



## MEET ALICE

**ALICE**, an acronym for **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed, is a new way of defining and understanding the struggles of households that earn above the Federal Poverty Level, but not enough to afford basic necessities.

For far too many families, the cost of living outpaces what they earn. Yet these workers perform jobs that are critical to the functioning of our local communities - educating our children, keeping us healthy, and making our quality of life possible. When funds run short, these households are forced to make impossible choices, such as deciding between quality child care or paying the rent, filling a prescription or fixing the car. These short-term decisions have long-term consequences not only for ALICE families, but for all of us. The future success of our communities is directly tied to the financial stability of these fragile ALICE households.

## OUR VISION

We envision a world where all those who work to keep our local economies running can support themselves and their families.

## MISSION

To have ALICE become the standard measure used by nonprofit, government, business, and academic institutions to define financial insecurity – thereby changing the common vernacular from “working poor” to “ALICE.”

## GOALS

1. Shift the public policy agenda from poverty and amelioration to ALICE and systemic change so that all families can meet their basic needs
2. Enhance the work of our partners by providing best practices for using the ALICE data to inform community impact strategies and emotionally connect with individuals and communities



[UnitedForALICE.org](https://www.UnitedForALICE.org) | [@United4ALICE](https://twitter.com/United4ALICE)

By securing racial and economic equity for ALICE we can improve life for all.



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## OUR STORY

From humble beginnings as a study to understand the struggles of families in one New Jersey county, United Way of Northern New Jersey has increasingly shed light on a hidden population we now know as ALICE. After a decade of work, the spark ignited by the initial study has grown to include United Ways, corporations, and foundations in 28 states and the District of Columbia in a grassroots movement to change the national dialogue about financial hardship. Based on the overwhelming success of the research in identifying and communicating the needs of ALICE households, this collaborative is working together to give ALICE a national voice. Partner states include: Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawai'i, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Washington, D.C., West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

## WHAT THE PROJECT DOES

**United For ALICE** represents a grassroots movement to raise awareness about an essential but previously hidden part of our community. Through a framework of new language and measures, stakeholders can better understand and ultimately implement changes that improve the lives of ALICE. With more than four in ten households in the United States trying to manage their household with an income that falls short of covering their basic necessities, many policies and programs must be reassessed or even reconsidered. To inform the dialogue about this growing crisis and how it affects us all, this project:

- **Produces Current Research:** United For ALICE presents the highest quality, unbiased data to measure financial hardship and understand why so many households struggle to make ends meet. Our methodology is reviewed biennially by outside experts and each state report is supported with an independent Research Advisory Committee of local data and subject-matter experts.
- **Leads a Learning Community:** The network of stakeholders who care about ALICE participate in regular forums to learn and share new ideas, policy innovations, and best practices with each other.
- **Inspires Action:** Armed with knowledge and best practices, the ultimate goal is to stimulate action that will improve the financial stability and well-being of ALICE families.

## HOW WE ARE UNITED FOR ALICE

- We are a **coalition of the willing**.
  - We are part of the **United Way** family; however, not a product of United Way Worldwide or the network at large.
  - We are **conveners**, bringing the community and the country together to improve conditions that benefit all.
  - We are **innovative**, offering data and analysis to better understand economic conditions that cause hardship.
  - We are **nonpartisan**, informing the conversation regardless of one's political persuasions.
  - We **have given a name and identity to ALICE**, a hidden demographic of vulnerable, struggling families.
  - We are **helping ALICE** find financial stability.
  - We are a collection of **thoughtful, intelligent, and strategic** social action initiatives designed to drive change.
  - We are **problem solvers**, developing and elevating strategies to remove the barriers that keep ALICE down.
  - We **advocate** for ALICE by using comprehensive and geographic specific data.
  - We **engage volunteers** in purposeful work that affects the lives of ALICE.
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- We **inform policy makers** to challenge the status quo and inspire alternative solutions to complex problems.

## BOILERPLATE

United For ALICE is a U.S. research organization driving innovation, research and action to improve life across the country for ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) and for all. Through the development of the ALICE measurements, a comprehensive, unbiased picture of financial hardship has emerged. Harnessing this data and research on the mismatch between low-paying jobs and the cost of survival, ALICE partners convene, advocate and collaborate on solutions that promote financial stability at local, state and national levels. This grassroots ALICE movement, led by United Way of Northern New Jersey, has spread to 28 states and includes United Ways, corporations, nonprofits and foundations in Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawai'i, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Washington, D.C., West Virginia and Wisconsin; we are United For ALICE. For more information, visit: [UnitedForALICE.org](https://UnitedForALICE.org).

