

CONNECTICUT UNITED WAYS

2018 POLICY AGENDA



DO YOU KNOW ALICE®?

LIVE UNITED



Learn more about ALICE at <http://alice.ctunitedway.org>

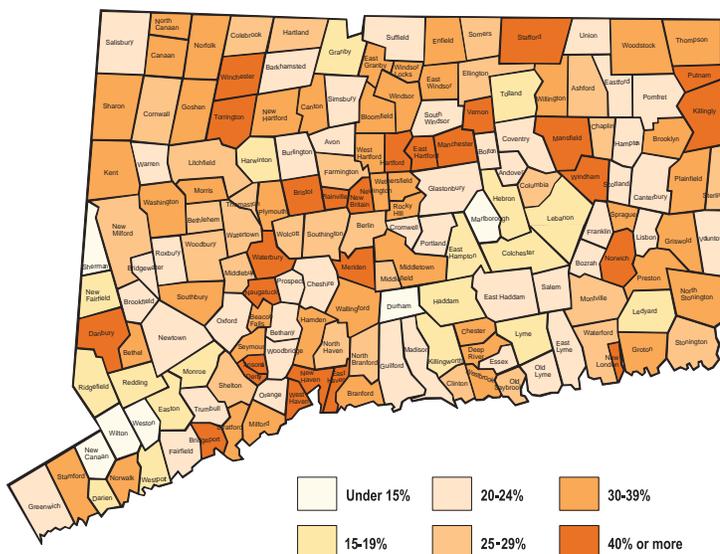
Connecticut United Ways fight for the health, education and financial stability of every person in every community. Our network of 16 United Ways strives to improve the lives of all Connecticut residents, especially those that struggle financially.

More than one in three (38%) households in Connecticut are struggling to pay for their most basic needs. This includes households with income below the poverty line (11%) and households with income above the Federal Poverty Line but below a basic cost of living. United Way describes these households as ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). They include men and women of all ages and backgrounds that live and work in every town and city throughout Connecticut and across the nation.

WHO IS ALICE?

ALICE is our friend, neighbor, coworker, and family member. ALICE workers hold important jobs that are vital to the success of our communities such as child care providers, retail salespersons, customer service representatives, nursing assistants, teaching assistants, and health care aides. Despite working hard, ALICE families struggle to afford life's most basic necessities including, housing, child care, transportation, food, and health care.

PERCENTAGE OF ALICE AND POVERTY HOUSEHOLDS BY TOWN



In Connecticut, ALICE household makes up 20% or more of all households in two-thirds of Connecticut's towns and cities.

38%

of Connecticut household are struggling to makes ends meet.



33% of families (128, 254 households) with children live below the ALICE threshold.



40% of 65+ households live below the ALICE threshold.



64% of Hispanic households and 58% of Black households live below the ALICE threshold.

Connecticut United Ways seek to call attention to the challenges that ALICE faces in our state and across the nation. We pledge to work with our government and community partners to promote the implementation of policies which can help ALICE families achieve financial security.

LAST YEAR, CONNECTICUT UNITED WAYS INVESTED MORE THAN 40 MILLION DOLLARS IN CHILD CARE, EARLY LEARNING, SUPPORTIVE HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION, FINANCIAL STABILITY AND PROGRAMS THAT HELP CONNECTICUT FAMILIES MEET THEIR BASIC NEEDS.

If you have questions or would like to discuss this policy agenda further, please contact:

Richard Porth
CEO
United Way
of Connecticut

(860) 571-7501 or
Richard.Porth@
ctunitedway.org.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



Drawing from the in-depth research in the ALICE Report 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.



FINANCIAL STABILITY

Achieving financial security means access to good jobs, affordable housing and asset building resources that allow families to succeed.

- Connect families to asset-building supports, savings incentives, credit counseling and financial education.
- Implement changes in service delivery to better coordinate child care, adult job training and other services to support the whole family (Two-Gen).
- Support workforce development to address skills gaps and align with the needs of leading and emerging industries.
- Invest more in non-degree technical courses that earn industry recognized credentials in leading and emerging industries.
- Increase the supply of affordable housing with government financing and subsidies, development incentives in towns with a shortage of affordable housing and streamline the permitting and development process.
- Preserve resources to end homelessness among families with children and youth by 2020.
- Continue funding housing and homelessness services- rapid rehousing, rental subsidies and permanent supportive housing.



EDUCATION

Access to quality early learning experiences is critical to the cognitive and language development of young children. A good education is one of the best predictors of future success and begins with quality, affordable childcare.

- Invest in initiatives that enable more children to read at grade level by 3rd grade.
- Invest in strategies to increase early screening and connection to supports as needed to ensure that children enter school ready to learn (i.e. Help Me Grow, Birth to Three).
- Support more funding for early care and education, allowing all children access to high quality programs (i.e. Care 4 Kids, etc.).



HEALTH

Poor health is often a consequence of financial instability. The cost of health care and health insurance is too high for many ALICE families. ALICE is often forced to forgo regular, preventative health care.

- Connect community supports to clinical care for better health outcomes by various means including 2-1-1.
- Support access to affordable health insurance and good health care.

Can you walk in ALICE's shoes? To find out, visit www.MakingToughChoices.org