



ALICE Toolkit

What You Can Do To Help ALICE

GIVE

- Give to community efforts aimed at helping ALICE households to:
 - File their tax returns for free at VITA sites and through My Free Taxes (www.myfreetaxes.com) and help secure available tax credits (such as the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credits) which can be used to build savings or pay necessary expenses.
 - Achieve a more secure financial future through Connecticut United Ways ALICE Saves initiative (www.CTALICESaves.org).
 - Pursue career advancement through job training, targeted occupational credentials and certifications, and post-secondary education.
 - Secure child care by increasing the availability of affordable child care slots.
 - Address short-term challenges to working, such as car repairs, the need for new tools and work clothes, and licensing/certification costs.
 - Deal with emergency basic needs involving food, shelter, utility assistance, and emergency funds.
- Give to your local United Way's Community Impact Fund to support ALICE families in your community.

ADVOCATE

- Advocate for strategies that improve long-term prospects for ALICE households by:
 - Making child care more affordable for young families.
 - Increasing the supply of affordable housing.
 - Protecting and growing middle-skill and high-skill jobs in Connecticut and supporting career advancement into these jobs.
 - Supporting work for lower-income working families by addressing benefit cliffs and tax incentives.
- Read the full ALICE Report for Connecticut and download Connecticut United Ways ALICE focused Policy Agenda at <https://alice.ctunitedway.org>.
- Visit www.makingtoughchoices to see if you can "Walk in ALICE's Shoes".
- Attend events that support ALICE families.
- Look at issues in your community and at the state and federal level through a lens which focuses on what will help and what will hurt ALICE households.
- Stay engaged with your local and state leaders and let them know about your thoughts on ALICE.
- Talk with your family, friends, and neighbors (some of whom may be dealing with financial hardship) about ALICE. Raise awareness about ALICE, sharing ALICE's story, and contributing to an informal discussion among residents and leaders about ALICE.

VOLUNTEER

- Contact your local United Way to find out how to volunteer your time to help ALICE households. This could include:
 - Helping ALICE families to file their taxes and secure available tax credits, get a handle on family financing with the help of budget coaching and establishing bank accounts.
 - Helping children in ALICE families succeed through reading/literacy programs, mentoring, and after-school academic supports.
 - Staffing food distribution centers, food pantries, and health outreach clinics.
- Listen to family, friends, and neighbors who are ALICE families and help them when you can or refer them to places that can help, such as United Way 2-1-1.