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**Over Half of Florida's Families with Young Children Struggle to Make Ends Meet**  
New Whole Family Approach Needed to Stop the Generational Cycle of Poverty

A new report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation calls for a comprehensive effort to lift kids out of poverty, indicating that nearly half of the nation's families with young children (age 8 or younger) have an income less than 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The report focuses on the importance of delivering high-quality early childhood education while simultaneously providing parents with access to job training, career paths and other tools that enable them to support their families.

The KIDS COUNT® policy report, *Creating Opportunity for Families: A Two-Generation Approach*, outlines how the public, nonprofit and private sectors can work together to reduce poverty. More than half of Florida's 1,168,615 families that include children eight or younger are low-income households. Key data findings compiled for this report:

All Florida Families with Children Age Eight or Younger:

- More than 31 percent have no resident parent working full-time, year-round
- More than 44 percent have a high housing cost burden (more than 30 percent of the monthly income was spent on rent, mortgage payments, taxes, insurance, and/or related expenses)
- More than 588,000 are low-income with 45.3 percent headed by single parents (family's income is less than 200 percent of the FPL)

Patrick McCarthy, president and CEO of the Casey Foundation stated, "For too long, our approach to poverty has focused separately on children and adults, instead of their interrelated needs. We've learned a lot about what works in separate areas, but we're not combining these lessons to break the cycle of poverty."

Florida KIDS COUNT supports the call to cut poverty in **half in 10** years. "The time is now. The future of all Florida citizens depends on reversing the growth of limited income families and supporting our youth and their families to break the poverty cycle through innovative policy interventions," said Susan Weitzel, Florida KIDS COUNT Director. The two-generation approach seeks to equip families with the tools and skills they need to get on a path to opportunity and overcome obstacles they face – job training and caregiving skills for parents and high quality early education for children. Investing in our children and their parents together will place the next generation on a steadier path.

*Creating Opportunity for Families: A Two-Generation Approach* will be available Nov. 12 at 12:01 a.m. EST at [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org). Additional information is available in the [KIDS COUNT Data Center](#), which also contains the most recent national, state and local data on hundreds of indicators of child well-being. The Data Center allows users to create rankings, maps and graphs for use in publications and on websites, and to view real-time information on mobile devices. For complete details on Florida, visit [www.floridakidscount.org](http://www.floridakidscount.org).

*Florida KIDS COUNT (FKC) is part of a Nationwide KIDS COUNT Network and project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. FKC disseminates national, statewide and county-level data on key indicators for Florida's children. KIDS COUNT® is a registered trademark of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.*