# AN UPDATE ON FINANCIAL HARDSHIP IN INDIANA

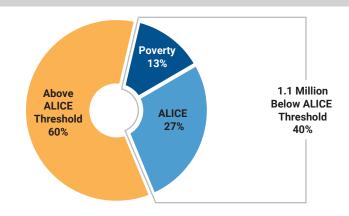
In 2022, financial hardship in Indiana continued to be shaped by the conflicting economic forces of the pandemic, and remained substantially undercounted by official measures.

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

Between 2021 and 2022, the number of households in poverty in Indiana increased by 17,868 (to 13% of all households) and the number of ALICE households increased by 18,255 (remaining at 27% of all households), continuing a more than decade-long trend in the growth of this population. In 2022, of the 2,701,433 households in Indiana, 1,071,456 — 40% — 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 Indiana.

#### Total Households in Indiana = 2.7 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 Indiana (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







Indiana United Ways

United Way of Central Indiana

### HOUSEHOLD COSTS, PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, AND WAGES

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

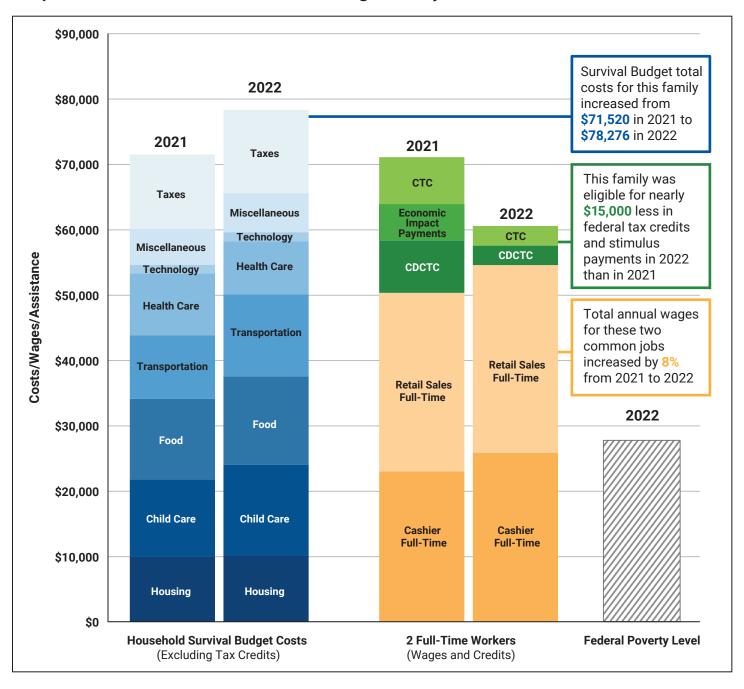
- Costs: From 2021 to 2022, the ALICE Household Survival Budget for a single adult in Indiana increased from \$24,636 to \$26,040, well above the FPL of \$13,590. For a family of four with an infant and a preschooler, the budget (including tax credits) increased from \$58,428 to \$73,080, well above the FPL of \$27,750. Excluding tax credits, costs for a family of four totaled \$78,276 in 2022, up from \$71,520 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 Indiana 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 Indiana increased from \$13.14 per hour in 2021 to \$13.80 per hour in 2022.







### Comparison of Costs, Public Assistance, and Wages, Family of Four, Indiana, 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/Indiana to see the Household Survival Budget for all counties and for any household composition.

Across the country, between 2019 and 2022, <u>wages for the lowest-paid jobs increased</u> at a faster rate than at any point since 1979. This was in part due to a <u>tighter labor market</u> 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. That was not the case in Indiana, where there is no state minimum wage, and the federal minimum wage has remained \$7.25 per hour since 2009. Overall, low-wage jobs in Indiana still saw notable wage increases from 2019 to 2022.

