WHEN HARD WORK IS NOT ENOUGH.

ALICE stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed

MEET ALICE

ALICE households refer to individuals and families with income above the Federal Poverty Level but below the basic cost-of-living threshold.

The Federal Poverty Level (FPL) is $12,060 for a single adult and $24,600 for a family of four (2017).

The FPL was developed in 1965 and is no longer a realistic measure of financial hardship for U.S. households. Its methodology has not been updated since 1974.

The bare minimum Household Survival Budget, though higher than FPL, does not allow for any savings, leaving a household vulnerable to unexpected expenses yet ineligible for assistance.

YOU KNOW ALICE

The success of our community is directly tied to the financial stability of ALICE households. When ALICE suffers and is forced to make difficult choices, we are all impacted.

ALICE is the retired veteran or the recent college graduate that can’t find affordable housing within a reasonable distance from work.

ALICE is your child’s favorite preschool teacher, your trusted mechanic, your elderly neighbor’s home health aide, the administrative assistant in your office.

And given a number of circumstances, ALICE could be you.
ALICE IN ARKANSAS

ALICE households can be found in every town, city, and county in Arkansas. They include women and men who are single, married, young, and old. White households make up the largest demographic — 69% — mirroring Arkansas’s majority-white population. Across the state, the share of households earning below the ALICE Threshold ranged from 26% in Benton County to 64% in Lee County.

In Arkansas, 41% of households can’t make ends meet. Seventeen percent live below the poverty level, and an additional 24% qualify as ALICE, an increase of 20% since 2007.

Nearly 30% of senior households in Arkansas qualify as ALICE.

More than 1 in 3 of families with children in Arkansas live below the family threshold.

ARKANSAS HOUSEHOLD SURVIVAL BUDGET, 2017

Overall, the cost of household basics increased by 24% for a single adult and 32% for a family of 4 in Arkansas from 2007 to 2018. The increases were largely driven by rising costs of housing and childcare, far more than the increases in wages and inflation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SINGLE ADULT</th>
<th>2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HOUSING</td>
<td>$480</td>
<td>$651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHILDCARE</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$761</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOOD</td>
<td>$179</td>
<td>$543</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRANSPORTATION</td>
<td>$322</td>
<td>$644</td>
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<td>HEALTHCARE</td>
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<td>$568</td>
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<tr>
<td>TECHNOLOGY</td>
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<td>$75</td>
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<tr>
<td>MISCELLANEOUS</td>
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<td>$355</td>
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<tr>
<td>TAXES</td>
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<td>$304</td>
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<td>MONTHLY TOTAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANNUAL TOTAL</td>
<td>$18,240</td>
<td>$46,812</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOURLY WAGE</td>
<td>$9.12</td>
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</table>

Of the more than 1.2 million jobs in Arkansas, more than half (51%) pay less than $15 per hour. A $15 per hour wage grosses $30,000 per year, which is more than $16,000 less than the Household Survival Budget for a family of four. IMAGINE the tradeoffs these families have to make just to make ends meet.

ALICE’s future is Arkansas’s future.

#StandUpForALICE today
KEY DATA POINTS

THE ALICE IN ARKANSAS REPORT IS THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE DEPICTION OF FINANCIAL NEED IN ARKANSAS TO DATE.

➢ The ALICE research quantifies and describes the number of households that are struggling financially.
  - The report is a project of United For ALICE, a grassroots movement of some 600 United Ways in 21 states, corporations, and foundations, all using the same methodology to document financial need. Each state report is supported with an independent Research Advisory Committee of local data and subject-matter experts.

➢ When 2 out 5 households in the state can’t make ends meet, the system is broken.
  - Despite news of a strong economy, nearly a half million households are not earning enough to cover basic survival costs.
  - ALICE lives in every county in Arkansas and includes women and men who are single, married, young, and old. White households make up the largest demographic — 69% — mirroring Arkansas’s majority-white population.
  - When households cannot afford basic necessities, they are forced to make difficult tradeoffs that have consequences for their households and their communities.

➢ Because of outdated poverty measurements, most of these households are invisible.
  - While the Federal Poverty Level reports that only 17% of Arkansas households face financial hardship, an additional 24% qualify as ALICE, an increase of 20% since 2007.
  - These are Arkansans that contribute to our economy by earning, spending, and paying taxes yet are often told to “work harder” in order to get ahead. ALICE makes these individuals visible and documents the financial barriers they face.

WHY ARE THERE SO MANY ALICE FAMILIES IN ARKANSAS?

➢ The basic cost of living outpaced wages.
  - The Household Survival Budget identifies the minimum cost for each of the seven basic household items needed to live and work in today’s economy: housing, childcare, food, transportation, technology, taxes, and healthcare.
  - The cost of basic household necessities in Arkansas increased by 32% from 2007 to 2017, far more than the increases in overall inflation and wages. Child care represents an Arkansas family’s greatest expense, at a state average of $761 per month for two children.

➢ Changes in the workforce — low-wage jobs dominate Arkansas’s economy.
  - Of the more than 1.2 million jobs in Arkansas, more than half (51%) pay less than $15 per hour. A $15 per hour wage grosses $30,000 per year, which is more than $16,000 less than the Household Survival Budget for a family of four.
  - Hourly-wage workers are paid only for hours worked, which shifts based on demand. They usually don’t have a contract, and if they work fewer than 30 hours per week, they are not required to receive health insurance, paid time off, retirement, or other benefits.

➢ Fewer families have savings and assets.
  - More than any other feature, ALICE households are defined by their jobs and their saving accounts.
  - 49% of Arkansans do not have enough savings for a rainy day, and less than 16% had investments that produced income, such as stocks or real estate.

THE BOTTOM LINE IS THIS:

ALICE households live in a trap of low-wage work, rising household costs, and limited opportunities to save. We can remove this trap by making sure that all working Arkansans earn a living wage and have opportunities to plan and save for a better future.

ALICE IS NO LONGER INVISIBLE AND SHOULD BE AT THE CENTER OF ALL ARKANSAS POLICY DECISIONS.
SOCIAL MEDIA TEMPLATES

Facebook/Twitter


Facebook/Twitter

When nearly half a million households in Arkansas can’t make ends meet, the system is broken. Learn how you can #StandUpForALICE at www.ALICEinAR.org. Time to make the Arkansas economy work for everyone.

Facebook/Twitter

@[YourRepresentative/Senator] did you know that nearly a half million Arkansas households are struggling to get by? I urge you to #StandUpForALICE, those who are Asset Limited, Income Constrained, but Employed. Learn how you can #HelpALICE at www.ALICEinAR.org.

GRAPHICS

Did you know...

More than two out of five households* in Arkansas can’t afford basic needs?

Household Survival Budget Line = $48,070*

ALICE 24%

Federal Poverty Line = $24,800*

41% of Arkansas households are working hard yet are unable to make ends meet

WHO IS ALICE?
Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed

Seven out of ten jobs in Arkansas pay less than $20 an hour?

Family of 4

Federal Poverty Line = $24,800*

Family of 4

ALICE 24%

Household Survival Budget Line = $48,070*

41% of Arkansas households are working hard yet are unable to make ends meet

WHO IS ALICE?
Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed