

UNITED WAY ALICE REPORT

Fact Sheet



CORE STATISTICS

- ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households are those with income above the federal poverty level (FPL) but below a basic survival threshold that includes being able to pay for housing, child care, food, health care and transportation.
- Even with at least one person in the household working, **40 percent of working Michigan** households don't make enough to reach the basic survival threshold.
- Michigan has nearly **930,503** ALICE households. When those living below the poverty line are added, Michigan has **1.54** million households unable to make ends meet.
- Nearly two-thirds (63 percent) of all jobs in Michigan pay less than \$20 an hour. The jobs forecast shows low-paying jobs will dominate the state economy well into the future, holding back ALICE households.
- Despite working and receiving financial supports, ALICE households still are 13 percent short of having enough money to reach the basic survival threshold in Michigan.

WHY UNDERTAKE THE ALICE STUDY?

- The federal poverty rate is commonly regarded as inadequate for measuring the true scope of financial need in the country.
- United Way believes in a research-based model in order to fully understand and best respond to the needs of our communities. We wanted to understand the causes of the problems, not just the end results.
- We sought to provide objective, comprehensive data that can be used for serious policy planning in every arena.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE ALICE STUDY?

- A decade-long economic decline capped by the Great Recession hit Michigan's communities with hurricane force, hobbling the auto industry, bruising wages and destabilizing families statewide.
- ALICE households are a vital part of our community. We are all interconnected and our success depends on ALICE households' ability to reach their potential. ALICE households are not going away. They're here to stay.
- There is a systemic problem that will not be solved with one magic bullet – policymakers, academics, business and social service agencies need to work together to address long-term systemic change.

WHAT ARE THE UNITED WAYS OF MICHIGAN DOING FOR ALICE?

- United Ways across the country are joining forces to bring this issue out of the shadows and ignite a grassroots movement to give ALICE households a chance to become financially stable.
- We are raising awareness that ALICE households exist in Michigan and that we need to address their needs for the economic well-being of all residents.
- We are shedding light on the underlying causes keeping ALICE households from succeeding.
- United Way currently works to provide some short- and medium-term solutions for ALICE households, such as scholarships to access quality child care, free tax preparation and financial and career mentoring.
- We are engaging with businesses, government agencies, other nonprofits, the faith-based community and residents to create solutions for a stronger Michigan.

ALICE IN CALHOUN COUNTY

Population: 135,099 | Number of Households: 53,182
 Median Household Income: \$39,190 (state average: \$46,859)
 Unemployment Rate: 7.9% (state average: 9.1%)
 Gini Coefficient (zero = equality; one = inequality): 0.44 (state average: 0.46)

How many households are struggling?

ALICE, an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, are households that earn more than the U.S. poverty level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county. Combined, the number of poverty and ALICE households equals the total population struggling to afford basic needs.



What are the economic conditions?

The Economic Viability Dashboard evaluates community conditions for ALICE in three core areas. Each is an index with a scale of 1 (worst) to 100 (best).

Housing Affordability poor (51)	Job Opportunities good (67)	Community Support good (58)
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What does it cost to afford the basic necessities?

This bare-minimum budget does not allow for any savings, leaving a household vulnerable to unexpected expenses. Affording only a very modest living in each community, this budget is still significantly more than the U.S. poverty rate of \$11,170 for a single adult and \$23,050 for a family of four.

	SINGLE ADULT	FAMILY (INFANT AND PRE-K)
Housing	\$473	\$664
Child care	\$-	\$1,059
Food	\$196	\$592
Transportation	\$341	\$681
Health care	\$130	\$518
Miscellaneous	\$127	\$378
Taxes	\$129	\$264
Monthly total	\$1,395	\$4,157
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$16,740	\$49,879
Hourly wage	\$8.37	\$24.94

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and state Treasury, and ChildCare Aware, 2012, American Community Survey, 1 year estimate

Town	Total HH	% ALICE & Poverty
Albion City	3,051	63%
Albion Township	428	35%
Athens Township	868	32%
Battle Creek City	20,717	47%
Bedford Charter Township	3,777	40%
Burlington Township	746	24%
Clarence Township	816	31%
Clarendon Township	427	33%
Corvix Township	602	32%
Eckford Township	454	30%
Emmett Charter Township	4,458	37%
Fredonia Township	618	34%
Homer Township	1,129	43%
Lee Township	408	36%
Leroy Township	1,606	24%
Marengo Township	785	29%
Marshall City	3,134	34%
Marshall Township	1,161	17%
Newton Township	963	22%
Pennfield Charter Township	3,609	39%
Sheridan Township	724	42%
Springfield City	2,117	58%
Tekonsha Township	592	44%

NOTE: Municipal-level data may not match county-level data, municipal-level data often relies on 3- and 5-year averages, is not available for the smallest towns that don't report income, and may overlap with Census Designated Places (CDP).

ALICE IN KALAMAZOO COUNTY

Population: 254,580 | Number of Households: 100,789
 Median Household Income: \$44,306 (state average: \$46,859)
 Unemployment Rate: 7.1% (state average: 9.1%)
 Gini Coefficient (zero = equality; one = inequality): 0.48 (state average: 0.46)

How many households are struggling?

ALICE, an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, are households that earn more than the U.S. poverty level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county. Combined, the number of poverty and ALICE households equals the total population struggling to afford basic needs.

Poverty 17,245 HH 17%	ALICE 24,141 HH 24%	STRUGGLING	Above ALICE 59,403 HH 59%
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What are the economic conditions?

The Economic Viability Dashboard evaluates community conditions for ALICE in three core areas. Each is an index with a scale of 1 (worst) to 100 (best).

Housing Affordability
poor (40)

Job Opportunities
fair (58)

Community Support
good (63)

What does it cost to afford the basic necessities?

This bare-minimum budget does not allow for any savings, leaving a household vulnerable to unexpected expenses. Affording only a very modest living in each community, this budget is still significantly more than the U.S. poverty rate of \$11,170 for a single adult and \$23,050 for a family of four.

	SINGLE ADULT	FAMILY (INFANT AND PRE-K)
Housing	\$530	\$688
Child care	\$-	\$1,201
Food	\$196	\$592
Transportation	\$341	\$681
Health care	\$130	\$518
Miscellaneous	\$133	\$400
Taxes	\$133	\$319
Monthly total	\$1,462	\$4,399
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$17,547	\$52,786
Hourly wage	\$8.77	\$26.39

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and state Treasury, and ChildCare Aware, 2012; American Community Survey, 1 year estimate

Town	Total HH	% ALICE & Poverty
Alamo Township	1,584	29%
Brady Township	1,582	27%
Charleston Township	711	23%
Climax Township	887	28%
Comstock Charter Township	6,112	33%
Cooper Charter Township	3,854	25%
Galesburg City	744	44%
Kalamazoo Charter Township	9,925	45%
Kalamazoo City	27,971	50%
Oshkemo Charter Township	9,790	44%
Parchment City	845	49%
Pavilion Township	2,200	33%
Portage City	19,058	31%
Prarie Ronde Township	827	19%
Richland Township	2,780	20%
Ross Township	1,844	19%
Schoolcraft Township	3,305	32%
Texas Charter Township	4,916	16%
Walshma Township	625	30%

NOTE: Municipal-level data may not match county-level data; municipal-level data often relies on 3- and 5-year averages, is not available for the smallest towns that don't report income, and may overlap with Census Designated Places (CDP)