



# SCHOOL READINESS IN FLORIDA

*How we can close the gaps.*

**MARCH 2025**

**Policy Research Report**

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# Florida's Changing Workforce at a Glance

Data provided by the Florida Chamber Foundation's Florida Talent Center

For people who want to work, Florida should be the best state in the country. However, to support Florida's changing population, Florida needs an "all-of-the-above" approach to address the talent problems impacting our economy:

- More than **10 million Floridians are already in the workforce**; that's more people in the workforce in Florida than there is in total population in 40 states.
- With a growing population, Florida needs to **create 1.45 million net new jobs by 2030**.
- Today, for every 100 open jobs, approximately 90 people are looking for work. Below are some data points on Florida's changing workforce impacting the number of job seekers now and in the future:
  - **900,000 seniors** will be turning 65 in the next 3 years and potentially leaving the workforce, leading to more open jobs.
  - Across Florida, there are approximately **267,000 disconnected youth**, individuals ages 16 to 24 who are not working and not in school, needing to be re-engaged.
  - Another **1.9 million individuals do not have a GED**, who, if properly upskilled, could contribute to Florida's economy.
- According to the Florida Chamber Foundation's **Untapped Potential in FL** report, child care is the #1 reason working parents with children under 6 leave their job.<sup>1</sup>
  - **281,621 Floridians reported not working in the last 12 months to care for a child**,<sup>8</sup> further decreasing the number of job seekers looking to fill open jobs across Florida.
  - Not only are parents leaving their job, the Florida Chamber Foundation's 2024 **Florida Migration Trends Report** found that **Florida is experiencing a large outflow of 20 to 29-year-olds and Florida's 25 to 35 population is also shrinking**. Meaning, we need to close Florida's School Readiness gaps before more young families choose to live elsewhere.

## The Solution?

Investing in early learning and workforce development from cradle to career. The Florida Chamber Foundation's **Florida Business Alliance for Early Learning Project** and **Future of Work Florida Initiative** are driving this transformation—leveraging data, business leadership, and policy solutions to unlock Florida's untapped workforce potential.

Both initiatives are key to achieving the strategies laid out in the Florida Chamber Foundation's **Florida 2030 Blueprint**, which launched in 2018 with the input of more than 10,000 Floridians across all 67 counties, and is a strategic plan to guide Florida's continued growth and economic development. Organized under the Six Pillars Framework, the *Florida 2030 Blueprint* identifies 39 goals aimed at making Florida the 10th largest economy in the world by 2030. Within the 'Talent Supply & Education' pillar, six "cradle to career" goals exist, each essential to the overall success of creating the world's best workforce and solidifying Florida's position on the global stage.

To unite with us in tackling Florida's early learning challenges year-round, contact Makayla Buchanan at [mbuchanan@flchamber.com](mailto:mbuchanan@flchamber.com).

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**Florida Business Alliance  
for Early Learning Project**

To learn about the Florida Chamber Foundation Florida Business Alliance for Early Learning Project’s efforts to improve child care access and early learning outcomes in Florida, visit [flchamber.com/earlylearningfl](http://flchamber.com/earlylearningfl).

# Executive Summary

The Florida Chamber Foundation's **Florida Business Alliance for Early Learning Project** is a business-led statewide initiative uniting Florida around the vision that every child in Florida enters kindergarten ready to learn and every third-grader reads on or above grade-level. These goals are the building blocks of Florida's workforce and economy, where access to high-quality early learning opportunities makes a significant positive impact on both, so ensuring that working families in Florida have access to high-quality early learning opportunities is essential.

This policy research report was developed to evaluate the impact of shifting from the Federal Poverty Level to State Median Income as the entrance eligibility standard for School Readiness on Florida's children, working families, and economy. As the state's child care tuition assistance program, School Readiness is intended to give families the buying power they need to access high-quality early learning for their children, an important step in preparing Florida's future workforce to be kindergarten ready, read on grade-level by third grade, and graduate high school, while simultaneously supporting Florida's current workforce as inaccessible child care causes hundreds of thousands of working parents across Florida with children under six to quit their jobs.

## The Importance of Shifting to State Median Income (See Section 1)

Currently, Florida uses 150% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$46,800 for a family of four) to determine School Readiness entrance eligibility, which does not reflect rising wage levels in the state nor the true cost of living. A transition to State Median Income would better align with household income realities, ensuring that more working families can afford quality early learning programs, benefiting the child, the family, local businesses, and Florida's economy.

## Potential Impact on Families (See Section 2)

By shifting from 150% of the Federal Poverty Level to 65% State Median Income, an estimated 15,840 eligible families would enter the program, and 27,500 children would benefit from early learning programs.

## Economic Return on Investment (See Section 3)

Investing in a shift from 150% Federal Poverty Level a 65% State Median Income yields a 5:1 return in direct economic impact for Florida. For every \$1 invested in expanding School Readiness eligibility, Florida stands to gain \$5.65 in economic benefits through increased workforce participation.

