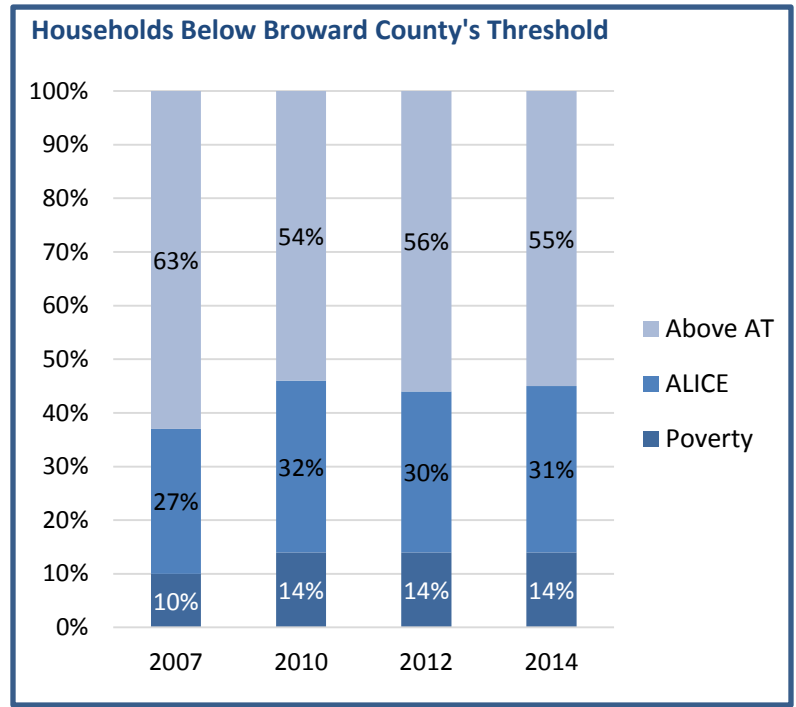


Hispanic Unity of Florida 2018 STATE Legislative Agenda

A Voice for Working Households

Hispanic Unity of Florida Inc.'s legislative agenda calls attention to the challenges faced by working households in our community. **ALICE** (**A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome, **C**onstrained, **E**mloyed) are our friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family members often walking a financial tightrope, unable to afford life's basic necessities. They are men and women of all ages and races working hard to make ends meet. They are our childcare workers, teachers, mechanics, home health aides, store clerks, and office assistants; workers who provide *invaluable services* upon which our local economy depends.



Over 44 percent of Broward households fall beneath a basic survival budget, and experience severe financial strain to cover the basic necessities of housing, transportation, childcare, food, and healthcare, despite being active in the labor force. These **ALICE** households are often one emergency away from falling into poverty.

The **ALICE** Report identifies four key policy areas for the 2018 Florida Legislature that will have the most beneficial impact on working families.

- ❖ **Education**
- ❖ **Healthcare**
- ❖ **Financial Stability**
- ❖ **Immigration**

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CORE POLICY ISSUES

Education



- Protect English language learners (ELL) by ensuring the Department of Education meets requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) – Legislation will be proposed
- INCREASE School Readiness funding to increase access to early education programs.
- RESTORE funding for Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten program to pre-recession (2007) level of \$2,677 per child.
- SUPPORT an increase per pupil funding through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP), allowing Florida school districts to be competitive nationwide.

Healthcare Access



- SUPPORT legislation expanding dental care access in Florida.
- MAINTAIN federal matching rate to fund Medicaid.
- MAXIMIZE home and community-based services for older adults reduce nursing home costs and waitlists.

Financial Stability



- REINVEST \$1.2 million to expand the capacity of free tax preparation and education programs to ALICE households
- UTILIZE the funding in the Sadowski Housing Trust only for its intended purpose.

Immigration



- Support legislation that protects our state's most vulnerable residents and actively work toward defeating legislation that creates greater divisiveness and hardships such as:
OPPOSE: HB 9: Federal Immigration Enforcement - Sponsor : Rep. Larry Metz
OPPOSE: HB 45/SB 212: Reentry into the State by Certain Persons
Sponsor: Rep. Joe Gruters & Senator Greg Steube