



## INTRODUCTION

### *What is the Quality of Life Report?*

Welcome to the 2005 edition of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Council's Quality of Life Report for Tallahassee-Leon County, Florida. As citizens of Leon County, we are all concerned with the quality of life in our community. The mission of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Council is to bring community partners together to continue to improve the quality of life for everyone who lives in Tallahassee-Leon County. The first step is looking at data on how our community is doing in several important areas.

The Tallahassee-Leon County Quality of Life Report presents data on 73 indicators of well-being, spanning seven major areas: Families, Public Safety, Health, Education, Economy, Community and Environment. The purpose of these indicators is to provide a baseline for identifying priorities, developing solutions and tracking progress toward a better life for all members of our community, particularly our children.

### *How will it be used?*

The Quality of Life Report does not evaluate any particular group, service, or organization in the community. Instead, its purpose is to assist 21<sup>st</sup> Century Council members to:

- ◆ ***Describe emerging trends and opportunities*** that can be prioritized and acted upon by people, organizations and institutions that can have an impact on quality of life in Tallahassee-Leon County.
- ◆ ***Serve as a catalyst for decision-makers*** to examine the effectiveness of strategies and use of resources with an eye toward measurable improvement.
- ◆ ***Inform citizens*** of Tallahassee and Leon County and help them monitor the quality of life indicators in their community that are important to them.



## Quality of Life Report

## Tallahassee-Leon County, FL

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The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Council hopes citizens, organizations and institutions – such as the United Way, Chamber of Commerce, Leon County Public Schools, and city and county government – will find that this report helps them make better policy, program and funding decisions and assists them in monitoring the success of their efforts.

To facilitate collaboration among community partners, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Council plans to establish committees for each area of the report: Families, Public Safety, Health, Education, Economy, Community and Environment. These committees will work with local organizations to examine trends, identify positive impacts to date, and target areas where new strategies may need to be developed. In some cases, a survey or special study may be commissioned to better understand the problem or inform a course of action.

### *How was it produced?*

This web-based report consists of a selected set of indicators chosen by the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Council's Board of Directors. The Council previously published reports on quality of life indicators, juvenile justice, transportation and land use, and human services. In 2003, the Quality of Life Report was made available on-line, with embedded links allowing for individuals and groups to study and analyze related data in more depth. The current 2005 edition contains updates on the original indicators and several new indicators. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Council will continue to build on the report with broad input from the community and add more indicators reflecting additional areas of importance or interest.

Chars and tables are updated as additional data becomes available of each indicator. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Council is committed to keeping the data current and readily available on its website ([www.21stcenturycouncil.net](http://www.21stcenturycouncil.net)).

***JOIN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY COUNCIL.*** *We encourage you to join this community effort as a member of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Council. As you read this report, you are likely to find some trends of interest or concern. As a member of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Council, you will have the opportunity to work with other citizens and organizations who share your concerns and are eager to work toward solutions. To join the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Council, please go to our website ([www.21stcenturycouncil.net](http://www.21stcenturycouncil.net)) or call Emily Millett at 385-5444.*