



# THANK YOU

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## Black Diamond Foundation June 2019 Update

### Why what we do is so important for Citrus County

Content from a Feb 9, 2019 article in the Citrus County Chronicle

**In Citrus County, 50% of households struggle to pay for basic necessities such as housing, food, childcare and transportation.** This is from the United Way biannual ALICE report. (ALICE is an acronym for asset limited, income constrained and employed).

The 50% figure ties Citrus County for the 27th worst county in Florida putting us well in the bottom half of all Florida counties. "We're a service community. Guess what? That means we're a lower pay, lower benefit area". This quote is from Ernesto Rubio, Florida Department of Health administrator for Citrus County when asked to respond to the ALICE report.

Although Florida has seen a job creation boom in recent years, 67% of those jobs pay less than \$20/hr and of those jobs, 72% pay less than \$15/hr. In that same period, wages have not gone up but the cost of living continues to rise. It is estimated that a family of two adults and two children in Florida would require an income of \$55,164 to meet basic needs. Overall, 49% of the family households in Citrus County have annual incomes below \$50,000. 30% have incomes below \$35,000. In addition, the county has a number of

retirees depending solely on social security.

What all of this means is that over half of those working in Citrus County are not making enough to support an average family. The Black Diamond Foundation supports a variety of social service charities such as the Family Resource Center, Citrus County Education Coalition, and the Citrus County Food Bank which provide services to help bridge the gap between earned income and that necessary to meet minimum standards for our neighbors.

Click on <https://bdfinc.org/files> to access the complete ALICE report within the Foundation web site. I encourage everyone to read the full report. It is very sobering and a bit scary to realize that many of our neighbors live so close to the edge. Click on <https://bdfinc.org/citrusco> to learn more about the wonderful charities helping our neighbors.

Thank you for letting us make a difference for the working poor in Citrus County

Board of Directors, Black Diamond Foundation