

ALICE IN THE CROSSCURRENTS

2024
UPDATE

AN UPDATE ON FINANCIAL HARDSHIP IN TENNESSEE

In 2022, financial hardship in Tennessee continued to be shaped by the conflicting economic forces of the pandemic, and remained substantially undercounted by official measures.

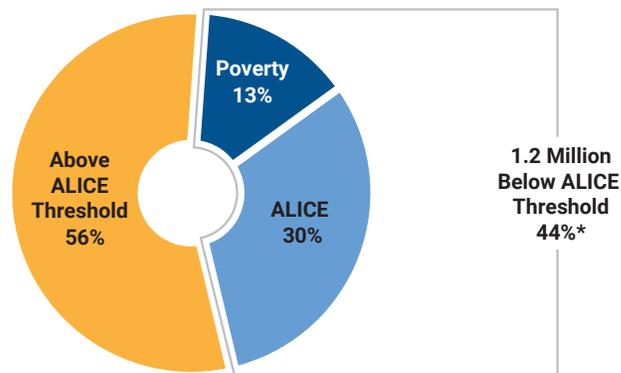
These powerful crosscurrents — COVID-19, inflation, wage growth, and the expansion and expiration of [pandemic public assistance](#) — impacted how many Tennessee households were below the [ALICE Threshold of Financial Survival](#).

Between 2021 and 2022, the number of households in poverty in Tennessee decreased by 4,982 (to 13% of all households) yet the number of ALICE households increased by 34,214 (remaining at 30% of all households), continuing a more than decade-long trend in the growth of the ALICE population. **In 2022, of the 2,805,838 households in Tennessee, 1,226,132 — 44% — were below the ALICE Threshold.**

With the latest data from the [American Community Survey](#) (2022), the [U.S. Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey](#) (2023), and the [Federal Reserve Board's Survey of Household Economics and Decisionmaking](#) (SHED) (2022), this Update highlights the conflicting forces that continue to present opportunities for, and barriers to, financial stability in Tennessee.

** In Tennessee in 2022, out of 2,805,838 households, there were 375,897 (13.4%) in poverty plus 850,235 (30.3%) ALICE, totaling 1,226,132 (43.6%) below the ALICE Threshold, which is rounded to 44% in this Report*

Total Households in Tennessee = 2.8 Million



KEY TERMS

- **ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed** — households that earn above the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) but cannot afford the basic cost of living in their county. Despite struggling to make ends meet, ALICE households often do not qualify for public assistance.
- **ALICE Household Survival Budget:** Reflects the minimum costs of household necessities in Tennessee (housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and technology) plus taxes, adjusted for different counties and household types
- **ALICE Threshold of Financial Survival:** Derived from the Household Survival Budget, the minimum average income that a household needs to afford basic costs, calculated for all U.S. counties
- **Below ALICE Threshold:** Includes households in poverty and ALICE households combined
- **ALICE Essentials Index:** A measure of the average change over time in the costs of essential goods and services

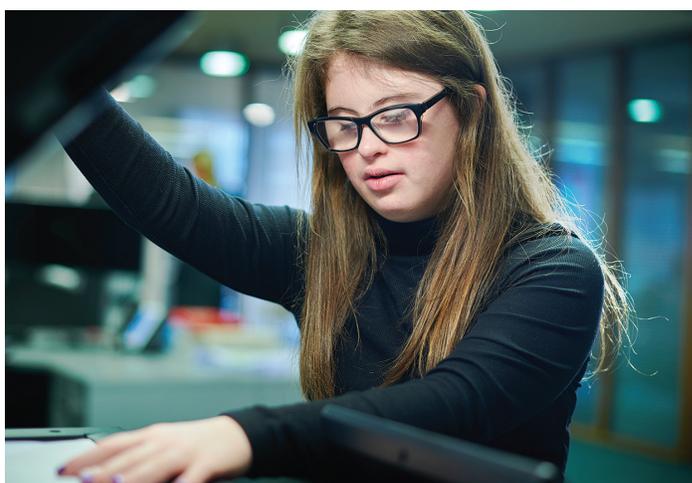


United Ways of Tennessee

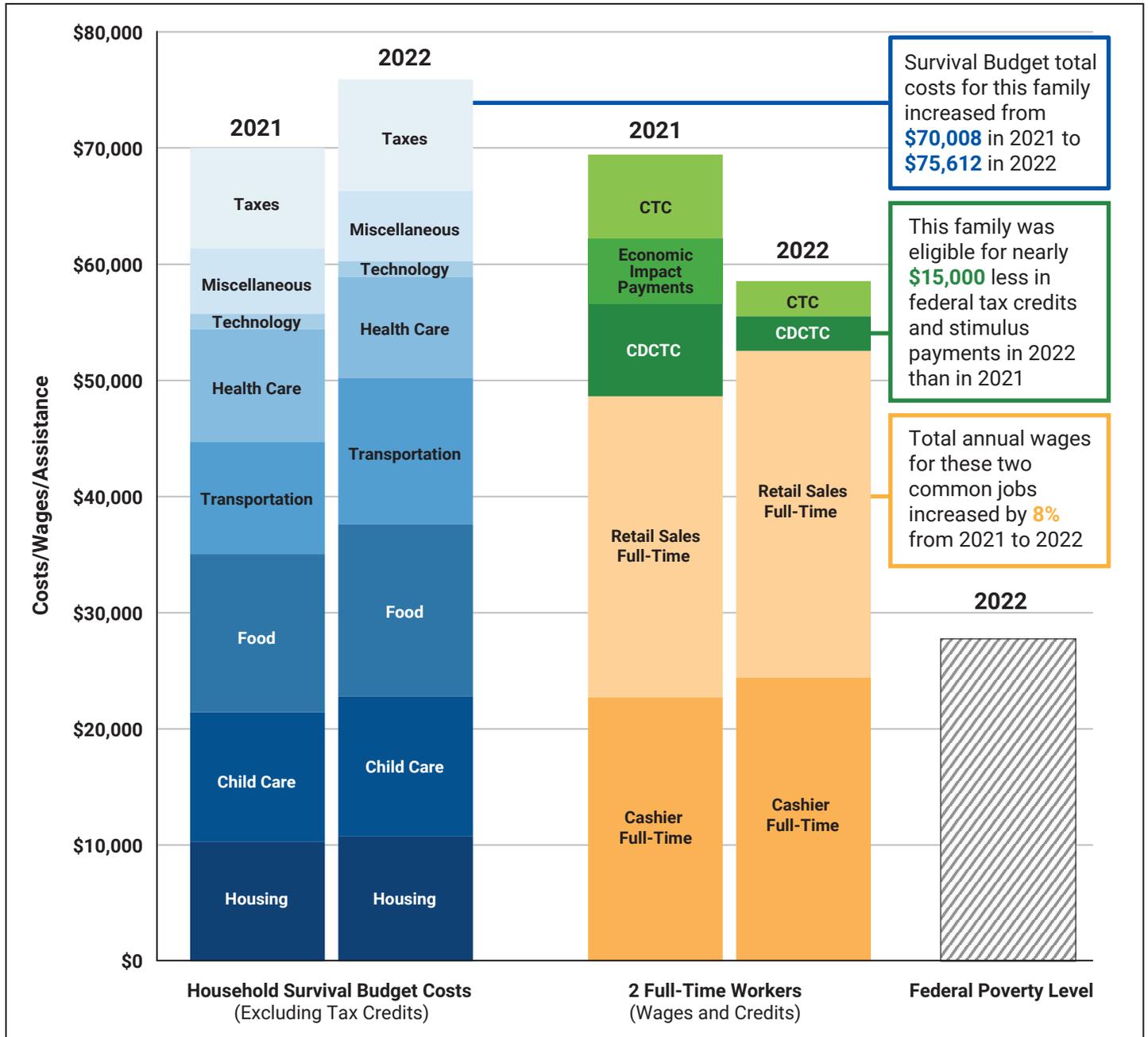
HOUSEHOLD COSTS, PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, AND WAGES

Financial hardship among Tennessee households shifted from 2021 to 2022 based primarily on three factors:

- **Costs:** From 2021 to 2022, the ALICE Household Survival Budget for a single adult in Tennessee increased from \$25,176 to \$26,856, well above the FPL of \$13,590. For a family of four with an infant and a preschooler, the budget (including tax credits) increased from \$57,240 to \$70,416, well above the FPL of \$27,750. Excluding tax credits, costs for a family of four totaled \$75,612 in 2022, up from \$70,008 in 2021. (More data on inflation is available in the [ALICE Essentials Index](#) June 2024 Update.)
- **Public assistance:** Pandemic assistance had the most pronounced effects on families with children. The Economic Impact Payments and the expansions of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC) helped many ALICE families through 2021. But this assistance was substantially reduced when the [2021 American Rescue Plan](#) expired, stimulus payments ended, and tax credits reverted to 2020 levels. In 2022, a family of four with an infant and a preschooler in Tennessee was eligible for approximately \$15,000 less in maximum federal tax credits and stimulus payments than in 2021.
- **Wages:** As pandemic assistance wound down, wages increased for most low-wage jobs. For example, median retail sales wages in Tennessee increased from \$12.45 per hour in 2021 to \$13.51 per hour in 2022.



Comparison of Costs, Public Assistance, and Wages, Family of Four, Tennessee, 2021 and 2022



Note: CTC = Child Tax Credit, CDCTC = Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit. Full-time income is calculated based on 40 hours per week.

Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2021 and 2022; Bureau of Labor Statistics—Occupational Employment Statistics, 2021 and 2022; Internal Revenue Service, tax credits—CTC, CDCTC, EITC, 2021 and 2022; U.S. Department of the Treasury, 2022 and 2023.

See page 13 for Household Survival Budget sources and visit UnitedForALICE.org/Household-Budgets/Tennessee to see the Household Survival Budget for all counties and for any household composition.

Across the country, between 2019 and 2022, [wages for the lowest-paid jobs increased](#) at a faster rate than at any point since 1979. This was in part due to a [tighter labor market](#) in which workers reevaluated their employment situation in the wake of the pandemic and inflation, and employers had to offer more competitive wages to attract and retain them. Minimum wage increases in some states also contributed to this effect. However, Tennessee has not adopted a state minimum wage, and the federal minimum wage has been fixed at \$7.25 per hour since 2009.

While wage increases for most low-wage jobs helped fill the gap when pandemic assistance ended, those increases were not enough to make up for years of falling behind. In 2022, of the 20 most common occupations in Tennessee as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), 70% still paid less than \$20 per hour. And of the workers in these 20 most common occupations, 32% were below the ALICE Threshold in 2022. Occupations with the largest share of ALICE workers included personal care aides, cashiers, cooks, waiters and waitresses, and stocker/order fillers.

Labor Characteristics of Most Common Occupations, Tennessee, 2019–2022

Most Common Occupations	Total Employment, 2022 (BLS)	Percent of Workers Below ALICE Threshold, 2022 (ACS PUMS)	Median Hourly Wage, 2022 (BLS)	Percent Change in Wage, 2019–2022 (BLS)
Driver/Sales Workers and Truck Drivers	104,850	28%	\$18.97	1%
Laborers and Movers, Hand	91,980	35%	\$17.29	23%
Retail Salespersons	82,610	30%	\$13.51	19%
Stocker and Order Fillers	75,050	42%	\$14.87	20%
Customer Service Representatives	72,620	34%	\$17.61	14%
Cooks	72,370	52%	\$13.60	27%
Cashiers	65,440	54%	\$11.75	16%
Registered Nurses	60,840	10%	\$31.63	8%
General and Operations Managers	57,220	14%	\$50.48	17%
Fast Food and Counter Workers	57,150	37%	\$11.03	18%
Waiters and Waitresses	53,540	46%	\$9.78	10%
Office Clerks, General	52,620	27%	\$15.69	5%
First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	52,040	20%	\$28.73	17%
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	44,740	20%	\$19.77	5%
Elementary and Middle School Teachers	39,130	17%	\$24.94	0%
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	35,720	25%	\$18.47	8%
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	34,680	27%	\$19.16	7%
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing	28,570	15%	\$31.96	15%
Retail Sales Supervisors	27,700	29%	\$20.18	8%
Personal Care Aides	27,660	64%	\$12.73	22%

Note: Note: BLS = Bureau of Labor Statistics; ACS PUMS = American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample. Occupation titles and percent of workers below the ALICE Threshold come from ACS PUMS. ALICE Threshold status is determined by comparing workers' household income to the Household Survival Budget for their household composition and location. Employment and wage numbers are from BLS and are matched to the closest PUMS occupation title (which are generally broader than those in BLS).

Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2022; Bureau of Labor Statistics—Occupational Employment Statistics, 2022; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, PUMS, 2019 and 2022

To see the most common occupations for workers below the ALICE Threshold in your community, visit UnitedForALICE.org/ALICE-EVD. For more data on jobs by hourly wages and full-time, part-time, and hourly work schedules, visit UnitedForALICE.org/Labor-Force/Tennessee.

Financial Hardship Over Time

Despite some ups and downs since the end of the Great Recession (2010–2022), the trend is clear: **The number of ALICE households in Tennessee has continued to rise.**

