritious meals and snacks to children at afterschool enrichment programs in high need areas. Until recently, the meal component of the program had only been authorized for a few states; but after years of advocacy, anti-hunger groups celebrated victory in December 2010 when the president signed a new Child Nutrition Reauthorization bill, titled the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, that authorized suppers nationwide.

With our state as #4 in the nation for food hardship among households with children, Florida Impact and the Florida Partnership to End Childhood Hunger are committed to helping communities gain access to this program and working with the Florida Department of Health and other relevant agencies to remove any unnecessary barriers.





recordkeeping requirements, the federal AMP also requires that each meal site receive a health and safety inspection and have staff trained in safe food service. Federal nutrition standards are also associated with the program to ensure that meals and snacks are nutritious.

To eliminate this unnecessary requirement, Florida Impact is seeking a legislative exemption that would simply insert the following language in the existing statute (Florida Statutes 402.305):

After-school programs that otherwise meet the criteria for licensure exemption may provide snacks and meals through the federal Afterschool Nutrition Program (ANP) administered by the Florida Department of Health in accordance with federal regulations and standards. The Department will consider a meal to be provided through the ANP only if the program is actively participating in the ANP, is in good standing with the Department of Health, and the meal meets ANP requirements.

Increased access to federal funding for afterschool meals would provide a new resource in Florida for addressing hunger and under-nutrition among children who don't receive a balanced meal until their next one at school.

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CHILDREN NEED NUTRITIOUS FOOD

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) & THE FARM BILL

Every five years, Congress reauthorizes the Farm Bill, a comprehensive piece of legislation that includes farm and agriculture policies and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), commonly known as food stamps. SNAP provides a means for low-income individuals and families to buy nutritious food, serving as a safety net for those who are “food insecure.” The renewal establishes who is eligible for SNAP and addresses program access, benefit levels and other matters. The last Farm Bill was passed in 2008, and it made several improvements to help the tens of millions of people in this country who are struggling against hunger and trying to stretch limited budgets to buy healthy food. Improvements included:

- Increasing the \$10 minimum monthly benefit to \$14;
- Removing the cap on the deductible amount of child care expenses in eligible households; and
- Indexing the food stamp household asset limits from \$2,000 to \$3,000 for households with seniors or residents with disabilities.

Congress extended the 2008 Farm Bill provisions on Jan. 1 through Sept. 30, 2013, but with politicians and committees looking to balance budgets by cutting or reducing programs, the food security of the more than 47.6 million U.S. citizens and the 3.5 million Floridians who use SNAP’s services could be threatened when they are needed now more than ever.

In Florida, unemployment, underemployment, the housing bubble and recent natural disasters continue to contribute to SNAP caseload growth.

Since the 2008 Farm Bill, the number of Floridians participating in SNAP has jumped 160.5 percent from 1,359,634 to 3,541,637 – almost 19% of Florida’s population, according to the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC). Florida was also one of six states registering over-the-year percentage increases above 8%.

Additionally, FRAC shows that Florida ranked 12th out of the top 20 states for food hardship in 2012, and of the 25 Metropolitan Statistical Areas with the worst rates, six were in Florida, with Lakeland-Winter Haven and Orlando-Kissimmee falling in the top 10.

To make sure the right people are getting access to SNAP and the money is being used efficiently, one of the USDA’s primary goals is to make sure payment accuracy and fraud are in check. For the last several years, Florida has outpaced most other states with the best payment accuracy rate in the country. Last year, that error rate was less than 1% (0.88%) — a remarkable achievement



considering the dramatic increases in caseload and an understaffed state agency.

Fraud is a relatively limited problem in SNAP. The violating stores represent less than one-half of one percent of more than 230,000 food stores nationwide authorized to redeem benefits. SNAP redemption actually has an economic impact for retail grocers. Every \$5 in SNAP generates \$8.65 in the economy.

