



KEY TERMS

Household Survival Budget

The bare-minimum cost of basic necessities (Housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and a smartphone plan).

ALICE Threshold

The average income needed to afford the Household Survival Budget. Households below the ALICE Threshold include both ALICE and poverty-level households.

ALICE

Households with income above the Federal Poverty Level but below the basic cost of living.

Poverty

Households with income below the Federal Poverty Level.

Total Households

The number of households as reported by the American Community Survey

MEET ALICE

With the launch of United Way NCA's 2023 regional ALICE reports that includes Washington DC for the first time ever, here is what we know about ALICE in the National Capital Area:

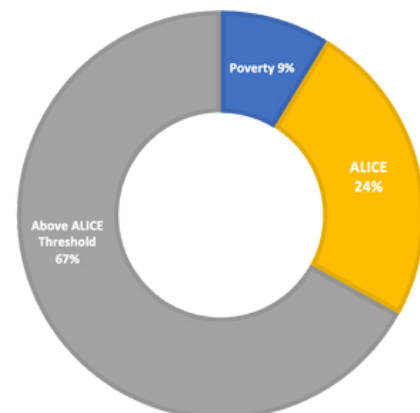
A.L.I.C.E. (**A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed) are households with income above the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), but below the basic cost of living.

ALICE helps reshape how we understand financial hardship today, and the ongoing challenges that so many in our community face. We all know ALICE. They may be a friend, a relative, or a coworker. ALICE households span all races, ages, ethnicities, and abilities, though households of color are disproportionately ALICE.

Combined with households below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), nearly **500,000 households** in the National Capital Area struggle to make ends meet. This translates to an estimated **1.3M adults and children** living in the region who cannot meet the monthly minimum cost of household basics.

The **ALICE Household Survival Budget** calculates the bare minimum cost of the household basics needed to live and work in the modern economy by household composition, across the National Capital Area.

ALICE Household Survival Budget, National Capital Area, Average, 2021			
	Single Adult (under 65)	Single Senior (65+)	2 Adults, 1 Infant, 1 Preschooler
Monthly Costs			
Housing - Rent	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,996
Housing - Utilities	\$ 154	\$ 154	\$ 292
Child Care	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,037
Food	\$ 502	\$ 464	\$ 1,370
Transportation	\$ 243	\$ 221	\$ 554
Health Care	\$ 227	\$ 521	\$ 917
Technology	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 110
Miscellaneous	\$ 300	\$ 324	\$ 728
Tax Payments	\$ 667	\$ 733	\$ 1,720
Monthly Total	\$ 3,968	\$ 4,291	\$ 8,440
ANNUAL TOTAL Before Credits	\$ 47,617	\$ 51,495	\$ 116,677
Tax Credits (CTC and CDCTC)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (15,391)
ANNUAL TOTAL with Credits	\$ 47,617	\$ 51,495	\$ 101,281
Full-Time Hourly Wage	\$ 23.81	\$ 25.75	\$ 50.64



664,711 households (or 33%) in the National Capital Area are below the ALICE Threshold



In MD and VA counties, Black, Hispanic, American Indian/ American Native households are 1.8x likely to be ALICE than White and Asian households. (estimated 2x with DC)

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ALICE LIVES PAYCHECK TO PAYCHECK and are forced to make impossible choices: pay the rent or buy food, receive medical care or pay for childcare, pay utility bills or put gas in the car. ALICE is your neighbor, works at your company, attends your local public school and is a growing population.

ALICE LIVES HERE



In DC, there is an estimated **88.5K households** are ALICE, translating to estimated **184K individuals**



In our *MD counties, **201K households** are ALICE, translating to estimated **554K individuals**



In our *VA counties, **199K households** are ALICE, translating to estimated **548K individuals**

*MD counties: Montgomery and Prince George's; VA counties: Alexandria, Arlington, Culpeper, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William and Rappahannock



Black, Hispanic, American Indian/ American Native households

$\geq 1.8x$ Maryland & Virginia
 $\geq 2.0x$ DC



White & Asian households

ALICE IN THE WORKFORCE

In United Way NCA's region of DC, VA and MD counties, 2/3 of the workforce will struggle to earn enough to afford increased cost of living. Some of the most common occupations in the National Capital Area may not pay enough for households to earn above the ALICE Threshold.

DC



20% of registered nurses in DC are below the ALICE Threshold.



39% of office clerks in DC are below the ALICE Threshold.

Virginia



55% of personal care aids in VA are below the ALICE Threshold.



54% of food service workers in VA are below the ALICE Threshold.

Maryland



42% of retail salespeople in MD are below the ALICE Threshold.



48% of cashiers in MD are below the ALICE Threshold.