## Conclusion

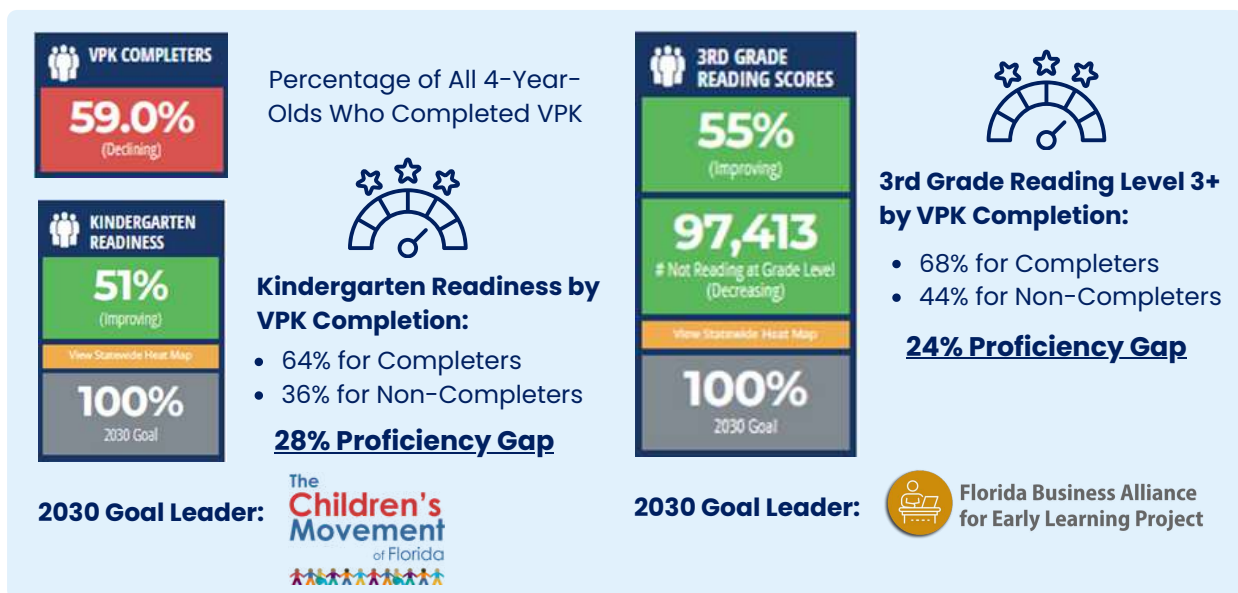
Updating the School Readiness entrance eligibility threshold to reflect Florida's economic realities is a strategic, high-impact policy decision. Expanding access to early learning through an State Median Income-based model not only ensures that more children enter kindergarten ready to succeed but also serves as a tool to strengthen Florida's talent pipeline, workforce stability, and global economic competitiveness.

# Section 1: Unlocking Florida’s Economic Potential: The Case for State Median Income in Child Care Tuition Assistance Eligibility

One of the most impactful economic development strategies Florida can pursue is ensuring that child care tuition assistance keeps pace with rising costs—unlocking talent, supporting businesses, and strengthening Florida’s economy. The Florida Chamber Foundation, informed by the Florida Chamber Foundation’s Florida Business Alliance for Early Learning Project, put together this report to highlight why adopting State Median Income as the eligibility measure for School Readiness is essential to achieving a number of Florida Chamber Foundation **Florida 2030 Blueprint goals—from cutting childhood poverty in half to ensuring 95% of students graduate high school by 2030**, and everything in between.

## Florida Early Learning and Literacy By the Numbers

Beginning with metrics tracked on the [TheFloridaScorecard.org](https://www.thefloridascorecard.org), it’s clear quality early learning experiences have a tremendous positive impact on kindergarten readiness and third-grade reading scores which is why the Florida Chamber Foundation’s Business Alliance for Early Learning Project is leading on issues like early care and education access and affordability.



Hundreds of state and county level metrics available on [TheFloridaScorecard.org](https://www.thefloridascorecard.org).

## The Economic Realities Facing Florida Families

Florida’s rising costs of living have outpaced wages, mirroring a national challenge that impacts working families across the country.<sup>1</sup> The gap between wages and the cost of basic services like housing, transportation, and child care has widened significantly.<sup>2,3</sup> **Child care costs can consume 20–30% of household incomes, exceeding in-state college tuition costs by \$8,402 annually.**<sup>4</sup>

Currently, eligibility for Florida’s child care tuition assistance program, School Readiness, is based on 150% of the Federal Poverty Level, leaving many working families unable to afford the average costs of child care in Florida (see Figure I) as **a family of four currently has to make less than \$46,800 to qualify.**

**Figure I:  
Average Child Care Costs in Florida**

Age	Average Cost
Infant (0-12 Months)	\$14,300
Toddler (12-24 Months)	\$12,740
2-year-old	\$11,700
3-year-old	\$10,868
4-year-old	\$10,400
5-year-old	\$9,880

Note: All calculations are based off of Florida's 2023 Market Rate Survey Report and multiplied by 260 working days in a year.<sup>19</sup>

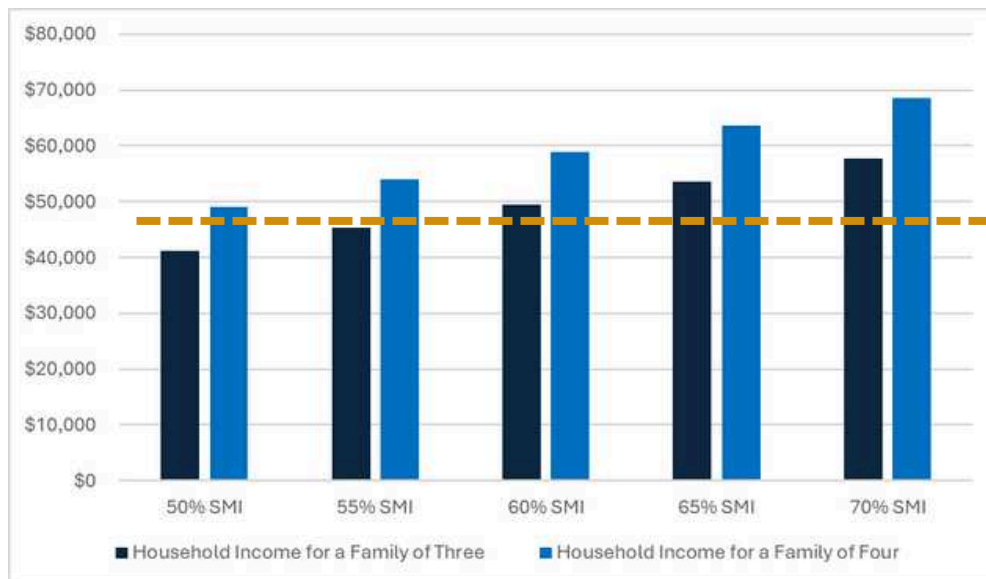
## Difference Maker: Why State Median Income Matters for Florida

The Federal Poverty Level is a nationwide measure set by the Department of Health and Human Services to determine eligibility for social programs. Based on U.S. Census Bureau data, the Federal Poverty Level does not account for regional cost-of-living differences, making it an inadequate measure for states like Florida.

In contrast, State Median Income, also calculated by the U.S. Census Bureau, reflects the midpoint of earnings within the state, currently \$50,978.<sup>6</sup> This means half of Florida households earn above the median and half below.