## STANDARDS FOR CONSISTENCY

When explaining the meaning of the acronym ALICE in copy (such as brochures, website, etc.), use the following guidelines:

- On first reference always bold ALICE and first letters of the explanation of the acronym. Example: **ALICE** stands for **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed
  - Subsequent references should be noted all in caps, no bold. Example: ALICE lives in every community.
  - Never use “and”, “yet”, or “but” in the explanation of the acronym
  - Never separate ALICE by periods indicating that it is an acronym – it is both an acronym AND a person’s name representing a population, so it should be treated as such
  - On websites, hyperlink first reference to the area of the website dedicated to ALICE, or to [UnitedForALICE.org](https://UnitedForALICE.org) for more information on the project or work
  - When referring to the ALICE web address in text, please capitalize as follows:  
**UnitedForALICE.org**
- **“ALICE”** is a registered trademark (U.S. Trademark Serial No. 86524117). The purpose of using the ® symbol is to notify other parties viewing the material that ALICE is owned and protected. The ® symbol should be used in the first and/or most prominent place the name is featured, i.e., on the cover of a brochure or in headings or subheadings in text pieces. It is not necessary to add the ® symbol every time the word ALICE is used. On a website, each web page should be considered a unique document, demanding the use of the symbol ® with the first use on each individual web page. Alternatively, the symbol can also be included in the webpage footer.
  - **Introducing our new identity: United For ALICE** is the term used to describe the umbrella of work to both reveal and address the needs of this population, including the research, the ALICE Reports, the National ALICE Advisory Council, the Research Advisory Committees, **United For ALICE@Work**, the ALICE Learning Community, the collaboration of entities engaged in this work, and the local Community Impact work to address the needs of this population.
    - The visual identity (e.g., typography, color palettes, etc.) will align with United Way Worldwide’s Brand Guidelines. United For ALICE will have its own logo (see “Logo: Placement and Usage”.)
    - The new name, United For ALICE, keeps a loose tie to United Way since it is related to the established names of other collaborative efforts (Women United and Mission United, for example)
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- The full name of **ALICE publications** (Reports, Fact Sheets, Research Briefs) **and webpages** should be used on first reference in documents, for citations, and in press releases. When citing ALICE data, the following formats should be used:
    - Publication: United For ALICE (YEAR). Title of Publication.
      - Example: United For ALICE (2023). ALICE in Maine: A Study of Financial Hardship.
    - Webpage: United For ALICE (YEAR). Title of Webpage. Retrieved from LINK.
      - Example: United For ALICE (2023). Arkansas ALICE State and County Household Budgets. Retrieved from <https://unitedforalice.org/household-budgets/arkansas>
    - For references to material produced prior to January 2019, citations were formatted as follows: United Way ALICE Report – [State], [year]

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- In 2009, the first ALICE Report for Morris County, New Jersey, was published – with the first statewide report for New Jersey to follow three years later.
- As of January 2019, United For ALICE replaced United Way *ALICE Project* as the brand identity to encompass the body of ALICE research and social action initiatives.
- This unique brand identity clearly represents that this body of work is not under the ownership of United Way Worldwide but is rather the idea of one local United Way that has developed into a collaboration involving many local and state United Way organizations.
- We are NOT required to rebrand any published products or supporting materials developed prior to the launch of the new brand; reports, products, templates, materials, and any other assets that were created prior to this brand shift may remain.
- For more information, visit [UnitedForALICE.org](https://UnitedForALICE.org).

## LOGO: PLACEMENT AND USAGE

This logo cannot be altered in any way and must be used in its entirety, without separating any of its elements, unless otherwise noted as an exception.



**Important:** The United For ALICE logo should appear **only** on reports, fact sheets, presentations, and similar collateral created by or in partnership with United For ALICE. United For ALICE reports, fact sheets, and presentations should not be modified or rebranded. Please refrain from using the United For ALICE logo on any ALICE marketing materials you create on your own.

Instead, we simply ask that any United For ALICE data or figure that you choose to include is cited appropriately within the document. Here is some suggested language: “This report relies on data published in ALICE in (State): A Study of Financial Hardship, (Year). The Report is a project of (State) United Ways and United For ALICE, a grassroots movement representing United Ways, corporation, nonprofits and foundations in 28 states and the District of Columbia.”

If you are not sure about the appropriate use of the logo, please reach out to Christine Aromando, Manager of Marketing and Communications, United For ALICE, at [Christine.Aromando@UnitedWayNNJ.org](mailto:Christine.Aromando@UnitedWayNNJ.org).