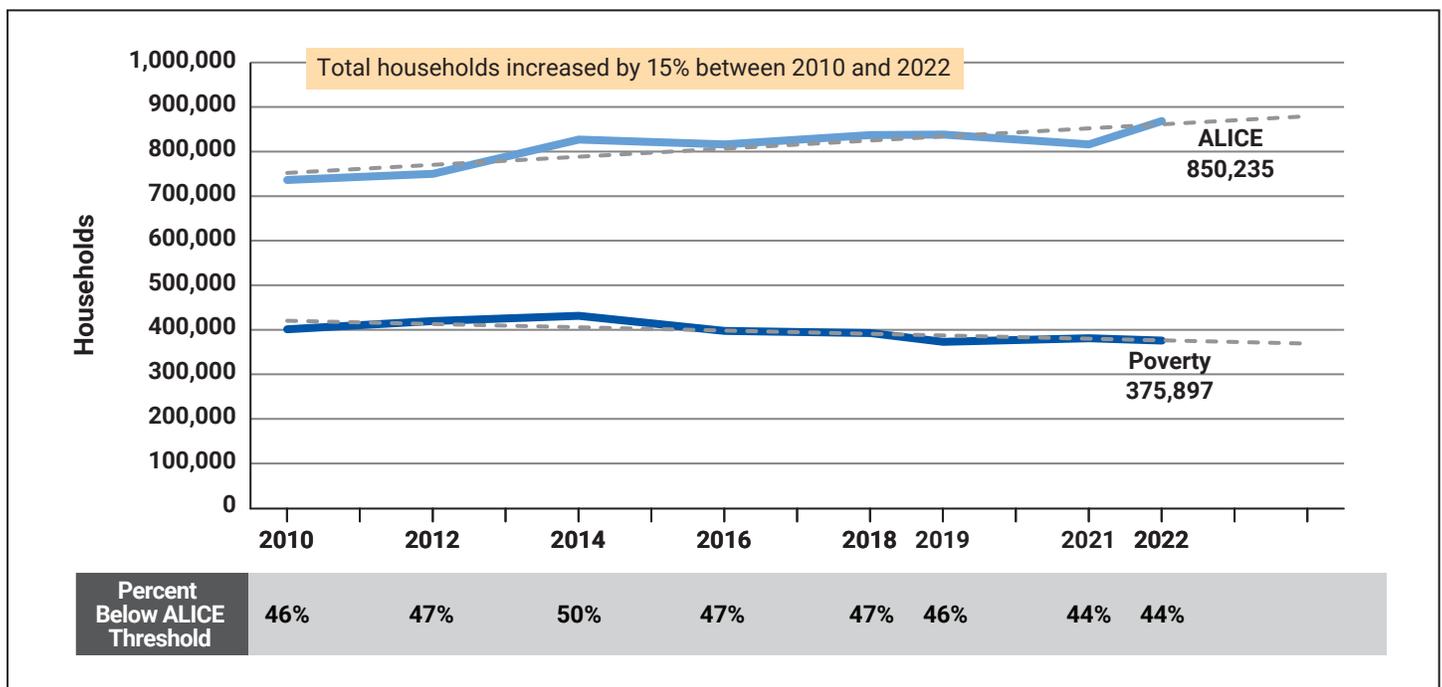
During this period, the total number of households in the state increased by 15%, households in poverty decreased by 6%, and the number of ALICE households increased by 15%. By 2022, 13% (375,897) of all households were below the FPL, and 30% (850,235) of all households were ALICE — a combined 44% (1,226,132) of households struggling to make ends meet.

Narrowing in on the period around the COVID-19 pandemic, the rate of financial hardship in Tennessee dropped from

46% of households below the ALICE Threshold in 2019 to 44% in 2022. However, the number of households below the Threshold in 2022 surpassed the 2019 total, increasing by 14,972 households.

This consistent trend — a growing number of households that are struggling financially, often ineligible for public assistance, and undercounted by official measures — represents a major vulnerability in our economic system. It also suggests that overall social and economic policies are falling short in addressing the root causes of financial instability.

Households by Income, Tennessee, 2010–2022



Note: The gray dashed trend lines in this figure highlight the general direction of the point-in-time data for the years shown. These lines indicate whether the numbers of ALICE and Poverty-Level households have been generally increasing, decreasing, or remaining flat. The ALICE and Poverty trend lines are both statistically significant (ALICE at $p=0.01$ and Poverty at $p=0.02$).

Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2010–2022; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010–2022

To see additional data on financial hardship over time in Tennessee, visit UnitedForALICE.org/Tennessee.

SPOTLIGHT ON ALICE DEMOGRAPHICS

Families With Children

While recent attention has focused on the rising [Supplemental Poverty Rate](#) for children following the expansion and reversal of Child Tax Credits during and after the pandemic, longer-term trends tell a more nuanced story.

Overall, the total number of households with children in Tennessee has remained flat (less than 1% change from 2010 to 2022). Married-parent households increased slightly in number, from 460,590 in 2010 to 464,471 in 2022 (up 1%), while single-female-headed households dropped from 187,624 in 2010 to 179,108 in 2022 (down 5%). At the same time, the number of single-male-headed households had the most substantial percent increase, from 54,443 in 2010 to 64,386 in 2022 (up 18%).

While the number of households with children in poverty in Tennessee has been declining over the past decade, the number of ALICE households with children has increased for both married-parent and single-parent families.

By 2022, 38% of families with children in Tennessee were below the ALICE Threshold. And longstanding disparities in financial hardship by household type remained: 77% of single-female-headed families and 62% of single-male-headed families were below the ALICE Threshold in 2022, compared to 20% of married-parent families.

Households With Children, Tennessee

	Married-Parent	Single-Female-Headed	Single-Male-Headed
Percent Change 2010 to 2022			
Total Households	▲ Increased 1%	▼ Decreased 5%	▲ Increased 18%
Households in Poverty	▼ Decreased 36%	▼ Decreased 23%	▼ Decreased 14%
ALICE Households	▲ Increased 10%	▲ Increased 19%	▲ Increased 32%
Percent Below ALICE Threshold, 2022	20%	77%	62%

Note: Poverty rates for families with children differ from rates for individual children, in part due to different surveys and in part because there are often multiple children in a single household, which can accentuate swings.

Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2010–2022; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010–2022

THE COST OF CHILD CARE

Child care remains one of the highest Survival Budget costs for households with children, and the [child care system](#) is still feeling the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Provider shortages and lack of affordable care present fewer options for parents. According to the October 2023 Household Pulse Survey, when families in the [East South Central Census Region](#) (which includes Tennessee) were asked what they did when child care was closed, unavailable, or unaffordable, the most common responses for respondents below the ALICE Threshold were to take unpaid leave (30%), to cut work hours (29%), or to supervise one or more children while working (23%).