Unlike the static Federal Poverty Level, which remains the same nationwide, State Median Income incorporates Florida's economic realities, including the state's minimum wage (\$13/hour), providing a more accurate picture of financial need.

**Figure II: Comparing State Median Income Thresholds to 2025 150% Federal Poverty Level for a Family of Four<sup>5,6</sup>**



**150% Federal  
Poverty Level:  
\$48,225**

Note: Currently, eligibility for School Readiness is limited to families earning 150% of the Federal Poverty Level —\$46,800 for a family of four and rising to \$48,225 as of July 1, 2025.

For example, as Figure II demonstrates, **the 2025 Federal Poverty Level for a family of four at 150% is \$48,225, whereas Florida’s State Median Income for the same family size in 2025 at 65% is \$63,724<sup>5</sup>—a staggering difference.**

Similarly, for a family consisting of one adult and two children under six, a common demographic among child care program participants, the 2025 Federal Poverty Level is \$39,975,<sup>5</sup> while Florida’s State Median Income for the same family structure at 65% is \$53,528.<sup>6</sup> **Over the past decade, the Federal Poverty Level grew by 33%, while State Median Income increased by 59.2%,** further emphasizing the Federal Poverty Level’s inability to reflect Florida’s economic realities.

According to the United Way’s ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) report,<sup>2</sup> a family of four in Florida requires over \$80,000 to cover essential costs like housing, child care, transportation, and healthcare, \$33,200 more than the current School Readiness entrance threshold for the same family.<sup>5</sup>

Over the last decade, the ALICE “Household Survival Budget” has grown by 70%, reflecting Florida’s rising cost of living. While families might earn more today, many are still living paycheck to paycheck.<sup>2,3</sup>

## State Median Income and School Readiness

School Readiness helps working families offset the cost of early care and education while they work or go to school. Transitioning from the Federal Poverty Level to State Median Income as the eligibility threshold would preserve access for families who would otherwise be ineligible due to current thresholds. Many of Florida’s lowest-earning families, who genuinely need support to afford basic needs, have been left out of the system for over two decades.

Aligning eligibility with State Median Income would provide child care benefits to families earning just above the Federal Poverty Level but still struggling to meet the rising cost of living. This change would enable more parents to remain in the workforce, contributing to Florida’s economic growth.

**Currently, eligibility for School Readiness is limited to families earning 150% of the Federal Poverty Level—\$46,800 for a family of four and rising to \$48,225 as of July 1, 2025.<sup>5</sup>** This threshold excludes families whose earnings are slightly higher, such as anyone working full time and earning minimum wage in Florida.

The realities of Florida’s economic landscape, where living costs outpace Federal Poverty Level standards, would benefit from a more accurate and timely measure for School Readiness. Transitioning to State Median Income as the threshold for child care tuition assistance eligibility reflects Florida’s financial realities. This shift would align support close to Florida’s true cost of living and improve access to high-quality early care and education experiences for working families and their children.

Data shows that when Florida children have access to high-quality early learning, they’re more likely to be ready for kindergarten on day one and reading on or above grade-level by third-grade. As State Median Income continues to grow with increasing wages, eligibility for child care tuition assistance through School Readiness will be preserved for working families, supporting today’s workforce while preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

## Section 2: Expanding Access to School Readiness: The Impact on Working Parents, Children, and Families

With 69% of all children under the age of six in Florida having all available caregivers (parents/guardians) in the workplace,<sup>7</sup> working parents need access to affordable quality child care so they can go to work, provide for their families, and contribute to Florida's growing economy as shown in Figure III.

In fact, **281,621 Floridians reported not working in the last 12 months to take care of a child,**<sup>8</sup> contributing to Florida's talent shortage. Currently, 96 Floridians are looking for work for every 100 open jobs with communities like Miami-Dade having just 80 individuals looking for work for every 100 open jobs as of February 25, 2025.<sup>9</sup>

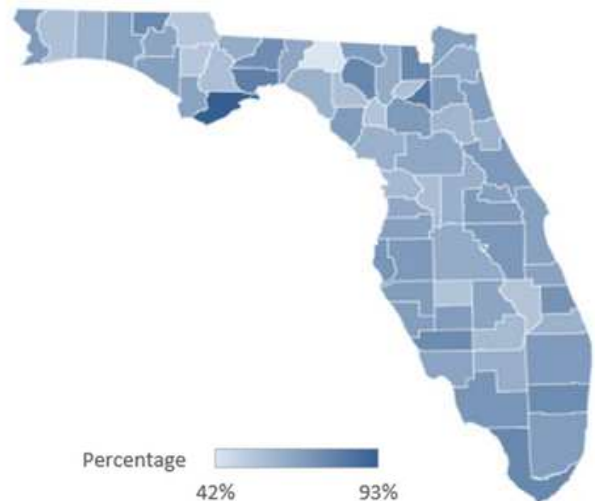
Addressing this burden would ensure more children benefit from early learning opportunities that set them up for long-term success, families face reduced financial stress, and employers see increased workforce stability.

Examining the tangible impact that shifting School Readiness from Federal Poverty Level to State Median Income would have on our youngest learners, working families, and employers demonstrates how policy changes at 60%, 65%, and 70% State Median Income ratios as the School Readiness entrance threshold could transform the landscape of access to affordable quality early care and education programs in Florida.

### Understanding Current School Readiness Eligibility and Enrollment

Based on the current 150% Federal Poverty Level income entrance eligibility (\$46,800 for a family of four with two working adults) and work/education requirements for parents, approximately 349,000 families and 603,000 children ages 0 to 13 are currently eligible for the School Readiness program – 253,000 children under the age of 5.<sup>10</sup> Figure IV identifies the number of full time equivalent enrollments by age (representing children) based on 260 days of service in the School Readiness program – 111,239 total.