By injecting immediate revenue streams into local businesses, SNAP helped accomplish a primary goal of the new American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 — stimulating the American economy.

Florida and the nation alike have continued to show an increased need for the services that SNAP provides. Not only does SNAP ensure that Florida’s “food insecure” population is able to provide food for themselves and their families, it creates a \$7.92 billion economic impact that Florida can use to support local initiatives.

When Congress considers reauthorization of the Farm Bill later this year, Florida Impact urges congressional leaders to consider the importance of reinvesting and expanding support for our citizens and our communities. According to FRAC and the Institute of Medicine, current SNAP benefits are insufficient, which is demonstrated by benefits lagging behind inflation, a program evaluation focus on overpayment instead of underpayment, and the fact that one in six Americans continues to struggle with hunger. Proposals in Congress to cut SNAP by billions of dollars would worsen health and hunger for children, seniors and low-income, working families. Congress should increase SNAP benefits rather than doubling down on harming the most vulnerable Americans.

Source: Food Research and Action Center, Institute of Medicine

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

County	Clients Served				Value of Benefits			
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011
ALACHUA	35,106	43,055	50,211	53,826	\$30,709,194.00	\$47,616,738.00	\$55,781,880.00	\$59,447,671.00
BAKER	5,795	6,876	7,495	7,770	\$4,920,741.00	\$7,137,154.00	\$7,854,599.00	\$8,244,954.00
BAY	33,344	41,037	46,057	49,037	\$27,944,227.00	\$42,800,794.00	\$48,957,399.00	\$50,843,131.00
BRADFORD	6,061	7,128	7,896	8,429	\$5,099,161.00	\$7,574,821.00	\$8,536,634.00	\$8,874,410.00
BREVARD	69,437	86,739	102,443	114,119	\$55,763,034.00	\$91,331,044.00	\$109,586,091.00	\$123,583,204.00
BROWARD	216,294	280,182	346,737	382,385	\$183,774,760.00	\$297,195,899.00	\$380,975,049.00	\$422,339,022.00
CALHOUN	2,890	3,478	3,873	4,221	\$2,294,374.00	\$3,382,278.00	\$3,868,167.00	\$4,152,878.00
CHARLOTTE	19,287	25,396	30,143	31,934	\$15,365,103.00	\$25,460,095.00	\$30,501,549.00	\$32,602,656.00
CITRUS	22,036	28,377	33,653	35,847	\$17,258,029.00	\$28,344,380.00	\$35,114,171.00	\$37,977,448.00
CLAY	21,869	29,766	35,569	37,971	\$16,239,542.00	\$27,697,619.00	\$33,537,976.00	\$36,585,075.00
COLLIER	32,083	46,782	56,380	59,661	\$25,040,528.00	\$48,758,937.00	\$60,094,104.00	\$64,090,205.00
COLUMBIA	16,108	18,872	21,127	21,945	\$12,954,924.00	\$19,413,745.00	\$21,773,793.00	\$23,205,506.00
