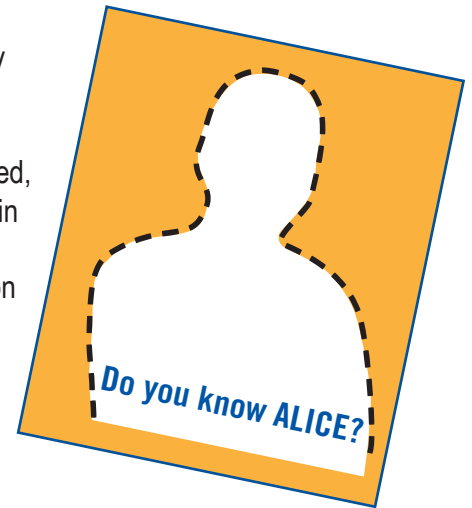


ALICE: ASSET LIMITED, INCOME CONSTRAINED, EMPLOYED

Connecticut United Ways, in collaboration with many dedicated community partners throughout the state, are committed to helping address the challenges faced by many working families and individuals that struggle to make ends meet.

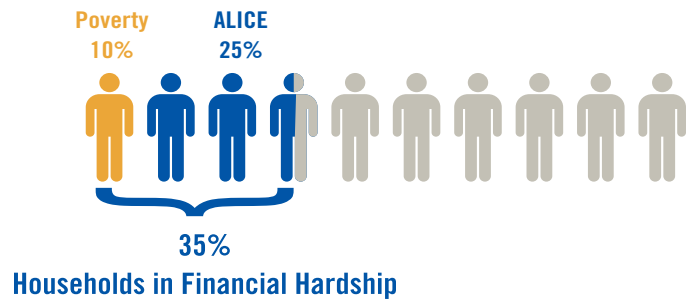
We joined with United Ways in other states to release a report on ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) that documents the true scope of financial hardship in Connecticut. The Connecticut ALICE Report provides a detailed examination of the causes and effects of financial insecurity, with the goal of informing a public discussion of short and long-term solutions.

United Way strives to be non-partisan and non-ideological in our advocacy work. We seek to put a face on ALICE – who may be our friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family members – and call attention to the challenges that ALICE Faces in our state.



The ALICE Report identifies four key areas where progress will have the most beneficial impact for ALICE. They include:

- Child Care
- Housing
- Jobs
- Work Supports



Drawing from the in-depth research in the ALICE Report, from the feedback we received at last year’s ALICE Forum at the legislature, and from the work of nonprofit, business, and government leaders, Connecticut United Ways developed the following policy recommendations to help working families and individuals that struggle financially.

United Way will work with our government and community partners to promote the adoption and implementation of these and other policies which can help ALICE families achieve financial security.

If you have questions or would like to discuss this policy agenda further, please contact Richard Porth, President/CEO of United Way of Connecticut, at (860) 571-7501 or richard.porth@ctunitedway.org.

ALICE OCCUPATIONS IN CONNECTICUT

Retail Salespersons **Cashiers**

Nursing Assistants **Personal Care Aides**

Teacher Assistants **Customer Service Reps**

Administrative Assistants

Office Clerks **Janitors and Cleaners**

Security Guards **Food Prep Workers**

And Many More

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Child Care and Housing are by far the two most significant expenses for ALICE families with young children. Therefore, United Way recommends increasing access to more affordable child care and housing to improve financial stability for ALICE families.

CHILD CARE



- Support the changes in federal and state law regarding child care subsidies that encourage stability in child care for each child – including allowing household income to grow up to 85 percent of state median income once eligibility is established. ([ALICE Child Care Update - http://alice.ctunitedway.org/childcare/](http://alice.ctunitedway.org/childcare/))
- Stability in child care is also achieved by promoting regular attendance in pre-K. This, in turn, supports working parents and establishes a pattern which can reduce chronic absenteeism in the early grades and beyond.

HOUSING



- Increase the supply of affordable housing by investing state capital financing and subsidies, offering incentives to encourage development in towns with a shortage of affordable housing; and, streamlining the permitting and development process. Affordable housing, connected to other services such as transit and child care will expand access to jobs and education.
- Create more incentives for the creation of more multi-family rental housing for municipalities and for developers.
- Reduce the amount of homelessness in Connecticut by supporting rapid re-housing strategies, Coordinated Access Networks for shelter diversion, and the creation of permanent supportive housing. ([ALICE Housing Update - http://alice.ctunitedway.org/housing/](http://alice.ctunitedway.org/housing/))

Strategies designed to protect and grow middle skill and higher skill jobs and to provide training and education for career advancement will help ALICE and build on Connecticut's economic strengths.

JOBS



- Invest in non-degree technical courses that earn industry-recognized credentials directly linked to occupational opportunity in targeted industry sectors, especially for incumbent workers.
- Invest in contextualized learning, working with key employers to combine adult literacy with technical training leading to industry recognized credentials.

WORK SUPPORTS



- Restore State Earned Income Tax Credit to 30 percent of federal EITC.
- Address “Benefit cliffs” for ALICE households when they earn more income so that the reduction of public benefits (Housing Vouchers, Care 4 Kids, etc.) is more gradual.
- Support asset-building among ALICE families and others, including through financial education.