

FLORIDA RESOURCE MAP

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Florida Community Innovation Presents Release 4 of the FRM

I. Florida Community Innovation (FCI)

The Florida Community Innovation Foundation (FCI) is a network of young professionals that envision a Florida where everyone has equal access to trusted information, critical services, and rewarding careers. FCI empowers young innovators to build scalable social services technology for their communities.

II. The Florida Resource Map (FRM)

The Florida Resource Map (FRM) is a tool created by FCI that works as a hub for essential information for the most vulnerable communities in Florida. Resources regarding the closest local shelter, food banks, and more will be available all in one place. Featuring a compact search option with actions like filtering by the desired category or syncing with location, the FRM provides an easy interface for resources accredited by our team and partners, and with new features enabled by this release, resources added by individuals across the state.

Through exciting partnerships, we have conducted research to ensure that the FRM is the right fit for the people of Florida, in collaboration with Georgetown University. Other research includes assessing the needs of social workers by the University of Michigan (to make sure the Map is optimized for them) and researching how the Map can help with preventative healthcare access with American University.

"Our team shares a common goal of creating stronger communities by connecting people to resources. Sharing data on the FRM allows us to support each other's mission through measurable results throughout the state of Florida," said Luke Li, lead student developer of the FRM and a student at the University of Florida.

III. Partnerships

FCI partners with various nonprofits and community organizations, including the *United Way of Northwest Florida*, the *Community Foundation of North Central Florida*, and the *Central Florida Foundation*, on the FRM. A scaled-up map is ready to debut statewide with an updated release. So far, in the pilot regions—North Central Florida, Central Florida, and Northwest Florida—the map has helped beneficiaries by providing a 'digital access point for our six-county area to find appropriate resources to fit their needs. This complements our resources by providing another convenient on-ramp for discovery," said Gina Littleton, the Interim President of the *United Way of Northwest Florida*.

"Having this map embedded into our Nonprofit-search.org site gives people another tool to learn about nonprofits in their area and connect with the resources they need. Our partnership with FCI provides another way for the Central Florida Foundation to help our community," said Sandi Vidal, Vice President of Community Strategies and Initiatives of the *Central Florida Foundation*.

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IV. What's new with this release?

Built with social workers in mind, the new version updates resource searching and filtering for improved efficacy. Firstly, there's an expansion in data quantity, bolstered by rigorous verification and regular synchronization with trusted partners for heightened accuracy. Secondly, advanced filtering options allow for streamlined sorting based on tags and distance, facilitating quicker resource identification.

Additionally, the redesign extends to resource visualization, with maps offering a more intuitive interface for spatial understanding. This aids decision-making processes by providing clear insights into resource distribution and proximity. Lastly, individual resource details pages are optimized for accessibility, ensuring comprehensive information is readily available. These collective improvements mark a significant advancement in resource accessibility and usability, empowering social workers with enhanced tools to navigate support services more efficiently.

Data owners such as large foundations and city governments now have streamlined access to the platform. They can sign in directly with their work accounts, import resource data in bulk via CSV onto the map, and sync data from their systems upon request. Additionally, they can obtain a customized link to embed a prioritized map on their websites. A new self-service dashboard enables efficient resource management, while resources verified by trusted partners are distinguished with a verified badge and link to the partner website for transparency and credibility.

Resource owners can now easily access the platform by signing in with their work accounts. They can apply to be individual resource contributors and, once verified, propose their resources for inclusion on the map. A new dashboard facilitates seamless management and updates for owned resources.

Upcoming versions will feature Spanish-language resources.

V. Who can use the map:

The update of the FRM is accessible for all Floridians. The FRM can be embedded on websites for easy use and discovery of nonprofit resources by social workers, resource and data owners, and Floridians around the state who are searching for streamlined access to nonprofit resources.

VI. How to Access:

The Florida Resource Map is available at FloridaResourceMap.org.

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