While wage increases helped fill the gap when pandemic assistance ended, they were not enough to make up for years of falling behind. In 2022, of the 20 most common occupations in Indiana as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), 75% still paid less than \$20 per hour. And of the workers in these 20 most common occupations, 28% were below the ALICE Threshold in 2022. Occupations with the largest share of ALICE workers included cooks, cashiers, teaching assistants, fast food/counter workers, and waiters/waitresses.

### Labor Characteristics of Most Common Occupations, Indiana, 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)
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	103,050	28%	\$17.78	24%
Driver/Sales Workers and Truck Drivers	92,260	21%	\$19.53	5%
Fast Food and Counter Workers	90,690	42%	\$11.48	21%
Retail Salespersons	83,760	28%	\$13.80	24%
Registered Nurses	67,350	8%	\$35.24	15%
Office Clerks, General	66,510	19%	\$18.19	14%
Cashiers	65,410	45%	\$12.44	22%
Stockers and Order Fillers	58,440	31%	\$15.24	22%
Customer Service Representatives	54,640	33%	\$18.28	11%
General and Operations Managers	53,660	13%	\$45.99	8%
Cooks	51,710	48%	\$13.66	21%
Waiters and Waitresses	45,890	42%	\$10.97	18%
Elementary and Middle School Teachers	40,100	11%	\$26.06	10%
Personal Care Aides	39,600	41%	\$13.56	20%
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing	39,560	9%	\$38.77	26%
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	35,600	20%	\$22.01	16%
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	29,530	14%	\$19.78	8%
Nursing Assistants	29,200	36%	\$16.44	21%
Teaching Assistants	27,010	45%	\$19.13	60%
Shipping, Receiving, and Inventory Clerks	26,490	32%	\$18.24	11%

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 <u>UnitedForALICE.org/ALICE-EVD</u>. For more data on jobs by hourly wages and full-time, part-time, and hourly work schedules, visit <u>UnitedForALICE.org/Labor-Force/Indiana</u>.

### **Financial Hardship Over Time**

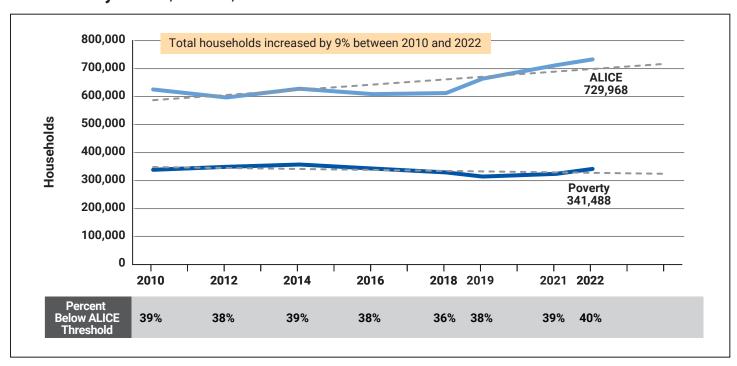
Despite some ups and downs in rates of financial hardship since the end of the Great Recession (2010–2022), the trend is clear: **The number of ALICE households in Indiana has continued to rise.** During this period, the total number of households in the state increased by 9%, households in poverty remained relatively flat (up 1%), and the number of ALICE households increased by 17%. By 2022, 13% (341,488) of all households were below the FPL, and 27% (729,968) of all households were ALICE — a combined 40% (1,071,456) of households struggling to make ends meet.

Narrowing the focus to the period around the COVID-19 pandemic, the rate of financial hardship in Indiana increased

from 38% of households below the ALICE Threshold in 2019 to 40% in 2022. And by number, households below the Threshold also continued to grow.

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, Indiana, 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 trend line is statistically significant at p<0.05; however, the Poverty trend line is not statistically significant, and caution should be used when making predictions.

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

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

### 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 — specifically, the decline in total families with children and the rise in ALICE households — tell a more nuanced story.