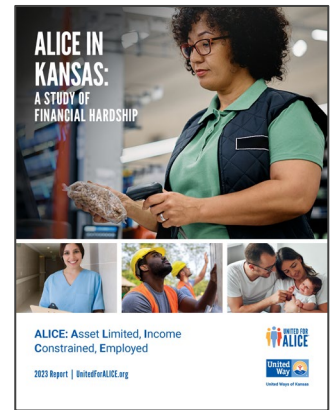
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Vertical option for presenting United For ALICE with localized United Way brandmark:



United Way  
of Northern New Jersey

United Way  
of Northern New Jersey



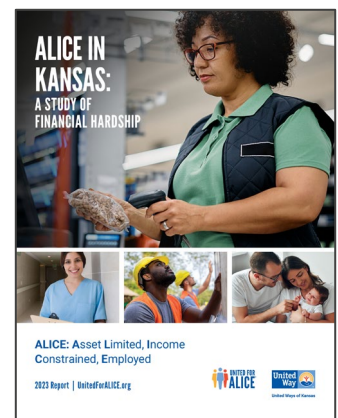
Horizontal option for presenting United For ALICE with localized United Way brandmark:



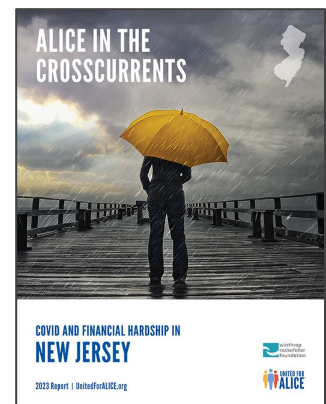
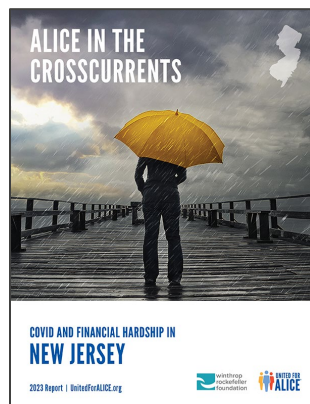
United Way  
of Northern New Jersey



United Way  
of Northern New Jersey



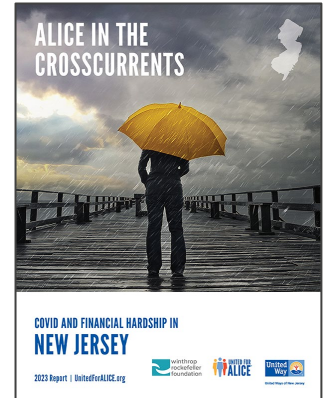
Horizontal and vertical option for presenting United For ALICE with sponsor or partner brandmark:



Horizontal option for presenting a sponsor along with United For ALICE and a localized United Way brandmark:



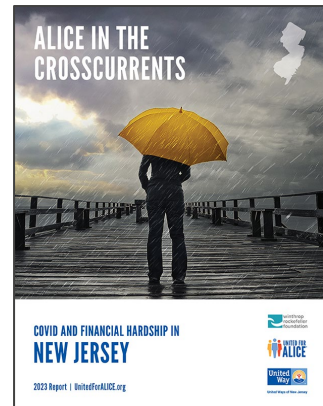
United Way  
of Northern New Jersey



Vertical option for presenting a sponsor along with United For ALICE and a localized United Way brandmark:



United Way  
of Northern New Jersey



**Important:** If the United For ALICE logo is locked up with the United Way brandmark, the localized version of the United Way brandmark **MUST** be used. A logo lockup with the United Way brandmark that does not have local identifying information is not permitted. Please follow the size relationship when placing two or more logos together as indicated above.

## ALICE SOCIAL MEDIA

This overview is meant to provide basic guidelines for sharing ALICE via social media. Please check with your local United Way to make sure that your posts meet any internal guidelines or requirements.

### ALICE DOMAIN

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Our domain name is [UnitedForALICE.org](http://UnitedForALICE.org). Please note that our former URL (UnitedWayALICE.org) redirects to this address. Additionally, we own United4ALICE.org, which also points to our new address.

### ALICE SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES

The following are our official social media accounts for the project. Please note that our former accounts have been renamed so as not to lose any of the historical content developed for the project to date.

- **X (formerly known as Twitter):** [www.twitter.com/United4ALICE](http://www.twitter.com/United4ALICE) (@United4ALICE)
- **Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/United4ALICE](http://www.facebook.com/United4ALICE) (@United4ALICE)

### OFFICIAL ALICE HASHTAGS

The following hashtags have been created to help categorize conversation around ALICE. It is important to utilize these hashtags so that there can be streamlined, continued conversation in our communities.