Households Headed by People Age 65 and Over

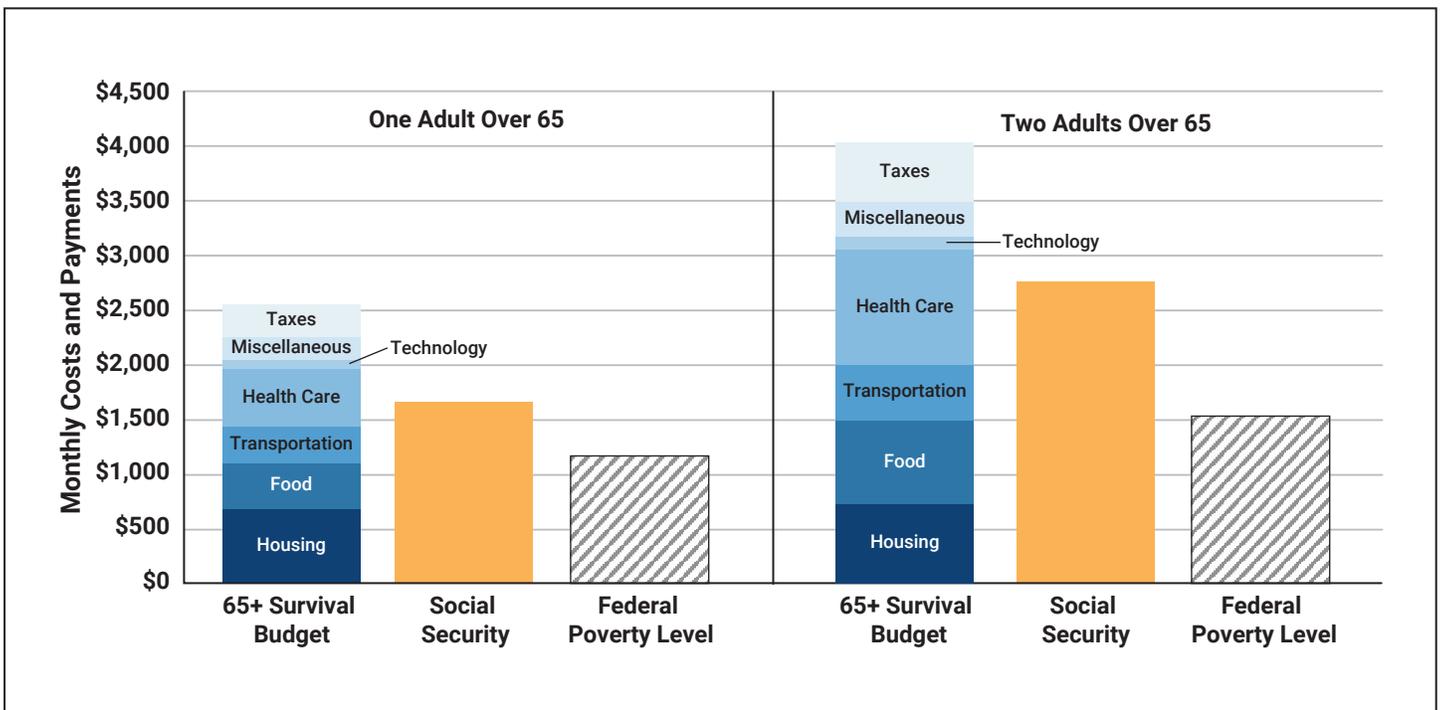
With the [aging of the Baby Boomer generation](#), households headed by people age 65 and over are the fastest-growing age group in Tennessee (up 41% between 2010 and 2022). They are also the age group with the most substantial increase in the number of households below the ALICE Threshold (up 28% during the same period).

In 2022, 52% (391,320) of Tennessee’s 65+ households were below the ALICE Threshold. While Social Security helps [reduce rates of poverty among older adult](#) (12% in Tennessee in 2022), benefits have long been below what is needed to help bring older adults to financial stability.

As a result, for more than a decade, a substantial number of these households have been ALICE (40% in 2022). In 2022, monthly costs for the ALICE 65+ Survival Budget for one adult in Tennessee were \$888 more than the [average Social Security payment](#) of \$1,657.

With increasing costs and insufficient retirement savings, many older adults have needed to continue working. In 2022, nearly 370,000 people age 65 and over living below the ALICE Threshold in Tennessee did not have retirement savings beyond Social Security, and nearly 46,500 were working.

Monthly ALICE 65+ Survival Budget Totals, Average Monthly Social Security Payments, and the Federal Poverty Level, Tennessee, 2022



Note: See page 13 for a breakdown of monthly ALICE 65+ Survival Budget costs.

