

Economic Stability

Thrive Literature Review Overview

- **What is Economic Stability?** The financial security, employment opportunities, asset-building capacity, and basic needs access that enable Central Florida residents to meet their household expenses, weather economic shocks, and build intergenerational wealth.
- **What is it characterized by?** Prosperity where opportunity is widely accessible and life outcomes are not predetermined by immutable characteristics, ZIP code, or family circumstances; housing security, food access, health outcomes, educational and professional attainment, and community wellbeing.

Critical Issues in Central Florida

Cost of Living Crisis	Unaffordable Housing	Food Insecurity
Low-Wage Employment	Benefits Cliffs	System Complexity

Strategic Priorities & Interventions

1. **Creating Sustainable Pathways to Jobs That Will Last:** Expand awareness campaigns promoting certificates/apprenticeships; host career preview events in six growth industries (manufacturing, healthcare, construction, hospitality, IT, finance, trade/transportation/logistics); convene "Jobs That Matter"-like task force co-designing skills-based training with stackable credentials and apprenticeships; implement skills-based hiring eliminating unnecessary degrees; establish microgrants (\$500-2K) covering training gap expenses (childcare, transportation, uniforms, tools), alongside scholarships/incentives.
2. **Produce Prescriptions & Food Insecurity:** Launch "Food is Health" clinics partnering food banks and healthcare offering produce prescriptions, SNAP enrollment, diabetes-friendly groceries at schools, clinics, and shelters; implement food insecurity screening at ERs/clinics/schools with referral workflows; eliminate school meal debt and advocate universal free meals; SNAP enrollment drives with embedded navigators; expand SNAP matching at farmers markets/grocers; pilot produce prescriptions.
3. **Childcare Access for Working Parents:** Fund/subsidize flexible, nontraditional-hour childcare pilots, partnering with employers (hospitals, logistics hubs, universities, Publix, hospitality) to pilot on-site or nearby childcare serving shift workers with evening/weekend/overnight needs; establish Childcare Sponsorship Match Fund, with philanthropic dollars matching employer contributions to fund employee childcare scholarships, and recruit construction, healthcare, hospitality, manufacturing sector employers.