DADE	545,624	662,152	776,034	831,539	\$510,682,306.00	\$783,256,753.00	\$945,728,197.00	\$1,007,068,475.00
DESOTO	6,831	8,883	10,206	10,783	\$5,558,610.00	\$9,294,260.00	\$11,282,698.00	\$12,040,407.00
DIXIE	4,280	5,001	5,523	5,796	\$3,478,327.00	\$5,127,515.00	\$5,798,862.00	\$6,121,153.00
DUVAL	158,029	201,200	234,173	251,961	\$136,336,248.00	\$221,601,209.00	\$266,456,023.00	\$287,571,533.00
ESCAMBIA	61,111	73,967	81,293	85,484	\$53,033,377.00	\$80,597,087.00	\$90,375,311.00	\$94,625,112.00
FLAGLER	12,936	17,088	20,311	21,776	\$10,090,072.00	\$16,965,135.00	\$20,561,934.00	\$21,824,942.00
FRANKLIN	1,787	2,434	2,662	2,797	\$1,399,032.00	\$2,472,730.00	\$2,591,279.00	\$2,807,577.00
GADSDEN	13,165	15,579	17,072	17,805	\$11,755,034.00	\$17,508,064.00	\$19,850,507.00	\$20,968,154.00
GILCHRIST	3,556	4,338	4,913	5,123	\$2,686,962.00	\$4,131,921.00	\$4,705,833.00	\$5,070,380.00
GLADES	1,190	1,493	1,710	1,802	\$933,381.00	\$1,468,157.00	\$1,776,200.00	\$1,910,141.00
GULF	2,718	3,171	3,488	3,781	\$2,167,092.00	\$3,194,538.00	\$3,563,724.00	\$3,828,497.00
HAMILTON	3,801	4,534	4,909	5,150	\$3,203,940.00	\$4,741,287.00	\$5,145,778.00	\$5,614,903.00
HARDEE	6,905	8,515	9,709	9,955	\$5,490,024.00	\$8,488,409.00	\$9,943,538.00	\$10,529,504.00
HENDRY	10,876	13,397	14,888	15,668	\$9,251,559.00	\$14,363,503.00	\$16,429,351.00	\$17,428,406.00
HERNANDO	30,589	38,570	45,112	48,551	\$24,879,093.00	\$39,211,688.00	\$47,287,246.00	\$51,886,493.00
HIGHLANDS	16,891	21,269	24,615	26,727	\$13,368,458.00	\$21,313,494.00	\$25,605,309.00	\$28,287,953.00
HILLSBOROUGH	217,733	285,293	334,255	362,703	\$183,260,051.00	\$314,680,048.00	\$382,215,213.00	\$418,117,483.00
HOLMES	5,922	6,869	7,579	7,512	\$4,262,911.00	\$6,460,907.00	\$7,405,519.00	\$7,450,534.00
INDIAN RIVER	17,045	22,740	28,017	29,942	\$13,686,703.00	\$22,910,554.00	\$29,320,826.00	\$31,737,312.00
JACKSON	9,556	11,098	12,408	13,350	\$7,433,312.00	\$10,862,091.00	\$12,092,765.00	\$13,323,732.00
JEFFERSON	2,855	3,359	3,650	3,736	\$2,290,911.00	\$3,466,333.00	\$3,904,017.00	\$4,137,406.00
LAFAYETTE	1,127	1,384	1,521	1,636	\$946,308.00	\$1,367,887.00	\$1,492,964.00	\$1,606,930.00
LAKE	41,056	56,255	67,964	73,558	\$30,665,028.00	\$54,676,022.00	\$69,320,952.00	\$75,742,104.00
LEE	86,704	113,331	134,656	147,096	\$72,058,677.00	\$119,944,835.00	\$148,414,454.00	\$163,012,046.00
LEON	37,200	45,584	52,280	56,446	\$33,544,398.00	\$49,541,920.00	\$57,671,816.00	\$62,710,208.00
LEVY	9,259	10,992	12,166	12,699	\$7,298,857.00	\$10,890,130.00	\$12,102,476.00	\$12,802,579.00
LIBERTY	1,531	1,766	1,913	2,110	\$1,199,007.00	\$1,686,431.00	\$1,856,486.00	\$2,057,516.00
MADISON	5,089	5,855	6,088	6,197	\$4,345,901.00	\$6,282,053.00	\$6,419,735.00	\$6,460,322.00
MANATEE	43,147	56,890	66,542	72,004	\$36,553,354.00	\$62,502,003.00	\$76,225,345.00	\$83,401,731.00