Sources: ALICE 65+ Survival Budget, 2022 (see the ALICE [Methodology](#) for details); Social Security Administration, 2022

Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous Households

Rates of financial hardship differ substantially by race/ethnicity in Tennessee due to [persistent systemic racism, discrimination](#), and [geographic barriers](#) that limit many families' access to resources and opportunities for financial stability. In 2022, 58% of Black, 53% of Hispanic, as well as 50% of households headed by someone of Two or More Races, were below the ALICE Threshold in Tennessee, compared to 40% of White and 33% of Asian households. Rates of financial hardship were also disproportionately higher among smaller indigenous populations in the state: 53% of American Indian/Alaska Native, and 46% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander households were below the Threshold in 2022. These disparities were also mirrored in the workforce and in access to care.

- **Employment:** Black and Hispanic workers were more likely than White workers to experience [disruptions in employment](#) during the pandemic. And gaps in employment persisted, especially for Black workers below the ALICE Threshold, with 11% not currently working, but looking for work in 2022 – higher than the rate for all Tennessee workers below the Threshold (8%) and much higher than for all Tennessee workers above the Threshold (2%).
- **Health:** According to the Federal Reserve SHED (October 2022), in the [East South Central Census Region](#), 65% of Hispanic of respondents below the ALICE Threshold reported that during the previous year they went without health care (prescription medicine, seeing a doctor, mental health care, or dental care) because they couldn't afford it, compared to 45% of White respondents below the Threshold.



Household Financial Status and Key Demographics, Tennessee, 2022

	Total	Below ALICE Threshold	■ Poverty ■ ALICE ■ Above ALICE Threshold		
ALL HOUSEHOLDS	2,805,838	1,226,132	13%	30%	56%
AGE					
Under 25 Years	125,215	84,447	30%	38%	33%
25 to 44 Years	930,067	374,001	13%	27%	60%
45 to 64 Years	998,145	376,364	13%	25%	62%
65 Years and Over	752,411	391,320	12%	40%	48%
RACE/ETHNICITY					
American Indian/ Alaska Native	5,130	2,721	15%	38%	47%
Asian	40,719	13,393	7%	26%	67%
Black	444,240	259,036	15%	43%	42%
Hispanic	107,523	57,228	10%	44%	47%
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	1,055	481	11%	35%	54%
Two or More Races	91,203	45,178	11%	38%	50%
White	2,114,691	853,789	8%	32%	60%
HOUSEHOLD TYPE					
Married With Children	464,471	91,917	6%	13%	80%
Single-Female- Headed With Children	179,108	138,673	43%	35%	23%
Single-Male-Headed With Children	64,386	40,162	21%	41%	38%
Single or Cohabiting, Under 65, no Children	1,345,462	564,060	12%	30%	58%
RURAL/URBAN					
Rural	687,101	318,320	17%	30%	54%
Urban	2,118,737	907,812	12%	30%	57%

Note: The groups shown in this figure are based on head of household and overlap across categories. Within the race/ethnicity category, all racial categories except Two or More Races are for one race alone. Race and ethnicity are overlapping categories; in this Update, the American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Black, Native Hawaiian (includes other Pacific Islanders), and Two or More Races groups may include Hispanic households. The White group includes only White, non-Hispanic households. The Hispanic group may include households of any race. Because household poverty data is not available for the American Community Survey's race/ethnicity categories, annual income below \$15,000 is used as a proxy. Counties are defined as rural or urban based on the USDA's designation of metropolitan or non-metropolitan at the census tract level. Counties with 50% or more of the population in metropolitan tracts are designated as urban; those with 50% or more of the population in non-metropolitan tracts are designated as rural. In Tennessee in 2022, out of 2,805,838 households, there were 375,897 (13.4%) in poverty plus 850,235 (30.3%) ALICE, totaling 1,226,132 (43.6%) below the ALICE Threshold, which is rounded to 44% in this Report.

Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2022; American Community Survey, 2022

ALICE REMAINS IN THE CROSSCURRENTS

Many ALICE households face [ongoing distress](#) because they have not recovered from the Great Recession, debt accumulation, a job loss, or other major challenges. Many are working hard and still struggling to find safe housing, quality child care, nutritious food, accessible health care, and reliable transportation that they can afford. Rising wages and pandemic assistance mitigated some of the financial impact of business disruptions, a health crisis, and rising inflation that characterized the past few years. Yet 44% of households in Tennessee were still struggling in 2022 — [ranking](#) Tennessee 37th among all states and the District of Columbia in financial hardship (with 1st representing the lowest rate of hardship). Insights from the Federal Reserve SHED and the Household Pulse Survey help explain why:



Inflation is Hitting ALICE Harder

- **The cost of basics** is increasing faster than the overall rate of inflation, as reported by the [ALICE Essentials Index](#). And it has gotten harder for ALICE to keep up with bills than at the height of the pandemic. According to the Household Pulse Survey, 52% of households below the ALICE Threshold in Tennessee reported that it was somewhat or very difficult to pay for usual items such as food, rent or mortgage, car payments, and medical expenses in October 2023, up from 45% in August 2020.
- **Housing costs** are on the rise across the state, and the impact is greater for those who were already struggling financially. According to the SHED, in 2022, 42% of households below the ALICE Threshold in Tennessee reported that their rent or mortgage had increased in the prior 12 months (compared to 26% of households above the Threshold).