**Figure III: Percentage of Children Under 6 With All Available Caretakers (Parents/Guardians) Working**<sup>7</sup>





<b>Figure IV: 2023–2024 School Readiness Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Enrollment by Age Band</b>	
<b>Age</b>	<b>Full Time Equivalent Enrollment</b>
Infant (0-12 months)	5,206
Toddler (12-24 months)	13,849
2-year-old	19,031
3-year-old	20,752
4-year-old	19,584
5-year-old	7,805
School Age (6 to 13-year-old)	25,012
<b>Total</b>	<b>111,239</b>

*Note: Due to the manner in which the U.S. Census is conducted, a family with multiple children aged 0 to 13 may be counted twice or more across age sub-groups. For example, if the family has a 4-year-old and 7-year-old, it would be counted in both the age 0-5 and 6-13 categories.*

## **Examining the Potential Impact Transitioning School Readiness Entrance to State Median Income Would Have on Working Families**

As applied in this paper, State Median Income does not always increase as much as the Federal Poverty Level when family size grows, making it challenging to directly compare the number of families and children who would be eligible under each measure.

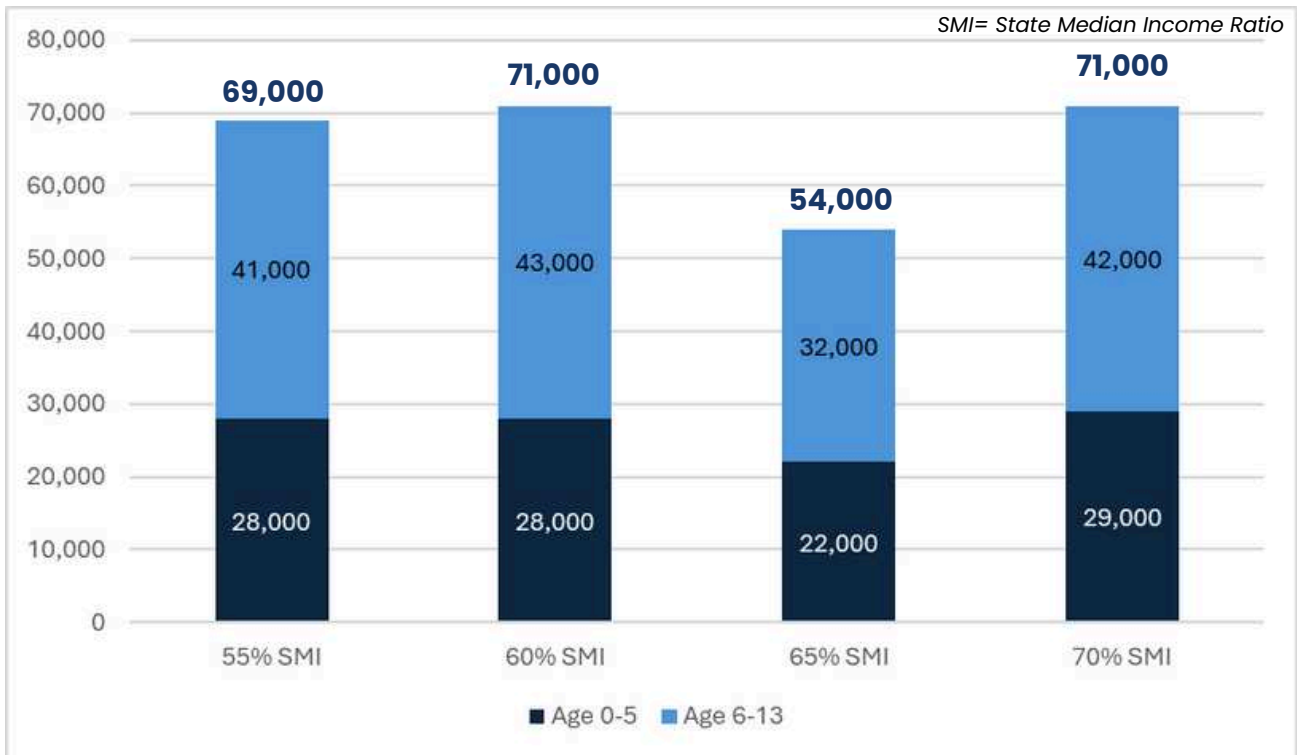
However, at 50% of State Median Income, an estimated 320,000 working families and 553,000 children are potentially eligible for the School Readiness program,<sup>11</sup> slightly lower than current eligibility figures at 150% Federal Poverty Level (349,000).

Depending on the State Median Income ratio utilized (55%-70%) for the School Readiness program's entrance, an estimated 40,000 to 150,000 additional working families would gain access to an early care and education solution that works for their family.<sup>10</sup> As Figure V demonstrates, this means tens of thousands of children could benefit from early care and education opportunities, putting them on a path to kindergarten readiness, third-grade reading proficiency, and beyond.

*“Expanding access to School Readiness is not just about helping families; it’s an investment in Florida’s economy. A shift from 150% Federal Poverty Level to 65% State Median Income for School Readiness entrance eligibility, with funding to support the new families and children, Florida stands to gain about \$1.3 billion in just direct economic impact – a \$5.65 return on every \$1 invested.”*

*–Makayla Buchanan, Director of Early Learning & Literacy,  
Florida Chamber Foundation*

**Figure V: Potentially Eligible Children by State Median Income Ratio and Age Group**



Note: Each column represents its own total—figures do not carry over or accumulate across columns.

## A Solution for Florida’s Current and Future Workforces

Transitioning Florida’s School Readiness tuition assistance program to a State Median Income entrance threshold of at least 55% is a two-generation workforce solution. This approach ensures that parents can remain in the workforce today - maintaining stable employment - while their children gain access simultaneously to quality early education, setting them up for long-term success in school and the future workforce.

As show in Figure I previously, 55% of State Median Income for a family of three in Florida is \$45,293,<sup>12</sup> representing a single parent with two children – a typical family size currently able to leverage the School Readiness program due to the low entrance threshold. For a family of four, which could include two working parents and two children, 55% of State Median Income increases to \$53,920.

While transitioning from 150% Federal Poverty Level to 55% State Median Income as the entrance for School Readiness could preserve access to early care and education tuition assistance for 40,000 working families and 69,000 children in the short-term,<sup>10</sup> as minimum wage continues to rise in Florida to \$15 per hour by 2026, that same family will no longer qualify for tuition assistance – exceeding the income eligibility limits – and putting working families, local businesses, and Florida’s economy in the same concerning position as today.