HASHTAG	SPECIFIC TIME PERIOD	PURPOSE
#UnitedForALICE	Any	Join the existing discussion on social media by deploying the most used hashtag across the network of partners involved
#meetALICE	To be used up to and during the official roll out of the ALICE Report	To introduce ALICE, report terminology, and report goals to our communities
#iamALICE	Any	For the ALICE population to share stories and perspectives on the ALICE Report
#standupforALICE #FightforALICE	Any	To be used when posting around advocacy or policy work
#helpALICE	Any	Call to action for donors, campaign time, additional fundraising efforts
#ALICE(YOURSTATE) Eg: #ALICEMI or #ALICECT	Any	For state specific information or hashtags, to separate out from national hashtags & content
#ALICEvotes	During an election cycle	To remind candidates, reporters and debate moderators that ALICE is a large percentage of those casting ballots
#ALICEworks	Any	When discussing ALICE jobs and the importance within our economy
#DispellingMyths	Any	When discussing ALICE jobs and the importance within our economy

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#thankALICE	Any	Recognizing ALICE's contributions to our community
#ActForALICE	Any	When discussing ways you or others can take, or have taken, action on behalf of ALICE

## GUIDELINES FOR POSTING

While the project will have an official national presence, we encourage posting about ALICE at a state and local level. All social media efforts should be geared to inform the dialogue and advance the understanding of ALICE families and the barriers they face in achieving financial stability. Be careful not to wade into political discussions that could tarnish the work or align the project with any specific political agenda. Also, please follow the ALICE social media efforts of other United Ways and supporters; by liking and sharing content we are ensuring wider dissemination of our collective mission to help ALICE.

## DEVELOP IMAGES TO SUPPORT YOUR POSTS

Whenever possible consider posting an image with your tweet or posts. This helps your content get noticed and is more likely to be shared. We have a host of examples of images to support ALICE report launches or impact solutions. Other assets to consider using are the report cover and the formatted figures from the report. Some samples include:



## SHARING CONTENT

Using social media as a tool to discuss ALICE can showcase the work of our United Ways to new and non-traditional audiences. By using best practices, all United Ways can get the most out of their social media experience and avoid mistakes that detract from the message of ALICE.

Share

- 1. Content from the Report:** By generating this worthwhile content, you will be more likely to retain new followers.
- 2. News and media content from around your state:** Use social media platforms as an opportunity to boost traditional media efforts from across your state or community.



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3. **Stories from the ALICE families in your community:** Real people telling their stories has so much power to demonstrate the plight of ALICE in a compelling way.
  4. **Your content:** Make sure your content is easy to share from multiple accounts by your followers.
  5. **Regularly:** With any social media effort, consistency is key. Make sure you share your content often.

Don't share

1. **Political messaging.** Withhold comments on issues that are not part of United Way Worldwide or your local United Way's approved advocacy agenda; this includes the use of specific political hashtags (for example: #RaiseTheWage).
2. **Tweets from political candidates.** Nonprofit organizations should not retweet posts by candidates as it could be interpreted as providing support or opposition for a candidate or party.

Think before you Share

1. **Tweets from elected officials:** Exercise caution if your United Way would like to re-tweet an elected official. Be sure you are knowledgeable before you wade into a political debate or conversation. Your retweet is an implied endorsement and can position your United Way in a partisan way. Examples include:
  - Retweet this:  
@yourmayor ALICE is my hero: the backbone of early education. See report.
  - Don't retweet this type of message:  
@yourlegislator ALICE shows why the minimum wage needs to be raised #RaiseTheWage  
@Vote4Me ALICE shows why the minimum wage needs to be raised. #RaiseTheWage

## DEALING WITH DETRACTORS

With any social media effort, you will likely encounter detractors – individuals who do not support or actively voice their opposition with your cause. Critical analysis by a detractor that has negative sentiment may at times warrant a reply at the very least to reassert and reaffirm your United Way's position. When responding to a detractor, work to pivot to the benefits of a "community conversation" instead of arguing their point.

EXAMPLE:

- Bob comments: "Why should I support people who are just too lazy to go out and get a real job?"
- Possible UW response: "We think it's important that members in our community are paying attention to ALICE. We encourage you to become part of that conversation!"

Note that when speaking about the project, not every inbound message warrants a response – especially if it involves hate speech, libelous, or inaccurate arguments. Engaging with negative comments, if not handled with caution, can appear defensive or argumentative. We encourage all United Ways to exercise thoughtfulness in dealing with detractors and feel free to delete negative comments from social media platforms.

## SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILE PHOTO

All project participants are entitled to use the **United For ALICE** logo on their social media efforts, including the following abridged version for the profile photo only:

