



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



LADY DHYANA ZIEGLER DCJ, PH.D.
2018 COMMISSION CHAIR

January 1, 2019

Dear Floridian,

On behalf of the Florida Commission on the Status of Women, I am honored to present our 2018 Annual Report. Pursuant to Section 14.24, Florida Statutes, the Florida Legislature mandates the Commission to study the changing and developing roles of women in American society, including the implementation of recommendations to improve working conditions, financial security, and the legal status of both sexes.

In keeping with these requirements, our 2018 report focuses on economic security of Florida women and families. To have economic security, working adults must have enough income to meet their basic monthly expenses, including housing, food, transportation, child care, and, additionally saving for emergencies and retirement. (19).

Women currently comprise approximately 51.1% of the State's total population. (17). Therefore, women will play a vital role in Florida's growth, prosperity and quality of life over the next decade. We hope that you will find the economic data useful as we all work to improve the lives of Florida women and girls.

It is our desire that the information provided in this written report will act as catalyst to increase the economic security of Florida's citizens. Please feel free to contact our office at 850-414-3530 if we can be of assistance in the coming year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dhyana Ziegler', written in a cursive style.

LADY DHYANA ZIEGLER DCJ, PH.D.

CHAIR



FLORIDA COMMISSION
on the STATUS of WOMEN

2018 DATA REPORT

Florida Women

The following information highlights the strengths and challenges faced by Florida women through the latest descriptive data available. Additionally, more in-depth statistics are available on the [Commission website at fcsw.net](http://fcsw.net).

- Florida is the 3rd largest state by population and the 17th largest economy in the world. The state is expected to grow by more than 5 million residents by the year 2030. (10).
- Women represent 51.1% or 10,730,133 of the State's total population. (17).
- Florida's projected age distribution from 2010 to 2040 shows a decline in the percentage of those ages 25 to 44 from 25.1 percent to 23.7 percent, while the percentage of those ages 45 to 64 is expected to decrease from 27.0 percent to 23.1 percent. The 65+ age group is expected to increase by 8.2 percentage points, from 17.3 percent to 25.5 percent. (8).
- Over the next two decades, Florida's older population (age 60 and older) will account for most of Florida's population growth, representing 54 percent of the gains. (7).
- The median age of women is estimated to be just over 42 years. Among men, the median age is just under 40. (21).
- An estimated 20% of the female population is under 18 years old and 20.1% is 65 years and older. (21).
- In 2017 female students earned diplomas more often than male students, with young women posting an 89.3% high school graduation rate and young men a rate of 82.9%. (6).
- More than one in four women aged 25 and older has a bachelor's degree or higher (26.7%), compared with 28.1% of men. (3).
- In 2016, more than 20% of Florida's population was foreign-born, of which more than half were women. (3)
- [Florida has the third largest population of women veterans in the United States](#), as the home to over 154,800 women veterans making up nearly 10 percent of the veteran population in the state. (20).
- [Florida ranks 4th in the nation in pay equity](#). In 2017, Florida female full-time wage and salary workers had median weekly earnings of \$726, or 87.9 percent of the \$826 median weekly earnings for their male counterparts. (25).
- Education does not eliminate the gender pay gap. Women with bachelor's degrees earn 71.4 cents for every dollar earned by a man with similar education. (4).
- The average monthly Social Security benefit in Florida is \$1,161 for older women and \$1,490 for older men. (4).

ECONOMIC SECURITY IN FLORIDA

The amount of income working adults with employment benefits need for basic economic security in Florida.



Source: IWPR compilation of data from the Basic Economic Security Tables available at www.basiceconomicsecurity.org.