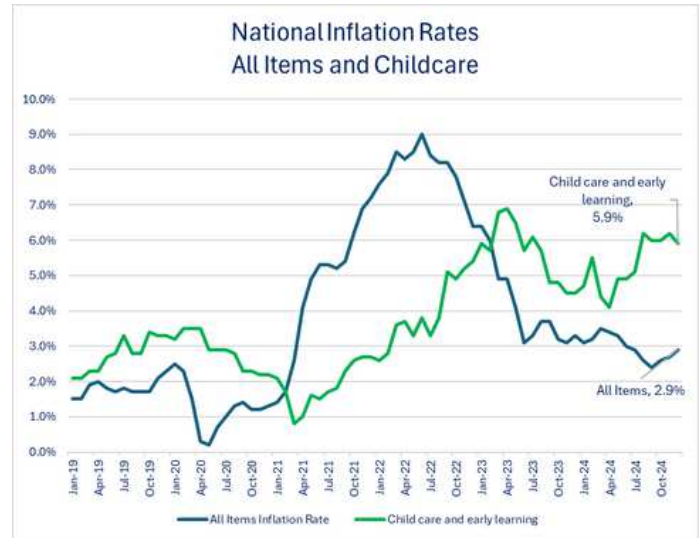
Because of these anticipated wage increases, **families currently between 50–55% State Median Income will naturally become eligible as 50% State Median Income shifts upward with rising wages beginning October 1, 2025.** As a result, this income range was not included in the potential investment nor economic impact calculations, as those families are expected to phase into eligibility without further policy adjustments.

Rather than leaving behind two working-parent households—who currently earn well above the \$46,800 entrance threshold for a family of four at the 150% Federal Poverty Level, and would continue to do so if the threshold were only raised to 55% State Median Income moving into 2025 as the 150% Federal Poverty Level increases to \$48,225 on July 1, 2025—Florida should consider implementing a more meaningful change.

Setting the entrance threshold to at least 60% State Median Income ensures that child care tuition assistance reaches the families and children who would benefit most.

This approach provides working families with the ability to balance the rising costs of child care, which have grown above and beyond overall inflation (see Figure VI), while simultaneously investing in the next generation of Florida’s workforce and growing economy.

**Figure VI: Child Care Inflation Outpaces Overall National Inflation**<sup>13</sup>



“Every day, early learning coalition leaders witness hardworking parents forced to leave their jobs because they earn just slightly too much to qualify for child care tuition assistance. Instead of contributing to Florida’s economy, these parents are left with an impossible choice – struggle to afford early care and education costs or exit the workforce entirely – and many are choosing the latter.”

–Molly Grant, Executive Director, Association of Early Learning Coalitions

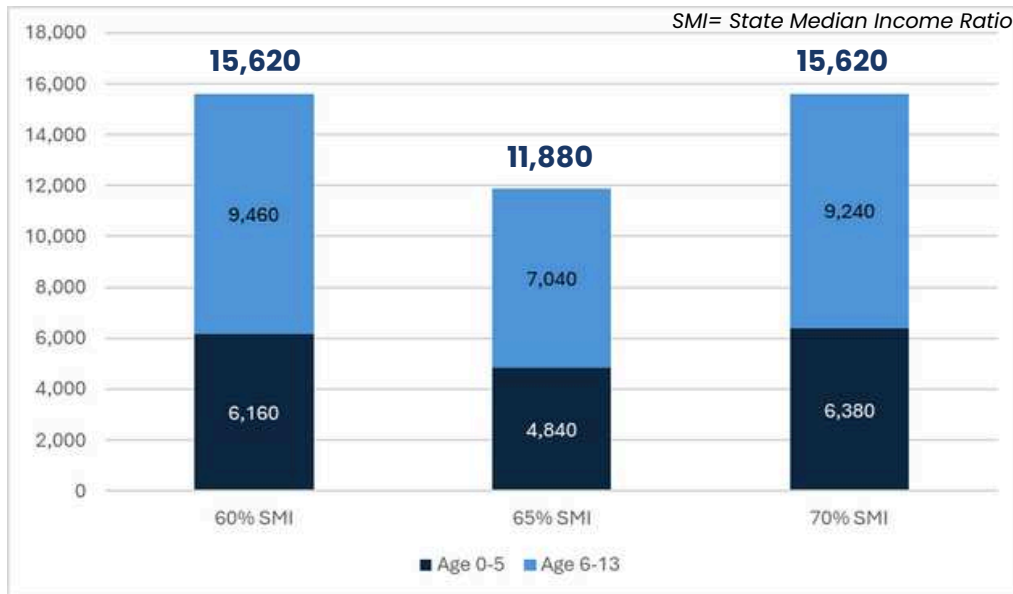


Molly Grant moderating a panel discussion at the Florida Chamber Foundation’s 2024 Florida Learners to Earners Workforce Solution Summit, featuring Maria Ram, parent, Florida Department of Education Division of Early Learning Chancellor Cari Miller, Representative Dana Trabulsky, and Dr. Marquita Davis of KinderCare.

# Section 3: Expanding Access to School Readiness: Cost Analysis and Impact on Florida's Economy

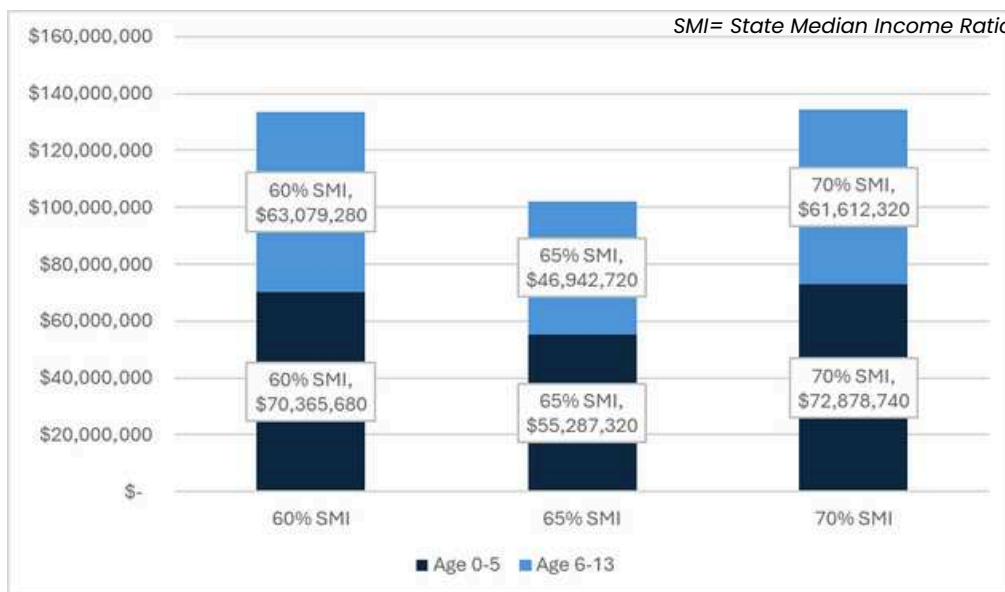
Given that approximately 22% of all children from potentially eligible families in Florida have historically taken advantage of child care tuition assistance via the School Readiness program, the same assumption of a 22% uptake was applied for potentially eligible children by State Median Income ratio in Figure VII to then estimate investments for each State Median Income ratio by age range (birth to 5 and 6 to 13) as shown in Figure VIII.