MARION	62,742	80,610	92,079	98,619	\$51,483,100.00	\$84,520,643.00	\$100,847,537.00	\$108,995,848.00
MARTIN	12,661	17,430	21,156	22,850	\$10,150,220.00	\$17,578,326.00	\$22,447,155.00	\$24,440,764.00
MONROE	8,555	10,861	12,513	12,987	\$6,869,346.00	\$10,867,163.00	\$12,743,439.00	\$13,123,857.00
NASSAU	9,389	12,407	14,329	15,065	\$7,299,913.00	\$12,033,107.00	\$14,231,442.00	\$15,336,261.00
OKALOOSA	20,891	26,690	30,754	33,179	\$15,617,208.00	\$25,309,797.00	\$29,622,101.00	\$32,735,127.00
OKEECHOBEE	8,775	11,166	13,152	13,962	\$6,759,346.00	\$11,229,763.00	\$13,831,200.00	\$15,007,718.00
ORANGE	168,396	235,534	293,604	326,672	\$128,263,769.00	\$235,267,219.00	\$304,939,078.00	\$345,025,213.00
OSCEOLA	61,267	81,261	100,250	114,917	\$44,990,423.00	\$75,381,840.00	\$96,434,352.00	\$112,686,982.00
PALM BEACH	127,621	177,065	224,108	250,140	\$107,328,587.00	\$184,654,668.00	\$248,979,220.00	\$281,353,371.00
PASCO	75,288	92,827	106,373	114,668	\$64,289,543.00	\$97,859,180.00	\$114,464,776.00	\$124,525,385.00
PINELLAS	128,996	163,188	190,644	205,039	\$107,272,102.00	\$179,070,437.00	\$217,762,977.00	\$236,179,642.00
POLK	114,020	143,606	168,482	181,081	\$90,618,282.00	\$148,677,425.00	\$182,321,129.00	\$197,934,537.00
PUTNAM	22,220	26,914	30,336	31,581	\$18,695,462.00	\$29,179,104.00	\$33,525,422.00	\$35,478,991.00
SANTA ROSA	18,171	22,401	25,441	27,241	\$14,368,529.00	\$21,456,377.00	\$24,683,125.00	\$26,044,915.00
SARASOTA	40,506	54,600	64,515	69,424	\$33,476,502.00	\$57,288,944.00	\$70,471,497.00	\$76,705,505.00
SEMINOLE	40,761	54,480	67,716	77,262	\$31,093,299.00	\$51,904,190.00	\$66,923,390.00	\$76,324,269.00
ST. JOHNS	14,393	19,474	23,033	25,040	\$11,502,102.00	\$19,456,188.00	\$23,008,880.00	\$24,197,613.00
ST. LUCIE	46,655	60,182	70,815	75,952	\$39,871,549.00	\$62,712,336.00	\$75,917,579.00	\$81,635,992.00
SUMTER	10,574	13,785	15,471	16,257	\$7,214,821.00	\$12,305,814.00	\$14,413,806.00	\$15,491,357.00
SUWANNEE	9,975	12,006	13,356	13,919	\$8,142,454.00	\$12,117,252.00	\$13,599,458.00	\$14,494,028.00
TAYLOR	5,180	6,150	6,386	6,496	\$4,600,257.00	\$6,653,703.00	\$6,863,063.00	\$6,905,711.00
UNION	3,101	3,651	4,067	4,234	\$2,561,830.00	\$3,801,477.00	\$4,270,158.00	\$4,455,896.00
VOLUSIA	80,278	105,344	125,277	133,265	\$64,582,422.00	\$110,192,921.00	\$135,587,298.00	\$145,870,767.00
WAKULLA	4,316	5,424	6,223	6,729	\$3,394,845.00	\$5,376,278.00	\$6,237,606.00	\$6,706,087.00
WALTON	6,644	8,276	9,542	10,253	\$4,571,649.00	\$7,565,717.00	\$8,967,582.00	\$9,889,953.00
WASHINGTON	5,533	6,471	7,214	7,296	\$4,107,266.00	\$6,261,866.00	\$6,851,743.00	\$7,096,666.00
TOTAL	2,945,731	3,772,498	4,464,077	4,834,960	\$2,478,347,376.00	\$4,034,442,203.00	\$4,932,070,923.00	\$5,370,732,148.00