Changes in Public Assistance Impact ALICE

- **Food assistance:** Increased need for food assistance was a hallmark of the pandemic. Food pantries experienced a substantial increase in [demand for services](#), and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) [eligibility criteria broadened and monthly payments increased](#) (through February 2023). In 2022, the need remained high, with one in six Americans (49 million) [receiving private charitable food assistance](#) — down from the height of the pandemic, but still up markedly from 40 million in 2019. Yet many households struggling to put food on the table were ineligible for public food assistance, largely due to the SNAP income eligibility criteria in Tennessee (130% of the FPL). In 2022, only 38% of all Tennessee households in poverty and 14% of all ALICE households participated in SNAP. Among all eligible people, [SNAP participation rates](#) were higher.
- **Rent:** With rising costs, the expiration of [pandemic rental assistance](#), and the end of both [state](#) and [federal eviction bans](#), many Tennesseans continued to struggle to pay their rent. In 2022, 62% of Tennessee households below the ALICE Threshold were rent burdened (paying more than 30% of their income on rent) and 35% were severely rent burdened (paying more than 50% of their income on rent). According to the Household Pulse Survey, 13% of renter households below the ALICE Threshold in Tennessee were behind on rent payments in October 2023, down from 17% in August 2020.

ALICE is Less Prepared for Crises and Retirement

- **ALICE struggles to save:** According to the SHED, in Tennessee, only 39% of households below the ALICE Threshold had emergency savings (or rainy day funds) that would cover their expenses for three months in the event of sickness, job loss, economic downturn, or another emergency in 2022, compared to 77% of households above the Threshold.
- **ALICE faces unexpected medical expenses:** According to the SHED, 31% of respondents below the ALICE Threshold in Tennessee incurred an unexpected major medical expense that they had to pay for out of pocket because it was not completely paid for by insurance in 2022, up from 25% in 2021. Medical debt generally reflects [poorer health](#) and lower rates of health care coverage, and can lead to [lower credit scores](#) and [additional financial hardship](#). Additionally, the [consequences of medical debt](#) are not experienced equally; those with lower incomes and people of color are more likely than their counterparts to be contacted by collection agencies and denied future care.
- **Financial hardship impedes retirement savings:** According to the SHED, in 2022 while 21% of all non-retired adults and 28% of non-retired adults above

the ALICE Threshold in Tennessee reported that their retirement savings plan was currently on track, only 14% of those below the Threshold reported the same.

- **Financial hardship takes a toll on mental health:** The negative impact of financial stress on mental health has been [well established](#). According to the Household Pulse Survey, 20% of respondents below the ALICE Threshold in Tennessee reported feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge nearly every day over the prior two weeks in October 2023 – down from August 2020 (29%), yet still twice as high as the rate for those above the Threshold (10% in 2023).

This research shows a clear trend in our communities and our economy: Financial hardship is widespread, and it is not going away. The current system is not working for ALICE. The narrative in this Update helps make the case for innovative, cross-sector change in Tennessee and across the U.S. The data, tools, and resources on the [United For ALICE](#) website can equip business, government, education, and nonprofit leaders to make data-informed decisions that address the root causes of financial hardship. Collaborative effort at all levels – local, state, and federal – will be needed to change the trajectory for ALICE households.



ALICE ONLINE

Visit UnitedForALICE.org to explore interactive data and resources. Click the icons below to get started.

 <p>Interactive Maps Data at the state, county, municipal, and ZIP-code levels</p>	 <p>ALICE Demographics Information about ALICE households by age, race/ethnicity, household type, and location</p>	 <p>County Reports An in-depth look at ALICE data, county by county</p>
 <p>Data Sheet Spreadsheet of ALICE data over time and by location</p>	 <p>ALICE Household Budgets ALICE Household Survival and Stability Budgets for the state and one or more counties</p>	 <p>ALICE Essentials Index Key data on the increase in the cost of household basics over time</p>
 <p>Legislative District Tool ALICE data by legislative district, including state upper and lower chambers and congressional districts</p>	 <p>National Overview National ALICE data and a comparison of financial hardship across U.S. states</p>	 <p>Economic Viability Dashboard Key data on the local economic conditions that matter most to ALICE households: Work, Housing, and Community Resources</p>
 <p>Research Advisory Committees Information about the members and role of these critical groups</p>	 <p>ALICE Methodology Overview of the sources and calculations used in the ALICE research</p>	 <p>Equity for ALICE Creating equity for ALICE by illustrating how structural racism and systemic barriers limit life outcomes, and working to remove those barriers so that all people can participate fully in all aspects of our social and economic systems</p>
 <p>ALICE Voices Are you ALICE? Use this tool to share your story</p>	 <p>ALICE in Action Programs, practices, and policy changes implemented by partners across the United For ALICE network</p>	 <p>ALICE Videos Videos that highlight the ALICE research and partner network</p>