The number of households with children in Indiana has declined (down 4% from 2010 to 2022). This trend has been driven by married-parent households, which fell in number from 507,475 in 2010 to 489,010 in 2022 (down 4%), and single-female-headed households, which fell from 185,887 in 2010 to 169,212 in 2022 (down 9%). At the same time, the number of single-male-headed households increased from 57,743 in 2010 to 66,546 in 2022 (up 15%).

While overall in Indiana, the number of households with children and the number of households with children in poverty 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, 32% of families with children in Indiana were below the ALICE Threshold. And longstanding disparities in financial hardship by household type remained: 75% of single-female-headed families and 52% of single-male-headed families were below the ALICE Threshold in 2022, compared to 15% of married-parent families.

### Households With Children, Indiana

	Married-Parent	Single-Female-Headed	Single-Male-Headed
Percent Change 2010 to 2022			
Total Households	▼ Decreased 4%	▼ Decreased 9%	▲ Increased 15%
Households in Poverty	▼ Decreased 34%	▼ Decreased 19%	▼ Decreased 23%
ALICE Households	▲ Increased 24%	▲ Increased 7%	▲ Increased 42%
Percent Below ALICE Threshold, 2022	15%	75%	52%

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 <a href="child-care system">child care system</a> 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 <a href="East North Central Census Region">East North Central Census Region</a> (which includes Indiana) 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 cut work hours (37%), to take unpaid leave (27%), or to supervise one or more children while working (16%).

### Households Headed by People Age 65 and Over

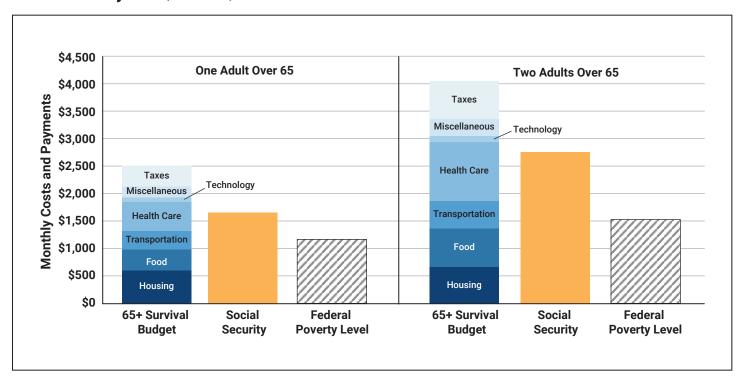
With the <u>aging of the Baby Boomer generation</u>, households headed by people age 65 and over are the fastest-growing age group in Indiana (up 34% between 2010 and 2022). They are also the age group with the most substantial increase in the number of households below the ALICE Threshold (also up 34% during the same period).

In 2022, 51% of Indiana's 65+ households were below the ALICE Threshold (359,520). While Social Security helps reduce the poverty rate for households headed by older adults (11% in Indiana in 2022), benefits have not been enough 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 Indiana were \$854 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 293,100 people age 65 and over living below the ALICE Threshold in Indiana did not have retirement savings beyond Social Security, and nearly 36,365 were working.

## Monthly ALICE 65+ Survival Budget Total, Average Monthly Social Security Payments, and the Federal Poverty Level, Indiana, 2022



