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**Until 12:01 AM EDT**  
**July 21, 2015**

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**Florida's Families Continue to Struggle Economically, as Evidenced by  
The National Ranking of 45 in Economic Well-Being**

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2015 *KIDS COUNT*<sup>®</sup> *Data Book* released today shows that while Florida is experiencing positive growth in economic trends, the number of children living in poverty continues to rise. The total number of children living in these families is 969,000 or nearly one in every four. The report also goes on to show that a third of Florida's children are living with parents who lack secure employment.

"With almost half of the nation's children living in low-income households, all sectors in our nation must work to ensure that the economic recovery reaches all families, especially those who are losing ground in our recent prosperity," said Patrick McCarthy, president and CEO of the Casey Foundation. "Even though we've seen an increase in employment in recent years, many of these jobs are low-wage and cannot support even basic family expenses. The outcome is that millions of families are still struggling to provide for the day-to-day needs of their children."

As the number of children living in poverty in Florida expands, the data show that over a half million children are living in high-poverty areas. With the official poverty threshold in 2013 set at \$23,624 for a family of two adults and two children, these statistics are based on a very conservative measure of hardship. Children are being left stranded in the wake of the recession and are not benefiting from economic recovery in our state.

"Despite indications that the economy is rebounding, substantial portions of Florida's children are being raised in poverty, but there are two-generational strategies that can help," said Florida KIDS COUNT Co-Directors Norín Dollard and Patty Sharrock. "These strategies lift the entire family out of poverty and reduce the stressors that impede healthy child development."

The *KIDS COUNT Data Book* with state-by-state rankings and supplemental data launches at 12:01 a.m. EDT, July 21, 2015 at [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org). For complete details on Florida, visit [www.floridakidscount.org](http://www.floridakidscount.org).

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*Florida KIDS COUNT (FKC) is part of a Nationwide KIDS COUNT Network and project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. FKC disseminates national, statewide and county-level data on key indicators for Florida's children. KIDS COUNT<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.*

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