CHILDREN NEED SHELTER

ENVIRONMENTALISTS' CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT LIKELY TO HARM HOUSING FUNDING IN FUTURE



After years of heavy raids on Florida's housing trust funds by the Legislature, affordable housing is now facing further threats to funding from environmental groups in the state.

Working to assure adequate funding for the protection and restoration of the state's natural resources, a coalition of environmental organizations has launched Florida's Water & Land Legacy, a campaign to place a constitutional amendment on the 2014 Florida ballot that would force the Legislature to dedicate 33% of all documentary stamp tax (doc stamp) revenues to environmental land buying. The passage of this amendment would create a massive hole in the anticipated general revenue from doc stamps — a hole that will likely be filled by continued sweeps of the housing trust funds.

The Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment would open up a general revenue hole in excess of \$1.05 billion in its first six years alone — with the size of the hole growing each year (\$115 million during the 2015-16 fiscal year, the first year the amendment would take effect, up to \$234 million per year by 2020-21, the last year that revenue estimates are available).

While Florida Impact supports environmental protection programs, it does not back policy that drains funding from the already pillaged and devalued affordable housing trust funds. Although additional sources of revenue for environmental programs should be sought, Florida can only plan on growth in revenue to come from existing sources in the near future, rather than any closing of loopholes or

ABOUT FLORIDA AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUNDS AND SADOWSKI HOUSING COALITION

The Sadowski Housing Coalition is a nonpartisan collection of 25 diverse statewide organizations — including Florida Impact — that initially came together in 1991 to obtain a dedicated revenue source for Florida's affordable housing programs, now known as the Sadowski Act.

Passed in 1992, the law provides that revenue from the documentary stamp tax paid on real estate transactions be allocated to state and local housing trust funds. Since 2009, however, the Legislature has failed to appropriate any funding into the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) program, created by the Sadowski Act, and instead has incorporated that money into general revenue in order to help balance the state budget.

Affordable housing funds can be used for rehabilitation/renovation of existing empty housing stock to ready it for families to move in; to move the existing housing stock by providing down payment and closing cost assistance; to help homeless and moderate income families with housing costs; to make emergency, safety repairs to keep Florida's most vulnerable residents housed; and to rehabilitate existing apartments in dire need of repair.



expansions. Doc stamp taxes fund general revenue, environmental land purchases, other environmental trust funds, and transportation, housing and economic development trust funds. When one group attempts to lock in a disproportionate share of the doc stamp revenue, it has profound negative impacts on others that receive their funding from that source.

To make up a \$1 billion general revenue shortfall brought on by this amendment in the future, the housing trust funds could again be siphoned off for this purpose. If not affordable housing, other doc stamp-funded activities would be cut, possibly those small but vital appropriations for the homeless and those with the highest need and vulnerability.

Support Full Funding for Housing from the Housing Trust Funds in FY 2013-2014

The state and local housing trust funds pay for public-private partnerships to build, rehabilitate and preserve affordable housing for impoverished, moderate-income and special-needs residents. Since its founding, SHIP has allowed 183,000 families to be placed in affordable and safe housing. Such stability prevents homelessness and improves the health and welfare of children and adults, as well as veterans, seniors and residents with disabilities. Trust fund dollars are also allocated to energy-efficient appliances, after-school programs with computers and financial literacy programs. Rental and home-buying assistance is available alongside residential rehabilitation, helping to revitalize neighborhoods and raise home values.

For fiscal year 2013-14, an estimated \$204.81 million will be available for appropriation in the state and local housing trust funds. Gov. Rick Scott has recommended \$50 million under his 2013-14 budget plan for allocation to SHIP, leaving another \$150 million for incorporation into general revenue. Although this request is an improvement over the past plundering of the housing trust funds, all funds should go to housing, particularly in a year with no projected state budget shortfall.