**Figure VII: Children Likely to Enter School Readiness Program at 22% Uptake Assumption by State Median Income Ratio and Age Group**



Note: Each column represents its own total—figures do not carry over or accumulate across columns.

**Figure VIII: Potential Investment by State Median Income Ratio and Age Range**



Note: All calculations are based off of average reimbursement rates and multiplied by 260 working days in a year, then adding 22% for administration, non-direct, and quality funds provided alongside reimbursement rates to support enrolled School Readiness children and families.

Figure VIII shows how the potential investment needed to support additional working families and children through the School Readiness program varies depending on which hypothetical State Median Income ratio is utilized for entrance into the program instead of one based currently on 150% Federal Poverty Level. Cumulative investment estimates are showcased in Figure IX.<sup>14</sup>

As demonstrated in Figure VII, families and children currently leveraging Florida’s taxpayer funded School Readiness program are primarily supported by the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Trust Fund, a federal funding stream.

Combined with funds from the Welfare Transition Trust Fund, Federal Grants Trust Fund, and State of Florida’s General Revenue Fund (GR), **the total investment in working families and children through the School Readiness program is roughly \$1.2 billion.**<sup>15</sup>

General Revenue dollars from the taxpayers of Florida account for nearly 13% of the total current \$1.2 billion investment into School Readiness program enrollments as shown in Figure IX.<sup>15</sup>

**Figure IX: 2024 School Readiness Investment by Source**<sup>15</sup>

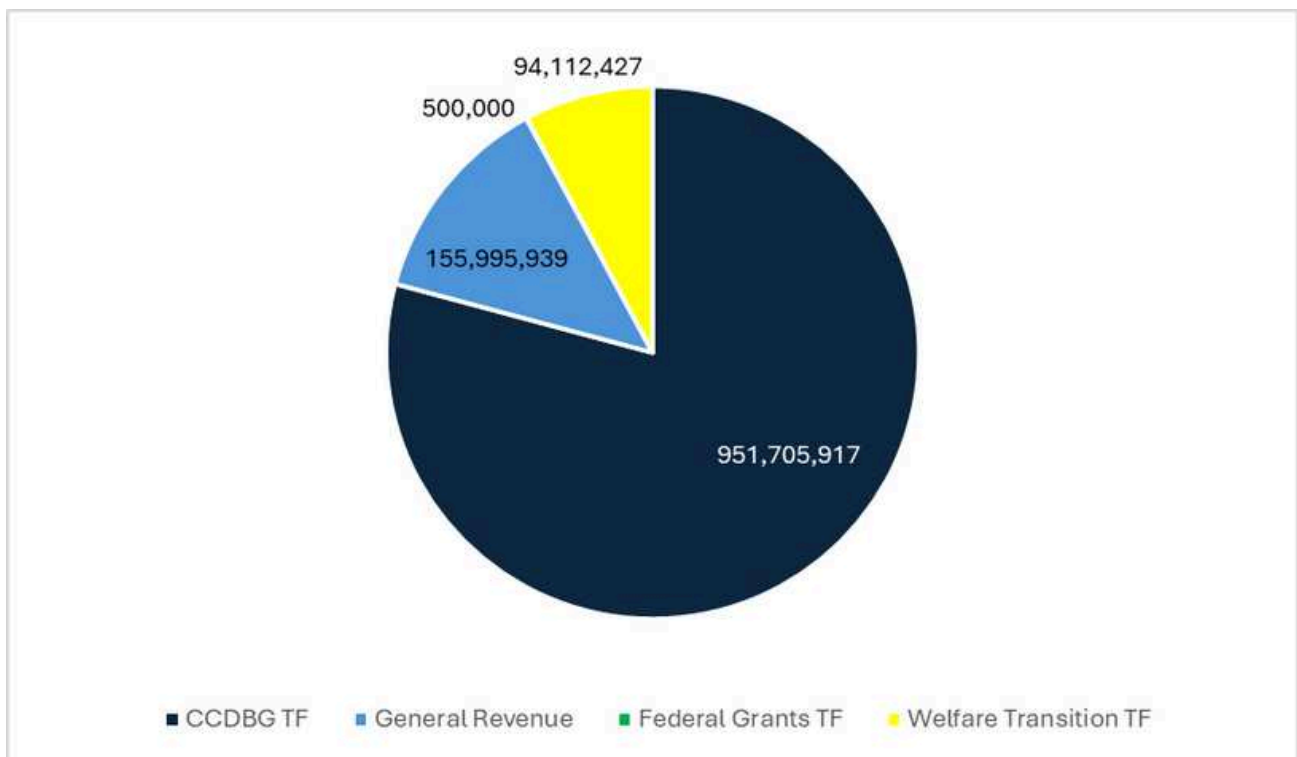
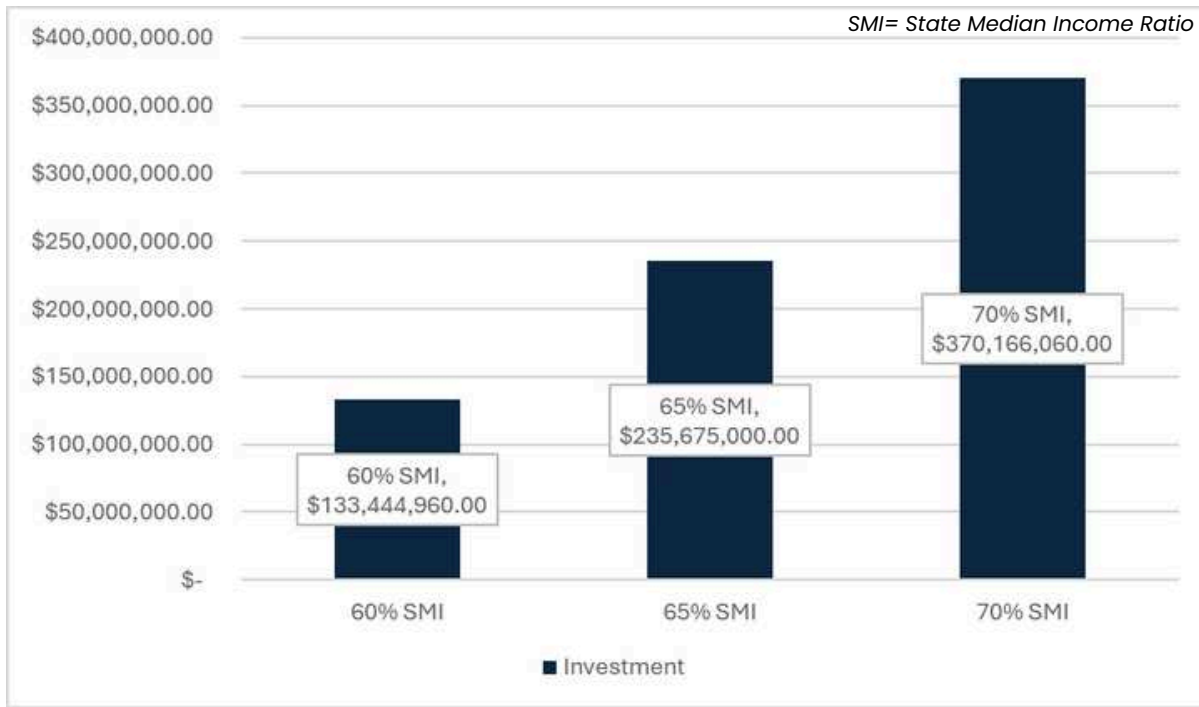


