



# Florida Impact



*Mobilizing Communities  
Against Hunger and Poverty*

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# Major Accomplishments



- Passage of the Willie Ann Glenn (Children's Summer Nutrition) Act, a law to ensure federal summer food sites near all elementary schools in low-income neighborhoods.
- State funding of food stamps for legal immigrants denied them via federal welfare reforms.
- A state mandate to require all of Florida's elementary schools to offer the federal School Breakfast Program. In its first year of implementation, over 50,000 children sat down for the first time to a school breakfast-the overwhelming majority from low-income families. Now over a quarter of a million Florida school children participate in this nutrition program each school day.
- A state-funded match for Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) to help public assistance participants save for college, the purchase of a home, or starting a business.
- Regulation of interest rates charged by the title loan industry, which were as high as 264% APR.
- Regulation of the labor pool industry to prevent the exploitation of low-wage workers.
- A law to provide farm workers with the right to know about hazardous chemicals in the workplace.



# Services and Resources



**Statewide Food Stamp Help-line**—From 2001-2006, Florida Impact served approximately 68,000 people, using automated software to prescreen callers for food stamp eligibility and monthly benefit levels.



Over that same period, Florida saw a 37% increase in FSP participation and was among the top four states in which household food insecurity had declined.

**Florida Food Resource Directory**—After a caller is prescreened, they are advised of other public and private emergency food resources in their local community. This information is pulled from a searchable

database on the Florida Impact website, called the Florida Food Resource Directory. The Directory includes information on client requirements, hours of operation, and types of service offered by each of these service providers in all 67 Florida counties. From an original listing of 750 local emergency food providers, the Directory has grown to over 1,600 in number.

**Resources for Citizen Advocacy**—Every year, prior to the opening of the Florida Legislature, Florida Impact publishes the annual *Prepare*. This booklet provides analyses for budget and policy priorities before the Florida Legislature and the U.S. Congress affecting low-income families. It includes a full legislative directory and talking points that can be addressed to policymakers on each issue. After the legislative session is over, another annual publication, the *Update*, comes out, summarizing the final outcomes and committee-level voting records for the priorities outlined in the *Prepare*.

**“Feeding Florida: Responses to Hunger in the Sunshine State”**—In partnership with the Florida School Food Service Foundation, Impact releases a biennial state hunger report “Feeding Florida.” It provides data on each county’s projected level of food insecurity and the use of federal food and nutrition programs to address it. Participation in the National School Breakfast and School Lunch, Summer Food Service, Child and Adult Care Food, and Special Supplemental Nutrition for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) programs is detailed for each of the state’s 67 counties. This report highlights the number of children going unserved by each as well as the amount of federal dollars left on the table in Washington unused in each community.

# Recognition



**Florida Impact is a three-time winner of the "Victory Against Hunger Award" (2001, 2003, 2004)**, provided by the Congressional Hunger Center and Victory Wholesale Grocers. A check for \$1,000 is presented to approximately 20 organizations from around the nation for successful strategies in fighting hunger. The organization must be nominated by a member of Congress. Former U.S. Senator Bob Graham and Congressional Representatives Allen Boyd and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen have nominated Impact.

# The Road Ahead



Nearly half of Florida's elementary school children are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals, but less than 15% of them participate in the federal Summer Food Service Program. Given the added pressure on the family budget of providing additional meals when school is out, what are the rest of these children eating? In 2004 Florida left \$106 million on the table in Washington that could have been used to feed hungry children. In 2005 Florida was fourth among states missing out on the most federal funding for summer child nutrition.

Impact piloted outreach strategies to help community leaders implement the Willie Ann Glenn Act in six Florida counties, where children previously had little or no access to the program. By summer's end, over \$119,000 in additional federal dollars was brought into these communities to feed at least 885 more hungry children. The six counties enjoyed a cumulative increase of federal funds that was nearly three times what they received the previous summer; and nearly twice as many children were served.

Your contribution can help Impact replicate these strategies to other parts of the state, so that more of Florida's children are fed in the summer months ahead.

**Florida Impact is a 501c3 nonprofit organization and operates its programs with the generosity of private, tax deductible donations and grants. Your contribution can be made out Florida Impact (Federal I.D. # 59-2859151)**

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