In the face of further threats to funding for affordable housing, Florida Impact urges the Legislature to appropriate all of the monies available solely for housing, which will help create more than 15,770 jobs and \$1.569 billion in positive economic impact in Florida. In addition, Florida Impact vehemently opposes the Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment, which will further drain already scant resources from affordable housing programs.

The faster Florida's housing market recovers, the faster Florida's economy recovers. Housing dollars can put Florida's out-of-work housing industry back to work repairing homes and improving the real estate market, which in turn will help reduce future state budget deficits.

Source: Sadowski Housing Coalition, www.sadowskicoalition.com; Mark Hendrickson, Florida Housing Coalition

CHILDREN NEED SHELTER

FLORIDA IN DIRE NEED OF FUNDING TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

The economic slowdown, the housing bubble and long-term unemployment nationwide have not been kind to Florida.

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the Tampa-St. Petersburg metropolitan area had the country's highest rate of homelessness in 2011: 57 people for every 10,000 in the general population. Both Miami and Tampa Bay rank in the top 10 for the highest homeless populations with 9,766 and 15,728 homeless people, respectively.

Any given day, Florida's homeless population includes up to 85,907 people.

Due to this increasing crisis, the Florida Coalition for the Homeless legislative budget request is asking for \$4.4 million in funding for 2013.

The funding would be broken into two categories:

- \$2.4 million to continue base funding to the state's 28 local homeless coalitions and to establish managing entity operations within the Florida Coalition for the Homeless. The funding supports local coalition operations and staffing. Local homeless coalitions work to secure nearly \$78 million in federal funds each year and administer these funds at the community level.
- \$2 million for Challenge Grants that are allocated to local homeless coalitions to support Continuum of Care plans, which provide a framework for a comprehensive array of emergency, transitional and permanent housing and supportive services to address the varying needs of people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

The funding would also support the continuation of the State of Florida Office on Homelessness and Council on Homelessness. This office, which is housed in the Department of Children and Families (DCF), is funded in the DCF base budget and is essential for the receipt of federal grant funds. It is also the office responsible for convening and coordinating the activities of the Council of Homelessness and the committees that comprise the council.

Other legislation supported by Florida Impact that strives to end homelessness are two bills making their way through the Legislature during the 2013 legislative session.

Sponsored by Rep. Betty Reed in the House, HB 93 — along with its companion bill in the Senate, SB 402, sponsored by Sen. Arthenia Joyner — creates a local homelessness prevention grant



and a voluntary check-off contributions option on DMV forms. Voluntary check-offs provide the opportunity for citizens to make a voluntary donation of \$1 by checking a box on a form when registering a vehicle or applying for a driver's license.

Funds collected will be placed in a grants and donations trust fund for use by the Office on Homelessness to supplement Challenge Grants and Homeless Housing Assistance Grants and to provide information on homelessness to the public.

According to DCF, the voluntary contributions from motor vehicle registrations and renewals and original or renewal driver's licenses could provide an estimated \$20,000 annually.

The cost of homelessness can be high. Between hospitalizations, incarceration and police intervention, homelessness is expensive for municipalities and taxpayers, costing around \$40,000 a year for a homeless person to be on the streets, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

By funding these initiatives, we can help our homeless neighbors get back on their feet and save Florida taxpayers money in the process. This is something we can't afford not to do.

