ALICE IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

Washington County Facts
Source: US Census Bureau, Washington County QuickFacts (2012)

The *ALICE population in Washington County

ALICE is an acronym that stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. ALICE households earn more than the official U.S. poverty level but less than the basic cost of living. ALICE represents men and women of all ages and races who get up each day to go to work but are unsure if they’ll be able to put dinner on the table each night. They are our childcare workers, mechanics, home health aides, store clerks and office assistants - workers who make our economy run. In Washington County, 28.6% of the population is ALICE. The inability of citizens to meet their basic needs affects Washington County as a whole. United Way is committed to strengthening the ALICE population, which will result in a stronger community.

* Based on the United Way of Northern New Jersey ALICE Project

What does it cost to afford the basic necessities in Washington County?

Based on the Household Minimal Survival Budget (see right), it takes $66,384, approximately three times the poverty level, for a family of two adults, one infant and one toddler to meet their most basic needs. This estimates the minimal cost of housing, child care, food, transportation and health care. It does not include items many people consider necessities, such as cell phones, cable or internet service, new clothes and automotive or appliance repairs. People who struggle to meet these five basic needs will face difficulty in obtaining and maintaining employment, staying healthy, and remaining self-sufficient.

Our Response

* At United Way’s 2013 Campaign Kickoff, 558 volunteers packaged 61,028 meals for six local food pantries in response to the growing need of hunger in the County.

* In 2014 United Way will lead an employment initiative to develop strategies to address root-cause issues that limit individuals from obtaining and retaining jobs with family-sustaining wages; United Way will support and provide funding to implement selected strategies.

Household Minimal Survival Budget Monthly Costs for Washington County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Single Adult</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>$866</td>
<td>$725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care</td>
<td>$1,795</td>
<td>$—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>$713</td>
<td>$242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$736</td>
<td>$306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care</td>
<td>$343</td>
<td>$143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>$503</td>
<td>$169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>$576</td>
<td>$278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$5,532</td>
<td>$1,863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Wage</td>
<td>$66,384</td>
<td>$22,356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$ 16.60/hr. per adult</td>
<td>$11.18/hr.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Data sources reviewed by UW-Extension. See reverse side for sources and explanations about categories of the Household Minimal Survival Budget

For more information about United Way’s work, go to www.UnitedWayofWashingtonCounty.org.
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Explanation of Household Minimal Survival Budget Data

Housing
Family housing data represents rent for a two-bedroom apartment; single adult housing data represents rent for a one-bedroom apartment. Utilities included are electricity, gas, water, sewer, and trash removal services but not telephone, cable or internet service. It also does not include a security deposit for renting or a down payment to purchase a house. Retrieved from 2011 Fair Market Rent from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, available at http://www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/fmr.html.

Child Care

Food

Transportation

Health Care
Health care data retrieved from Poverty in America Living Wage Calculator, available at http://livingwage.mit.edu/. This reflects nominal out-of-pocket health care spending. It does not include health insurance and is most likely insufficient to cover the costs associated with a serious illness or medical emergency.

Taxes
Tax data retrieved from Poverty in America Living Wage Calculator, available at http://livingwage.mit.edu/. Tax figure was divided by 12 to break down into a monthly value. This includes estimated federal payroll taxes as well as federal and state income taxes for the 2011 tax year.

Miscellaneous
Miscellaneous figure calculated by adding together Housing, Child Care, Food, Transportation, Health Care and Taxes and multiplying by 10%. This category covers cost overflow from the basic categories, but it does not account for items many people consider necessities, such as cell phones, cable, telephone or internet service, new clothes and automotive or appliance repairs. It certainly does not account for luxury spending on dining out, going to movies or family vacations.

Annual Wage
Annual wage data represents full-time employment of 40 hours per week for 50 weeks per year.

*Low-income is defined as having an annual income that falls below 200% of the poverty level. Source: American Community Survey (2012); www.WorkingPoorFamilies.org.