

U.S. PROGRAMS

Investing in Childhood: Florida

Save the Children invests in childhood – every day, in times of crisis and for our future. In the United States, our child experts work to ensure that our nation’s most underserved children have the best chance for success. Every day, we help children get ready to learn and succeed in school and to live healthy, active lives. We ensure children are protected when crisis strikes. And, we advocate to ensure American children’s voices are heard and their needs addressed, securing the future we share.

Save the Children expanded our evidence-based early education programming into Florida in 2015. Thanks to the support of the state of Florida and the Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County, we are partnering with five schools to deliver our Early Steps to School Success program to 100 children in the county. In 2016, Save the Children looks forward to expanding programs into Polk, Miami-Dade and other counties with funding support from the state of Florida.

EVERY DAY

Save the Children’s Early Steps to School Success program provides home visits, book bag exchanges and parent-child groups to support babies’ and young children’s language, social and emotional development. The program equips parents with the skills and knowledge to successfully support their child’s growth, while developing strong home-school connections. Services can begin when moms are pregnant and the program follows infants and toddlers through age 5.

Results: Nationally, more than 80 percent of 3-year-olds in our Early Steps to School Success program score at or above the normal range for vocabulary acquisition. These strong results continue at age 5, when children are tested again – despite the fact that our children grow up with an average of more than five family risk factors.



IN TIMES OF CRISIS

Save the Children’s Get Ready Get Safe initiative helps communities prepare to protect their kids before, during and after a disaster. We respond directly to disaster affected communities, working to address unmet needs of children. We also support the child care community by providing recovery assistance, as well as emergency preparedness. In addition, we offer long-term resiliency support to children and caregivers through our emotional support program, Journey of Hope.

Results: Since mounting a major response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005, we’ve helped more than 1,000,000 U.S. children in crisis through our emergency preparedness, response and recovery programs. In Florida, we have provided trainings to emergency managers and responders around the state and headlined a statewide webinar focused on integrating children’s unique needs into emergency planning and on creating Child-Friendly Spaces in emergency shelters.

Leticia loves reading to her daughter, Emma and says Early Steps to School Success home visits have given her lots of activities to do with her “quick learner.”



Once Early Steps children transition to preschool, the emphasis on reading and development continues with book bag exchanges, read alouds and parent-child groups.

CHILD POVERTY IN FLORIDA

- 25% of children live in poverty.¹
- 59% of children are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals – a socioeconomic challenge recognized as a barrier to student achievement.²
- 59% of 3- and 4-year-olds from low-income families are not enrolled in preschool/nursery school programs.³
- 61% of fourth graders scored below proficient in reading achievement on the National Assessment of Educational Progress.⁴

FOR OUR FUTURE

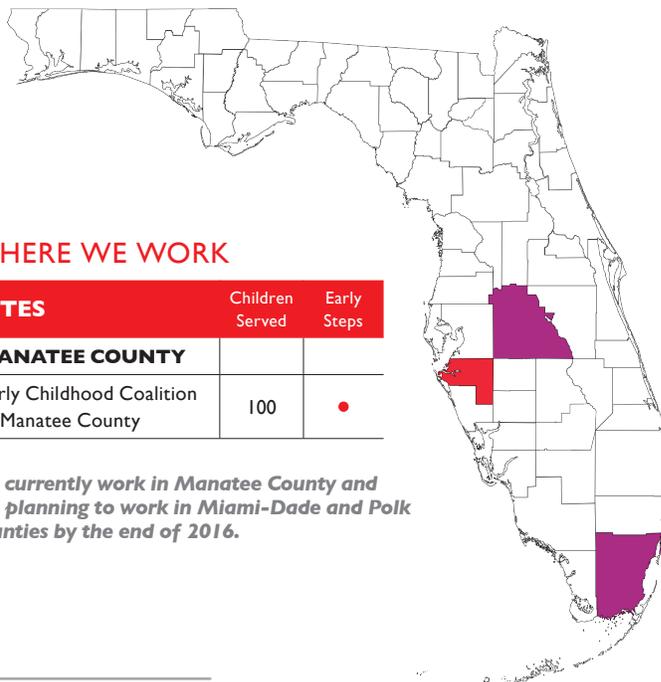
We advocate for initiatives and legislation at the state and national levels that promote children’s well-being and resiliency, including the necessity of high-quality early education programs, funding for underserved school districts, and child care emergency preparedness.

Results: Since 2010, Save the Children has achieved policy change in 37 states and the District of Columbia, benefitting 57,000,000 American children.

WHERE WE WORK

SITES	Children Served	Early Steps
MANATEE COUNTY		
Early Childhood Coalition of Manatee County	100	●

We currently work in Manatee County and are planning to work in Miami-Dade and Polk counties by the end of 2016.



899 North Capitol St., NE
Suite 900
Washington, DC 20002

800-Save the Children
SavetheChildren.org/USA

¹ 2013. Kids Count, Annie E. Casey Foundation.
² 2013-2014. Kids Count, Annie E. Casey Foundation.
³ 2011-2013. Kids Count, Annie E. Casey Foundation.
⁴ 2013. Kids Count, Annie E. Casey Foundation.