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

 $Sources: ALICE\ 65+Survival\ Budget, 2022\ (see\ the\ ALICE\ \underline{Methodology}\ for\ details); Social\ Security\ Administration, 2022\ (see\ the\ ALICE\ \underline{Methodology}\ for\ details); Social\ Security\ Administration, 2022\ (see\ the\ ALICE\ \underline{Methodology}\ for\ details); Social\ Security\ Administration, 2022\ (see\ the\ ALICE\ \underline{Methodology}\ for\ details); Social\ Security\ Administration, 2022\ (see\ the\ ALICE\ \underline{Methodology}\ for\ details); Social\ Security\ Administration, 2022\ (see\ the\ ALICE\ \underline{Methodology}\ for\ details); Social\ Security\ Administration, 2022\ (see\ the\ ALICE\ \underline{Methodology}\ for\ details); Social\ Security\ Administration, 2022\ (see\ the\ ALICE\ \underline{Methodology}\ for\ details); Social\ Security\ Administration, 2022\ (see\ the\ ALICE\ \underline{Methodology}\ for\ details); Social\ Security\ Administration, 2022\ (see\ the\ ALICE\ \underline{Methodology}\ for\ details); Social\ Security\ Administration, 2022\ (see\ the\ ALICE\ \underline{Methodology}\ for\ details); Social\ Security\ Administration, 2022\ (see\ the\ ALICE\ \underline{Methodology}\ for\ details); Social\ Security\ Administration, 2022\ (see\ the\ ALICE\ \underline{Methodology}\ for\ details); Social\ Security\ Administration, 2022\ (see\ the\ ALICE\ \underline{Methodology}\ for\ details); Social\ Security\ Administration, 2022\ (see\ the\ ALICE\ \underline{Methodology}\ for\ details); Social\ Security\ Administration, 2022\ (see\ the\ ALICE\ \underline{Methodology}\ for\ details); Social\ Security\ Administration, 2022\ (see\ the\ ALICE\ \underline{Methodology}\ for\ details); Social\ Security\ Administration, 2022\ (see\ the\ ALICE\ \underline{Methodology}\ for\ details); Social\ Security\ Administration, 2022\ (see\ the\ ALICE\ \underline{Methodology}\ for\ details); Social\ Security\ Administration, 2022\ (see\ the\ ALICE\ \underline{Methodology}\ for\ details); Social\ Security\ Administration, 2022\ (see\ the\ ALICE\ \underline{Methodology}\ for\ details); Social\ Security\ Administration, 2022\ (see\ the\ ALICE\ \underline{Methodology}\ for\ details); Social\ Security\ Administration, 2022\ (see\ the\ ALICE\ \underline{Methodology}\ for\ deta$ 

# Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous Households

Rates of financial hardship differ substantially by race/ ethnicity in Indiana due to persistent systemic racism, discrimination, and geographic barriers that limit many families' access to resources and opportunities for financial stability. In 2022, 59% of Black, 49% of American Indian/ Alaska Native, 47% of Hispanic, as well as 45% of households headed by someone of Two or More Races, were below the ALICE Threshold in Indiana, compared to 37% of White and 36% of Asian households. These disparities were also mirrored in health insurance and employment.

- Health insurance: Policies adopted during the pandemic (2019 to 2022) prohibited disenrollment in Medicaid and enhanced Marketplace subsidies, leading to health insurance coverage gains. Yet disparities by race/ ethnicity persist and may widen with the unwinding of Medicaid enrollment. In Indiana, 14% of Hispanic, 8% of Black, and 7% of American Indian/Alaska Native people were uninsured in 2022, compared to 6% of White people. In 2022, White people in Indiana were more likely to have insurance through their employer in 2022 (56%), compared to 49% of Hispanic, 48% of American Indian/ Alaska Native, and 42% of Black people in the state.
- Employment: Black and Hispanic workers were more likely than White workers to experience disruptions in employment during the pandemic. And gaps in employment persisted: Overall, adults age 16+ below the ALICE Threshold in Indiana were more likely to not be working, but looking for work (8%) than those above the Threshold (2%) in 2022. The unemployment rate for workers below the Threshold was even higher for Black workers (14%) compared to Hispanic and White workers (both 7%).