- Florida ranks 47th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for the proportion of working adults with economic security. Only 62% of Florida's working women and men (aged 19-64) are economically secure, meaning their family household income is enough to meet basic monthly expenses. (22).
- Living above the federal poverty threshold is not enough for economic security. In 2017, the federal poverty line for a single adult under age 65 was \$12,752, nearly \$19,000 less than is needed in Florida to be economically secure. (3).
- Research suggests that, on average, families need an income of about twice the federal poverty threshold to meet their most basic needs. Children living in families with incomes below this level—\$48,678 for a family of four with two children in 2016—are referred to as low income. (15).
- In Florida, 49% (1,946,206) of children live in low-income families (Nationally: 41%) (15).
- Florida currently has more than 3.4 Million residents, including 1.1 Million children, who are food-insecure, meaning that at some point during the year, they experienced difficulty providing enough food due to a lack of money or resources. (13).
- Nearly a quarter of all Florida households have children under 18 years of age. Women are breadwinners (contributing 40% or more of total household income) in 53.7% of all households with children. (21).
- In Florida, the number of uninsured children increased from 288,000 in 2016 to 325,000 in 2017, a rise of 1.3 percent, one of nine states with the largest upticks of uninsured children. (2).
- Only 22 percent of family households headed by single mothers in Florida live with family incomes high enough to be economically secure. Women of color struggle the most. (3).
- According to the United Way of Florida's Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) analysis, child care is often the greatest cost impediment to economic stability for families with young children. (12).
- For a Florida family with one infant and one 4-year-old, the annual price of a child care center averages \$15,922 per year, or more than one-fifth of the median income for a Florida family with children. (14).

"In most Florida counties, the least expensive childcare is more costly than the least expensive rent."

Florida Chamber Foundation, Florida Financial Cliffs Report.

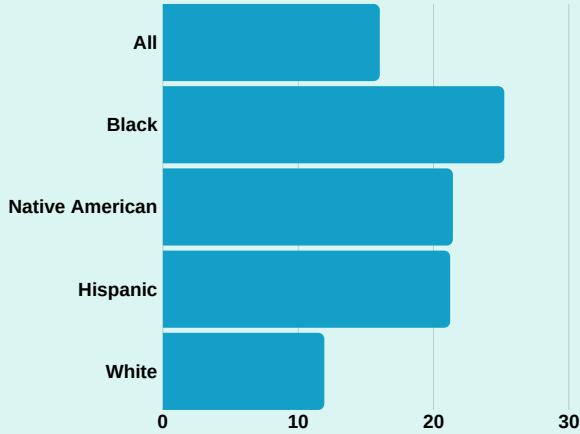


POVERTY

Across the country, poverty continues to be a persistent problem, especially among minorities.

- According to research from the Florida Chamber Foundation, 3.13 million people are living in poverty in Florida, with 944,415 of that total under the age of 18. These numbers do not account for the households living paycheck to paycheck - one financial crisis away from poverty. (14).
- In 2017, Florida ranked 32nd in the nation with 15.4% of working-age women (ages 18-64) who had incomes below the poverty line. (23).
- 20% of Florida children under 18 in related families had incomes below the poverty line in 2017. (23).

POVERTY FOR WOMEN IN FLORIDA BY RACE, 2014



Source: Anderson, Julie, Cynthia Hess. 2016. The Status of Women in Florida by County: Poverty & Opportunity. Report, IWPR #R475.

UNAFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

- Affordable housing, also referred to as "workforce housing," serves the needs of people employed in the jobs that we rely upon to make every community viable. In general, the income eligible household is said to be living in affordable housing when it spends no more than 30% of its income on either rent or mortgage payments. (1).
- Florida ranked 50th in the United States for the percentage of affordable housing, with only 35 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2016. Very low-income households are those with incomes at or below half of median income in the metropolitan or other area where they live. (23).
- Florida has added over 852,000 rental units since 2000, but fewer than 134,000 were affordable units. (9).
- The Florida 2030 Report overwhelmingly cites "affordability of housing" as the biggest weakness in our state now, and most feel the crisis will only get worse in the future. It is not just working professionals who are struggling - approximately 66% of seniors in Florida currently pay more than 50% of their income toward housing costs. (10)
- In Florida, 35% of households are renters. The Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment is \$1,118. To afford this level of rent and utilities – without paying more than 30% of income on housing – a household must earn \$3,726 monthly or \$44,716 annually. Nearly 789,000 Florida families spend more than half of their income on rent and utilities. (16).
- Florida has the third largest homeless population in the US at 35,900 with 18,883 sheltered and 17,017 unsheltered – including children and families. (11).
- In the 2015-16 school year, 72,601 schoolchildren in Florida were identified as homeless. (18).



2018 WORK OF THE COMMISSION

In 2018 the Commission expanded its online Florida [Women's Resource Directory](#) to connect groups and organizations vital to improving the status of women and families in Florida. The Directory has more than 750 organizations and continues to grow and expand as a useful resource.