ALICE RESEARCH & METHODOLOGY

The ALICE Household Survival Budget calculates the cost of household essentials for each county in Tennessee and relies on a wide range of public data sources, listed below. For household income, the ALICE measures rely on the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) – both household tabulated data and individual data from the Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) records. Household costs are compared to household income to determine if households are below the ALICE Threshold. The latest [ALICE Methodology](#) review was completed in the summer of 2023. Methodology enhancements include:

- Health care costs:** A “poor health multiplier” is used to capture the additional costs lower-income households incur for being in poor or fair health. Based on the latest research, out-of-pocket costs in the health care line item are increased by 19% (a more conservative estimate than the 30% used in prior years).
- Broadband added:** To reflect the finding that the majority of Americans now [have home broadband](#), basic broadband internet has been added to technology costs. The smartphone plan has been updated to include an unlimited (albeit less expensive than the previous 10GB version) smartphone plan for each adult in the household.
- Determining ALICE status:** For 2021 data and years prior, the ALICE Threshold was rounded by budget total to the nearest ACS income bracket (e.g., Threshold of \$32,500 corresponded to bracket \$30,000–\$34,999; all households in that bracket were below the ALICE Threshold). Starting this year (2022 data), the Threshold is calculated in proportion to where it falls within the bracket (e.g., if Threshold is \$32,500, half of households in the bracket are below the Threshold).

ALICE Household Survival Budget, Tennessee, 2022			
	Single Adult (Age 18–64)	Single Adult (Age 65+)	2 Adults, 1 Infant, 1 Preschooler
Monthly Costs			
Housing – Rent	\$520	\$520	\$566
Housing – Utilities	\$163	\$163	\$310
Child Care	-	-	\$1,007
Food	\$453	\$418	\$1,234
Transportation	\$394	\$330	\$1,045
Health Care	\$192	\$525	\$726
Technology	\$86	\$86	\$116
Miscellaneous	\$181	\$204	\$500
Tax Before Credits	\$249	\$299	\$797
Monthly Total	\$2,238	\$2,545	\$6,301
ANNUAL TOTAL Before Tax Credits	\$26,856	\$30,540	\$75,612
Tax Credits (CTC and CDCTC)	\$0	\$0	(\$5,196)
ANNUAL TOTAL With Tax Credits	\$26,856	\$30,540	\$70,416
Full-Time Hourly Wage	\$13.43	\$15.27	\$35.21

Note: CTC = Child Tax Credit, CDCTC = Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit. Full-time hourly wage represents the wage needed at 40 hours per week to support the annual total, with credits. For the family of four, this represents the combined wage needed for two workers. Many households incur higher costs, especially for housing, as units may not be available at Fair Market Rent.

Sources: AAA, 2022; Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, 2022; American Community Survey, 2022; Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2022—Consumer Expenditure Surveys; Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2022—Occupational Employment Statistics; Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2023—Medicare - Chronic Conditions; Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2020—Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey; Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2023; Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta—Policy Rules Database; Federal Highway Administration, 2017; Feeding America, 2023; Frank, 2022; Internal Revenue Service, 2022; Medicare.gov; Tennessee Department of Human Services, 2022; The Zebra, 2022; U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2022—Official USDA Food Plans; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2022—Fair Market Rents; USTelecom, 2022.

To view ALICE Household Survival Budgets for all counties and for any household composition, visit UnitedForALICE.org/Household-Budgets/Tennessee.

Data Notes: The income data used in this Update rely on ACS estimates. The ACS is based on a representative sample, rather than all housing units and people; therefore, these estimates have a [degree of uncertainty](#). Some data points are geographic averages, others are one- or five-year averages depending on population size (see the [Data Sheet](#) for details). Percentages are rounded to whole numbers, sometimes resulting in percentages totaling 99% or 101%. ALICE analysis includes households regardless of work status, as employment is fluid and most households have members who are working, have worked, are out on disability, or are looking for work. ALICE analysis does not include people who are unhoused or living in group quarters.

ABOUT UNITED FOR ALICE AND OUR PARTNERS

ALICE in the Crosscurrents: An Update on Financial Hardship in Tennessee is brought to you by [United Ways of Tennessee](#) in partnership with [United For ALICE](#), a driver of innovative research and action around financial hardship for ALICE households. With a commitment to [racial and economic justice](#), United For ALICE and United Ways across Tennessee share this work with foundations, government, corporations, and other nonprofits to inform policy and promote positive change for ALICE households. The grassroots ALICE movement, developed by United Way of Northern New Jersey, has spread to 31 states and the District of Columbia. Learn more about the ALICE movement [here](#).

To create the ALICE Reports, our [team of researchers](#) works with [Research Advisory Committees](#) composed of experts from our partner states. This work is guided by our rigorous [methodology](#), which is updated biennially with experts from across our Research Advisory Committees.

United For ALICE partners with [United Ways of Tennessee](#) to bring this research to Tennessee, and this work is sponsored by the United Ways of Tennessee and the Tennessee Afterschool Network.



United Ways of Tennessee



To learn more about how you can get involved in advocating and creating change for ALICE in Tennessee, contact: **Mary Graham** at Mary.Graham@uwtn.org

To access interactive ALICE data and resources for Tennessee, go to UnitedForALICE.org/Tennessee.

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