### Household Financial Status and Key Demographics, Indiana, 2022

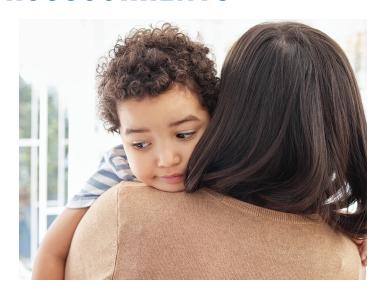
	Total	Below ALICE Threshold	Poverty ALICE		Above ALIC	Above ALICE Threshold	
ALL HOUSEHOLDS	2,701,433	1,071,456	13% 27	7%	60%		
AGE	AGE						
Under 25 Years	144,712	98,700	35%		33%	32%	
25 to 44 Years	884,350	302,634	13% 21%		66%		
45 to 64 Years	960,801	310,602	11% 22%		68%		
65 Years and Over	711,570	359,520	11% 40% 49%		19%		
RACE/ETHNICITY							
American Indian/ Alaska Native	4,935	2,418	13% 36% 51%		1%		
Asian	54,719	19,685	11% 25% 64%				
Black	253,972	150,455	21%	39%	41%		
Hispanic	139,704	65,181	9% 38% 53%		3%		
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	588	230	1% 38%		61%		
Two or More Races	89,315	40,626	10% 35% 55%		5%		
White	2,170,275	797,380	8% 29% 63%				
HOUSEHOLD TYPE							
Married With Children	489,010	73,043	6% 9%		85%		
Single-Female- Headed With Children	169,212	126,572	41%		34%	25%	
Single-Male-Headed With Children	66,546	34,293	18%	18% 48%		48%	
Single or Cohabiting, Under 65, no Children	1,265,095	478,028	12% 25% 62%				
RURAL/URBAN							
Rural	624,320	250,490	12% 28	3%	60%		
Urban	2,077,113	820,966	13% 27% 60%				

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 rural.

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

## **ALICE REMAINS IN THE CROSSCURRENTS**

Many ALICE households face <u>ongoing distress</u> 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 40% of households in Indiana were still struggling in 2022 — <u>ranking</u> Indiana 23<sup>rd</sup> among all states and the District of Columbia in financial hardship (with 1<sup>st</sup> 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. While there has been some improvement since the height of the pandemic, it continues to be difficult for ALICE to keep up with bills. According to the Household Pulse Survey, more than half (53%) of households below the ALICE Threshold in Indiana 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, compared to 60% in August 2020.
- Housing costs are on the rise in many parts of the state, and the impact is greater for those who were already struggling financially. According to the SHED, in 2022, 33% of households below the ALICE Threshold in Indiana reported that their rent or mortgage had increased in the prior 12 months.

### **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. In part due to the SNAP income eligibility level in Indiana (130% of the FPL), public food assistance was not accessible to all households that were struggling financially: Only 37% of all Indiana households in poverty and 13% of all ALICE households participated in SNAP in 2022. Among all eligible people, estimated SNAP participation rates
- were higher. Strengthening outreach efforts, particularly to underserved communities, is a critical step toward increasing access to and participation in SNAP.
- Rent: In 2022, many Hoosiers continued to struggle to pay their rent. Eligible residents still had access to pandemic-related emergency rental assistance but no longer had the protection of the lapsed state and federal eviction ban. In Indiana in 2022, two-thirds (66%) of households below the ALICE Threshold were rent burdened (paying more than 30% of their income on rent) and 39% were severely rent burdened (paying more than 50% of their income on rent). And according to the Household Pulse Survey, 16% of renter households below the ALICE Threshold in Indiana were behind on rent payments in October 2023.

### **ALICE** is Less Prepared for Crises and Retirement

- ALICE struggles to save: According to the SHED, only 30% of Indiana 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 53% of all households and 69% of those above the Threshold.
- ALICE faces unexpected medical expenses: According to the SHED, 29% of respondents below the ALICE Threshold in Indiana 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, similar to 31% 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 22% of all non-retired adults and 28% of non-retired adults above.

- the ALICE Threshold in Indiana reported that their retirement savings plan was currently on track, only 12% 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 Indiana reported feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge
  nearly every day over the prior two weeks in October
  2023 down from August 2020 (27%), yet still higher
  than for those above the Threshold (12% 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 Indiana 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 he trajectory for ALICE households.