For the fifth year, more than 200 women traveled to the Capitol to participate in the [Women's Legislative Education Summit](#). The two-day, non partisan forum provided attendees a unique opportunity to observe the legislative process in action and learn the tools needed to be leaders in their communities. The 2018 event included sessions on leading change, serving on boards and commissions, and navigating the legislative process. The Summit

concluded with the [2nd Annual Florida Women's Town Hall](#) led by the Florida Chamber Foundation.

The Commission's commitment to promote women's history continued with the 3rd annual [Florida Women's History Essay Contest](#). The middle-school participants in this year's contest were challenged to write about the issues they would champion as a newly elected public official, using female Florida legislators as inspiration. First place winners in each grade were presented a small cash award and a special recognition letter from Governor Rick Scott. Students read their essays, and their teachers were also recognized for their dedication to learning.



2018 Commission Officers: Lady Dhyana Ziegler, DCJ, Ph.D., Chair; Rita Barreto Craig, Vice-Chair; Nancy C. Acevedo, Secretary; Maruchi Azorin, Member-at-Large; Elena Spottswood, Member-at-Large; Karin Hoffman, Treasurer.



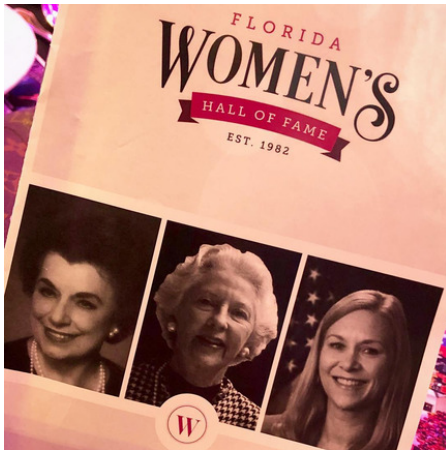
Winners of the 2018 Florida Women's History Essay Contest with their teachers, families, and Essay Contest Chair Commissioner Elena Spottswood.



The Commission expanded its educational outreach in 2018 by hosting the inaugural LEAD (Leadership. Education. Advocacy. Development.) Lunch & Learn at the Tampa Bay History Center in Tampa, FL. The sold-out lunch session featured a discussion with Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi who shared her personal journey of serving in public office. Florida Attorney General-Elect Ashley Moody joined as a special guest speaker.



Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi and Attorney General-Elect Ashley Moody.



The 2018 Florida Women's Hall of Fame honored Adela Hernandez Gonzmart, Lee Bird Leavengood, and Janet E. Petro.

Three new members were inducted into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame during a distinguished ceremony in Orlando as a part of the Future of Florida Forum. Celebrating its 36th anniversary, the Hall of Fame honored 2018 inductees Adela Hernandez Gonzmart, "The Queen of Ybor City;" Lee Bird Leavengood, a champion for higher education; and Janet E. Petro, Deputy Director of NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Center. Each of these women have made significant contributions to the citizens of Florida

The Commission finished the year by honoring thirteen outstanding women from across Florida with a Spirit of Community Award for their work in improving the lives of women and families in their communities at a special luncheon ceremony in Tampa, FL. The women were acknowledged for a wide variety of contributions to their communities, including the development of a leadership program for girls, helping mothers recover from addiction and domestic abuse, and increasing the awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorders.



The 2018 Spirit of Community Awards Recipients and members of the Florida Commission on the Status of Women during the awards celebration in Tampa, FL.



FLORIDA COMMISSION
on the STATUS of WOMEN

2018 Annual Report Committee

Commissioner Gayle Jacobson, Chair
Commissioner Representative Heather Fitzenhagen
Commissioner Cara Perry
Commissioner Elena Spottswood
Commissioner Lady Dhyana Ziegler, Ex-Officio

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Maruchi Azorin, M.B.A. (Tampa)	Carol Schubert Kuntz (Winter Park)
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Gayle Harrell (Stuart)	Ashley Wood (Rockledge)
Karin Hoffman (Lighthouse Point)	Lady Dhyana Ziegler, DCJ, Ph.D. (Tallahassee)

Connect with us and get involved

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[FaceBook.com/flcsw](https://www.facebook.com/flcsw)

Twitter: [@fcswomen](https://twitter.com/fcswomen)

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