Source: Florida Coalition for the Homeless

Homeless Students by Florida County

	2010-2011	2009-2010	2008-2009	2007-2008	2006-2007	2005-2006
ALACHUA	594	446	707	616	554	499
BAKER	249	191	153	72	46	40
BAY	1,175	641	700	685	600	1,455
BRADFORD	154	122	<11	<11	<11	<11
BREVARD	1,164	965	478	205	70	90
BROWARD	2,101	2,953	1,807	1,596	1,608	2,260
CALHOUN	58	47	12	<11	13	37
CHARLOTTE	495	441	376	366	498	663
CITRUS	323	371	483	469	612	327
CLAY	741	824	816	695	489	603
COLLIER	1,407	1,360	814	612	524	586
COLUMBIA	403	380	423	89	61	67
DADE	4,406	4,268	2,581	2,382	2,203	490
DESOTO	225	223	193	257	313	749
DIXIE	48	60	12	15	16	12
DUVAL	1,169	947	2,144	1,931	1,663	1,509
ESCAMBIA	1,091	1,237	1,036	878	709	1,130
FLAGLER	322	246	166	71	<11	41
FRANKLIN	160	126	140	110	<11	<11
GADSDEN	533	716	689	725	555	409
GILCHRIST	20	27	<11	<11	0	<11
GLADES	34	18	<11	<11	<11	0
GULF	<11	<11	<11	<11	<11	42
HAMILTON	326	342	251	236	258	287
HARDEE	188	146	49	71	91	152
HENDRY	156	139	74	95	148	<11
HERNANDO	497	242	207	156	265	98
HIGHLANDS	92	61	37	64	88	117
HILLSBOROUGH	3,659	3,124	2,054	2,073	2,051	818
HOLMES	62	24	<11	<11	0	<11
INDIAN RIVER	311	347	349	209	108	80
JACKSON	158	119	182	139	96	37
JEFFERSON	<11	<11	<11	<11	0	<11
LAFAYETTE	196	141	105	89	146	92
LAKE	2,992	2,162	778	324	195	122
LEE	1,282	1,143	1,030	839	638	459
LEON	762	523	329	309	284	304
LEVY	182	263	114	88	14	18
LIBERTY	21	22	23	16	11	12
MADISON	74	57	89	43	35	28
MANATEE	1,788	1,684	1,770	1,574	1,778	1,998
MARION	1,911	1,691	1,675	1,060	941	715
MARTIN	80	68	48	42	23	39
MONROE	328	298	317	243	166	92
NASSAU	230	145	54	105	53	58
OKALOOSA	404	482	335	451	28	14
OKEECHOBEE	318	203	130	60	147	162
ORANGE	3,887	1,324	2,467	1,811	817	121
OSCEOLA	1,923	1,364	1,251	1,213	1,294	978
PALM BEACH	1,443	1,960	1,339	801	1,479	1,729
PASCO	2,230	2,093	1,815	1,599	1,428	1,754
PINELLAS	2,915	2,462	1,870	962	937	575
POLK	2,446	2,219	2,024	1,662	1,552	1,414
PUTNAM	736	720	523	525	615	807
SANTA ROSA	1,467	1,328	943	996	1,229	2,057
SARASOTA	1,229	872	1,006	1,068	851	762
SEMINOLE	1,697	1,322	1,008	632	616	829
ST. JOHNS	493	344	149	86	46	0
ST. LUCIE	348	222	72	27	86	96
SUMTER	48	124	105	47	<11	<11
SUWANNEE	318	322	387	257	166	72
TAYLOR	89	73	101	75	<11	<11
UNION	148	121	51	52	15	<11
VOLUSIA	2,016	1,889	1,973	1,977	1,384	1,235
WAKULLA	56	108	283	173	<11	20
WALTON	114	40	36	316	211	320
WASHINGTON	168	165	22	0	<11	17
TOTAL	56,680	49,112	41,286	34,375	30,878	29,545

Source: Florida Department of Education



Since 1979, Florida Impact has leveraged nearly \$4 billion in additional public funds to serve an estimated 800,000 low-income Floridians. This is accomplished with aggressive, strategic outreach to maximize federal food and nutrition programs in the state. Florida Impact organizes the direct involvement of community leaders in advocating for public policies and programs responsive to the needs of low-income families. Florida Impact is a three-time winner of the Congressional Hunger Center's Victory against Hunger Award and serves as the lead, convening organization for the Florida Partnership to End Childhood Hunger.



Please send a donation with this form
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