### **ALICE ONLINE**

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



#### **Interactive Maps**

Data at the state, county, municipal, and ZIP-code levels



#### **ALICE Demographics**

Information about ALICE households by age, race/ ethnicity, household type, and location



#### **County Reports**

An in-depth look at ALICE data, county by county



#### **Data Sheet**

Spreadsheet of ALICE data over time and by location



### **ALICE Household Budgets**

ALICE Household Survival and Stability Budgets for the state and one or more counties



#### **ALICE Essentials Index**

Key data on the increase in the cost of household basics over time



### **Legislative District Tool**

ALICE data by legislative district, including state upper and lower chambers and congressional districts



#### **National Overview**

National ALICE data and a comparison of financial hardship across U.S. states



### Economic Viability Dashboard

Key data on the local economic conditions that matter most to ALICE households: Work, Housing, and Community Resources



### Research Advisory Committees

Information about the members and role of these critical groups



#### **ALICE Methodology**

Overview of the sources and calculations used in the ALICE research



### **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



#### **ALICE Voices**

Are you ALICE? Use this tool to share your story



#### **ALICE** in Action

Programs, practices, and policy changes implemented by partners across the United For ALICE network



#### **ALICE Videos**

Videos that highlight the ALICE research and partner network

### **ALICE RESEARCH & METHODOLOGY**

The Household Survival Budget calculates the cost of household essentials for each county in Indiana 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 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, Indiana, 2022				
	Single Adult (Age 18–64)	Single Adult (Age 65+)	2 Adults, 1 Infant, 1 Preschooler	
Monthly Costs				
Housing – Rent	\$436	\$436	\$532	
Housing – Utilities	\$163	\$163	\$310	
Child Care	-	-	\$1,158	
Food	\$413	\$381	\$1,125	
Transportation	\$398	\$334	\$1,048	
Health Care	\$190	\$535	\$677	
Technology	\$86	\$86	\$116	
Miscellaneous	\$169	\$194	\$497	
Tax Before Credits	\$315	\$382	\$1,060	
Monthly Total	\$2,170	\$2,511	\$6,523	
ANNUAL TOTAL Before Tax Credits	\$26,040	\$30,132	\$78,276	
Tax Credits (CTC and CDCTC)	\$0	\$0	(\$5,196)	
ANNUAL TOTAL With Tax Credits	\$26,040	\$30,132	\$73,080	
Full-Time Hourly Wage	\$13.02	\$15.07	\$36.54	

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; Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, 2023; Internal Revenue Service, 2022; Medicare.gov; 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/Indiana.

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 Indiana is brought to you by Indiana United Ways and United Way of Central Indiana 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 Indiana 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 <u>team of researchers</u> works with <u>Research Advisory Committees</u> composed of experts from our partner states. This work is guided by our rigorous <u>methodology</u>, which is updated biennially with experts from across our Research Advisory Committees.

Director and Lead Researcher: Stephanie Hoopes, Ph.D.

**ALICE Research Team:** Andrew Abrahamson; Ashley Anglin, Ph.D.; Catherine Connelly, D.M.H., M.A.; Max Holdsworth, M.A.; Dana Isaac

Indiana Research Advisory Committee: Priyanka Brunese, Ph.D., Purdue University; Rev. David W. Greene, M.Div., Purpose of Life Ministries; Kirsten Grønbjerg, Ph.D., Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University Bloomington; Tom Guevara, M.P.A., Public Policy Institute, Indiana University; Marc McAleavey, M.S.W., The Polis Center, Indiana University; Tara Morse, M.A., Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, IN 211; Ashley Phillips, M.P.H., CHES, Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute; Nancy Vaughan, Indiana United Ways Board; Marshawn Wolley, M.B.A, M.P.H., M.S., M.A., Black Onyx Management, Inc.

United For ALICE partners with the <u>Indiana United Ways</u> and <u>United Way of Central Indiana</u> to bring this research to Indiana.







United Way of Central Indiana

To learn more about how you can get involved in advocating and creating change for ALICE in Indiana, contact: **Michael Budd,** at <a href="mailto:michael.budd@iuw.org">michael.budd@iuw.org</a>.

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

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