

# ALICE<sup>®</sup> RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## ALICE RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

The United Way *ALICE Project* is a grassroots movement committed to strengthening communities by improving the lives of **ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed)** - our families, neighbors, and colleagues who work hard, earn above the federal poverty level, but not enough to afford a basic household budget.

To ensure the data accurately reflects local nuances, the United Way *ALICE Project* relies on the expertise of local researchers and specialists, which comprise the **ALICE Research Advisory Committee** for that state. This Committee is established to advise and contribute to the research for the United Way ALICE Report in that state. Additionally, when reports are released, Committee members can speak to the connections between the ALICE research and their work, building upon the data to address issues in their community.

### COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

The members of the Research Advisory Committee should have a passion for numbers and for the betterment of their state. It is helpful to have members from a range of organizations including an academic institution, social and human services organization, hospital, government agency, or have a market research background. It is especially helpful to have members knowledgeable in public policy, education, health care, labor, or tax laws.

### WHAT'S INVOLVED

The Committee meets in-person twice to support the data collection and analysis for the United Way ALICE Report in their state, followed by webinars and electronic correspondences. Committee members are asked to bring their expertise and experiences to inform and elevate the discussion on pressing local topics, as well as help identify and access data in particular areas.

Once the Report is released, members may be asked to speak to the media and public audiences in their area of expertise and help connect the Report to current issues in their community. Members are encouraged to help spread the word about ALICE by sharing the findings at conferences or writing an editorial. Members of the Committee will also be given access to the ALICE data sets, tools, and measures to use in their own research.

### QUESTIONS

For more information contact Stephanie Hoopes, Ph.D., director, United Way *ALICE Project*, [Stephanie.Hoopes@UnitedWayNJ.org](mailto:Stephanie.Hoopes@UnitedWayNJ.org) or 973.452.4982

A project of United Ways in  
Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa,  
Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey,  
New York, Ohio, Oregon, Virginia, Washington,  
and Wisconsin

[UnitedWayALICE.org](http://UnitedWayALICE.org)



## WHO IS ALICE?

**ALICE**, an acronym which stands for **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed, is a way of defining our families, neighbors, and colleagues (men and women) who work hard, earn above the federal poverty level, but not enough to afford a basic household budget. ALICE educates our children, keeps us healthy, and makes our quality of life possible. But these low-wage jobs, often in the service sector, do not pay enough for ALICE to live on. These families are forced to make tough choices, such as deciding between quality child care or paying the rent, which have long-term consequences for ALICE and our communities. The future success of our communities is directly tied to the financial stability of ALICE households.

## WHAT IS THE UNITED WAY ALICE PROJECT?

The United Way *ALICE Project* is a collaborative effort to improve the lives of vulnerable, low-income ALICE households. Based on the overwhelming success of the research in identifying and communicating the needs of ALICE households, the *Project* has grown exponentially from its Morris County, New Jersey debut in 2009. Including the planned launch of five new state Reports in 2016, the *Project* currently spans fifteen states representing nearly forty percent of the U.S. population. The partners in this grassroots effort are working together to give ALICE a national voice.

## WHAT DOES THE PROJECT DO?

The United Way *ALICE Project* raises awareness about an essential but previously hidden part of our community. It also provides a framework, language, and tools for stakeholders to understand, measure, and ultimately implement changes that improve the lives of ALICE. With as many as one-third of the population in the United States living in an ALICE household, many public policy issues must be reassessed and the scope of current solutions be reconsidered. To inform the dialogue in the country about this growing crisis and how it affects us all, the United Way *ALICE Project*:

- **Produces Current Research:** Through state Reports with regular updates and special subject reports, the *Project* provides the highest quality, unbiased data at the local and national level.
- **Leads a Learning Community:** The vibrant ALICE Learning Community provides a forum for participants to learn from each other and share best practices.
- **Builds Action:** Armed with knowledge, best practices, and community partners, the ultimate goal of the *Project* is to stimulate action that will improve the financial stability of ALICE families.

## WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

The 2014 and 2015 launches of United Way ALICE Reports in Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, New Jersey, Oregon, and Washington were a great success, garnering significant media and public attention. A few examples include:

- David Cay Johnston, Pulitzer Prize winning journalist: “Our understanding of poverty is starting to undergo a transformation, thanks to new research...”
- Miami Herald Editorial: “...the report’s findings are disturbing and should be a call to action.”
- Andrei Cherny, Washington Post Op-Ed: “...the story of future elections will, in fact, come down to a single name – in this case, a female first name. No, it’s not Hillary. It’s Alice.”
- U.S. Senator Cory Booker @CoryBooker “890,000 working #NewJersey households can't get by. #MeetALICE communities”

**DOWNLOAD THE REPORTS AT [UNITEDWAYALICE.ORG](http://UNITEDWAYALICE.ORG)**