

ALICE

ASSET LIMITED, INCOME CONSTRAINED, EMPLOYED

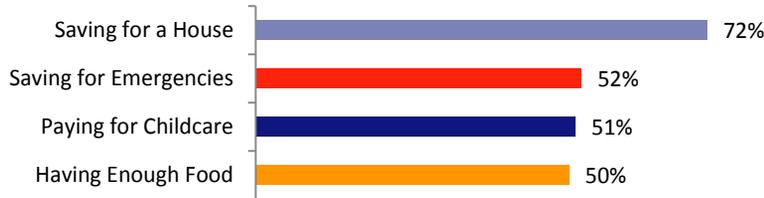


United Way of Western Connecticut Listens and Responds

ALICE Community Outreach

In the fall of 2015, United Way of Western Connecticut (UWWC) conducted 27 Community Conversations with people who are living paycheck to paycheck and often struggle to afford the basic necessities of life. This is a population we call **ALICE**[®] (**A**sset, **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed). Additionally, more than 520 people throughout Western Connecticut completed the ALICE survey. As a result of that outreach, we learned that the biggest challenges facing ALICE households are saving for a house and emergencies, paying for childcare, and having enough food.

Percent of ALICE Survey Respondents Who Identify Issue As a Challenge Right Now



New Opportunities for ALICE Households Supported By UWWC Funding

To best address the needs of the ALICE population, UWWC is initially funding programs in the following areas:

Financial Literacy: Budget coaching, financial education, and employment training opportunities will expand, with the goal of reducing household debt, increasing savings, and promoting economic stability and independence. Programs will be offered through the Women's Business Development Council (in Danbury, New Milford, and Stamford), TBICO (in Danbury and New Milford), and Domestic Violence Crisis Center (in Stamford).

Savings Account Supplement Program: UWWC will launch this program in January 2017 in partnership with local banks. Qualified ALICE individuals who participate in Financial Literacy Programs will have the opportunity to have their savings matched through this program, allowing them to build a savings account and avoid going into debt when emergencies arise.

Food Access: UWWC works to improve food access to all families through our facilitation of the Danbury and Stamford Food Collaboratives. We are expanding the availability of food to ALICE through CT Food Bank's Mobile Food Pantry and GROW Truck. These programs will provide free, healthy food to ALICE families, enabling them to direct dollars toward expenses such as housing, utilities, and healthcare. UWWC is also starting conversations with major grocery stores to explore discount programs for ALICE; this will result in long-term, sustainable, community-wide change to make food more affordable for hard-working families.

Childcare: UWWC funds childcare programs across the region. This allows childcare centers to offer quality programming to lower-income families who might otherwise not be able to afford center-based care. Future levels of funding for childcare will be determined by the Community Conversations and Surveys that are being conducted in the summer and fall of 2016, which will focus on Education and Health.

For more information about how United Way of Western Connecticut is serving the ALICE population, please call 203-792-5330 or visit www.uwwesternct.org

