

Even before the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, 38% of Connecticut's households were living paycheck to paycheck or falling behind.

Households that lack the income to pay for necessities such as housing, food, child care, health care, technology and transportation are **ALICE**, an acronym that stands for **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed. Connecticut United Ways are committed to helping **ALICE** families achieve a more secure financial future.



ALICE POLICY PRIORITIES 2023

The Connecticut United Ways support **three practical and proven policies** that can help build a bridge to stability for Connecticut families, our essential workforce.

1. Create a permanent, fully refundable CT Child Tax Credit.

A refundable state tax credit for families at up to \$600/child for up to three children.

Both working, still struggling. *Even in households with two working adults, 21% of children were living in ALICE households before the pandemic.*

2. Maintain the CT EITC at 41.5% of the federal rate into future years.

A refundable state of Connecticut earned income tax credit (EITC) for more than 200,000 CT low- to moderate-income workers benchmarked to the federal EITC.

An additional \$1,000 covers a month of food or a month's worth of reliable transportation to work, school and appointments for a family of four.

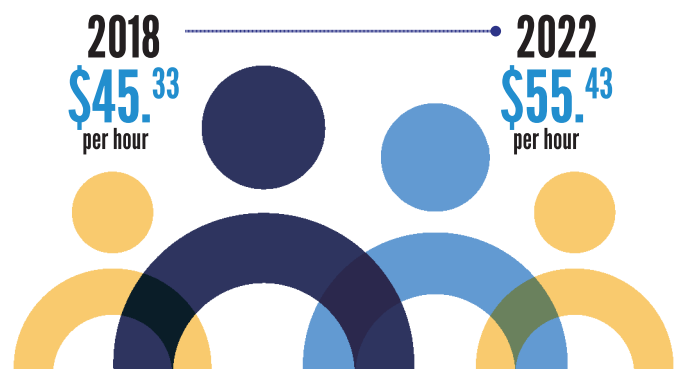
3. Continue universal access to no-cost meals for the 2022/23 academic year.

Breakfast and lunch available at no-cost to all students in Connecticut public schools.

Locked out of assistance. *In 2021, more than 40% of ALICE children lived in households that couldn't afford enough food: most of these families did not qualify for free/reduced price school meals or for SNAP.*

Out of Reach: The Cost of Raising a Family in Connecticut

Updated to include inflation, a family of four needs to earn \$55.43/hour working 40 hours per week, or \$27.71/hour if both adults are working, to support the ALICE Household Survival Budget.



2020 ALICE Survival Budget

The cost of basic needs rises faster than non-essentials *and* wages.

The **ALICE** policy priorities would provide families with flexible income that can be used for work, school, and to manage emergencies.

Connecticut United Ways are committed to supporting ALICE and fighting for the health, education, and financial stability of all Connecticut residents.

	Two Adults, 1 Infant, 1 Preschooler (2018 Data)	Family's Expenses in 2022*
Housing	\$1,310	\$1,549
Child Care	\$1,857	\$2,498
Food	\$936	\$1,108
Transportation	\$826	\$977
Health Care	\$742	\$878
Technology	\$75	\$89
Miscellaneous	\$687	\$813
Taxes	\$1,122	\$1,327
Monthly Total	\$7,555	\$9,239
Annual Total	\$90,660	\$110,868
Hourly Wage	\$45.33	\$55.43

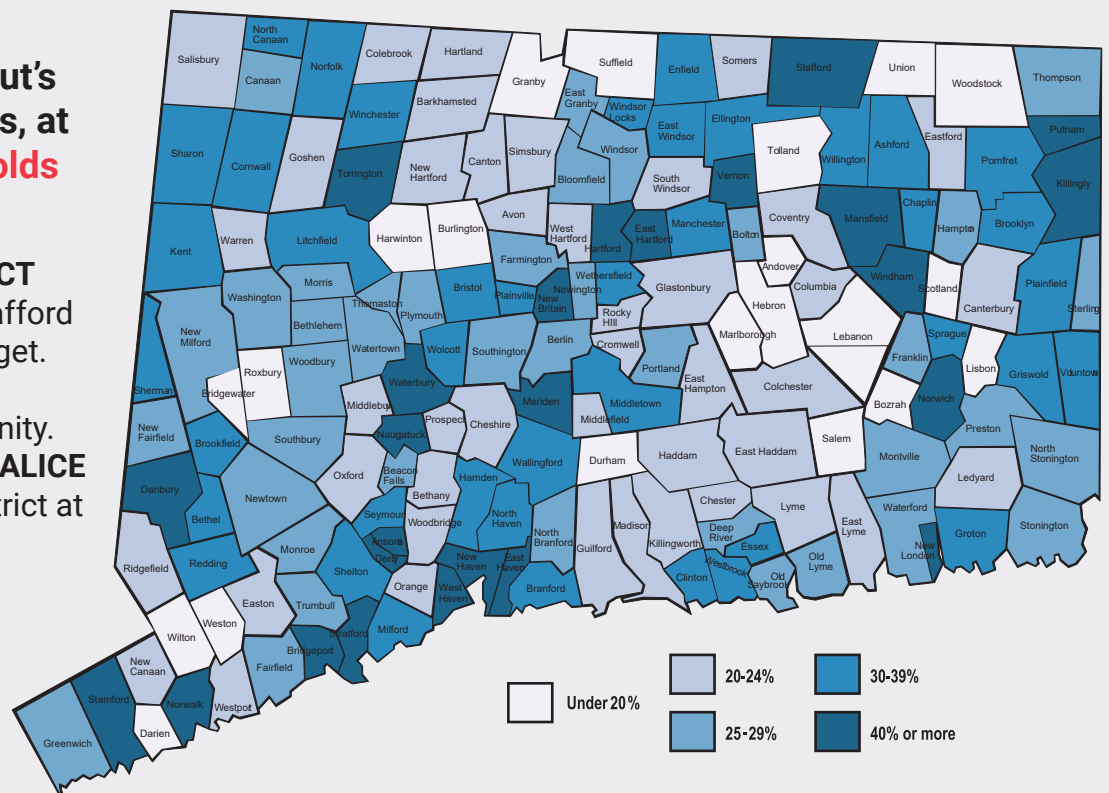
*Based on the US Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI Inflation Calculator; adjusted child care expense calculated using CT Office of Early Childhood, 2022 Early Care and Education Market Rate Survey

PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS BELOW THE ALICE THRESHOLD BY TOWN

In 148 of Connecticut's 169 towns and cities, at least **1 in 5 households** are ALICE.

Prior to COVID, **38% of CT households** could not afford the ALICE Survival Budget.

ALICE is YOUR community. Find the percentage of **ALICE households** in your district at tabsoft.co/3vCv1zb.



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

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