Figure X demonstrates how a shift from 150% Federal Poverty Level to State Median Income as the entrance threshold might impact the State of Florida's budget.

**Figure X: Cumulative Potential Investment Into School Readiness by State Median Income Ratio**



*Note: All calculations are based off of average reimbursement rates and multiplied by 260 working days in a year, then adding 22% for administration, non-direct, and quality funds provided alongside reimbursement rates to support enrolled School Readiness children and families.*

## The Economic Case for Investing Additional Taxpayer Funds in School Readiness

Revising eligibility into the School Readiness program by shifting the entrance eligibility criteria from 150% Federal Poverty Level to a 60% State Median Income ratio or above will require additional taxpayer investment.

Expanding School Readiness eligibility to 65% of State Median Income has the potential to deliver significant benefits for Florida's families, businesses, and economy. **At 65% State Median Income, 72,000 total new families would be potentially eligible for School Readiness.**<sup>7</sup>

However, leveraging the 22% historical uptake of eligible families accessing School Readiness, **it is estimated that 15,840 of the 72,000 eligible families would enter the program**, representing both single and married households, and 27,500 children would benefit from early learning programs.

The Florida Chamber Foundation is leveraging the most current U.S. Census Bureau data to estimate the economic impact of expanding School Readiness eligibility by analyzing the workforce potential of newly eligible parents. Using American Community Survey data, we can assume that 63% of newly eligible families are married households and 36% are single-parent households.<sup>16</sup>

Applying this distribution to the 15,840 newly eligible families, we can estimate the total earnings added to the workforce as a result of expanded child care tuition assistance access.

Using U.S. Census Bureau data, we account for the fact that individuals entering or remaining in the workforce due to expanded School Readiness eligibility have varying education levels, which directly impact their earning potential.<sup>17</sup>

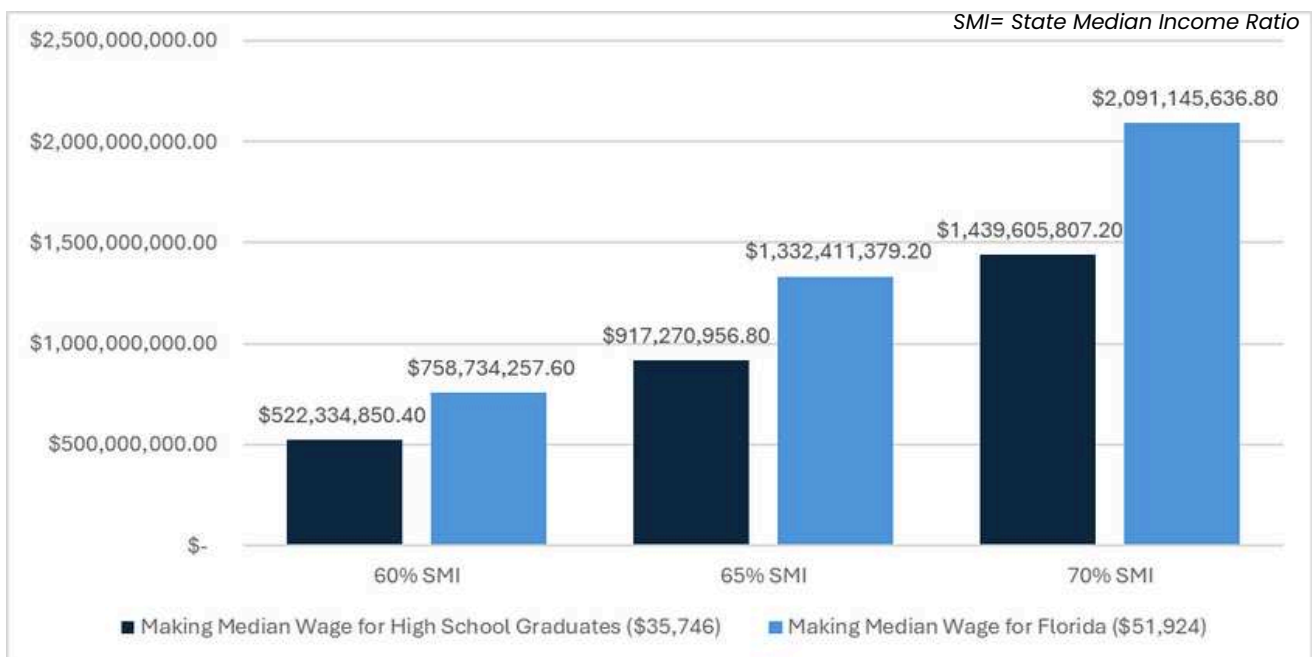
To estimate the economic impact of expanded workforce participation, we calculated two scenarios based on median wages from the U.S. Census American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. These scenarios represent a range of potential economic impact, from a conservative estimate using earnings for high school graduates (\$35,746) to a higher-end estimate based on Florida’s overall median wage (\$51,924).<sup>17</sup>

**A shift from 150% Federal Poverty Level to 65% State Median Income for School Readiness entrance eligibility, with funding to support the newly eligible families and children, could result in more than \$1 billion in direct economic impact** as shown in Figure XI (see Appendix A for methodology).

Figure XI showcases the economic impact of expanding School Readiness not only at the entrance of 65% State Median Income, but all hypothetical State Median Income ratios discussed throughout this report.

A shift from **150% Federal Poverty Level to 65% State Median Income** for School Readiness entrance eligibility, with funding to support the new families and children, Florida stands to gain about **\$1.3 billion in just direct economic impact** — a **\$5.65 return on every \$1 invested**.

**Figure XI: Economic Impact by State Median Income Ratio and Median Earning Scenario**



By ensuring child care is not a barrier to employment, expanding School Readiness investments not only helps working parents but also strengthens businesses, increases workforce participation, and drives economic growth.

The analysis is clear: when families have access to affordable, high-quality child care, they are better positioned to remain in the workforce, reduce absenteeism, and contribute to Florida's growing economy.<sup>1</sup> These investments also ensure young children receive the early learning experiences they need while empowering parents to work and support their families. As Florida aims to build the nation's strongest workforce and achieve the *Florida 2030 Blueprint* mission of becoming the 10th largest economy in the world by 2030,<sup>18</sup> supporting child care access through expanded tuition assistance is not just a family issue—it's a workforce and economic imperative.

"The question about child care and early learning isn't whether the investment is righteous; it's how we get there. Florida is leading the nation in low taxes and regulations, but we can do more to give the next generation the tools they need to succeed at every level of life."

*-The Honorable Fiona McFarland, Florida House of Representatives – House District 73*



*Representative Fiona McFarland speaking on a panel at the Florida Chamber Foundation's 2023 Florida Learners to Earners Workforce Solution Summit with Frank Walker, Executive Vice President of Government & Political Relations (moderator), Representative Lauren Melo, Representative Ralph Massullo, and Representative Kaylee Tuck.*



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## Appendix A: Economic Impact Methodology

To estimate the potential economic impact of expanded School Readiness eligibility, the Florida Chamber Foundation modeled two scenarios using median wage data from the U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates. This analysis assumes that newly eligible parents—who gain workforce participation due to childcare access—earn either:

1. The median annual earnings for high school graduates (\$35,746) as a low-end economic impact estimate.
2. The median annual earnings for full-time, year-round workers in Florida (\$51,924) as a higher-end economic impact estimate.

### Step 1: Estimating Workforce Participation

The Florida Chamber Foundation applied ACS S1101 Table data on household composition to the newly eligible families at each of the State Median Income ratios where 36% of families are single-parent households and 63% are estimated to be married, or two-earner, households.

### Step 2: Calculating Total Economic Impact

For each scenario, the number of workers in single and married households were multiplied by their respective median earnings, then totals were calculated.

Scenario 1: Economic Impact Using High School Graduate Median Earnings (\$35,746) at 65% State Median Income Ratio:

- Single-Parent Households: 5,702 total individuals × \$35,746 = \$203.8 million
- Married Households: 19,958 total individuals × \$35,746 = \$713.4 million
- Total Estimated Economic Impact (Low-End Scenario): \$917.27 million

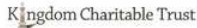
Scenario 2: Economic Impact Using Florida's Median Wage (\$51,924) at 65% State Median Income Ratio:

- Single-Parent Households: 5,702 total individuals × \$51,924 = \$296 million
- Married Households: 19,958 total individuals × \$51,924 = \$1.04 billion
- Total Estimated Economic Impact (Higher-End Scenario): \$1.33 billion

# Thank You to Our Florida Business Alliance for Early Learning Project Advisory Board Members



**Clara Acero**  
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**Molly Grant**  
Executive Director



**Jordan Jones**  
Government Relations  
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A special thank you to the **Florida Chamber Foundation's Florida Business Alliance for Early Learning Project Advisory Board** for their dedication to advancing the **Florida 2030 Blueprint** goals—ensuring 100% of Florida's children are kindergarten-ready and 100% of third-graders read on or above grade level by 2030. These leaders are engaged in this work year-round, and many generously contributed their time and expertise to shaping this report. Their commitment is helping drive real solutions for Florida's children, families, and workforce. **Contact Makayla Buchanan at [mbuchanan@flchamber.com](mailto:mbuchanan@flchamber.com) to discuss membership opportunities.**

Get involved in the larger discussion on creating America's best workforce in Florida at the Florida Chamber Foundation's **2025 Florida Learners to Earners Workforce Solution Summit**, June 24, 2025 in Tampa. Be sure to share this event with your colleagues to help ensure Florida's leaders are engaged in the plan to advance Florida's cradle-to-career workforce development needs.

Scan the QR code or register now here : <https://flchm.co/L2E2025RB>.



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LEARNERS TO EARNERS  
WORKFORCE  
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Thank you for your interest in the Florida Chamber Foundation's research aimed at improving child care access and making Florida the #1 state in the nation for early learning. If you would like to view additional research, please visit our website below:



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## **Unite With Us in Our Mission to Secure Florida's Future**

For questions about this report or to learn about how you can get involved with our initiatives and efforts to secure Florida's future, please email Makayla Buchanan at [\*\*mbuchanan@flchamber.com\*\*](mailto:mbuchanan@flchamber.com).