



United Way of Western Connecticut ALICE Emergency Fund FAQs

1. WHY WAS THE ALICE EMERGENCY FUND CREATED?

The ALICE Emergency Fund was created by United Way of Western Connecticut to get food and money for necessities to those who are suffering the financial effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many people in the retail, restaurant, and travel industries, as well as child care and elder care workers, lost jobs or wages. Most were already living paycheck to paycheck. We call these hard-working struggling people **ALICE®** (**A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed).

State and federal relief efforts will not be enough to cover their living expenses, and it may be many weeks before some receive checks. Their most immediate need is for food and other necessities such as medicine, gasoline, etc.

2. WHO WILL THE FUND BENEFIT?

The **ALICE Emergency Fund** will benefit only the residents of the 15-town region served by United Way of Western Connecticut in Greater Danbury, Greater New Milford, and Stamford. Those towns are: Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, Kent, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield, Roxbury, Sherman, Stamford, Warren, and Washington.

The Fund was created to specifically benefit people who are facing hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic, due to loss of a job, loss of work hours, loss of child care, loss of elder care, illness, or the need to care for someone who is ill.

People who need assistance for reasons not related to COVID-19 should call 211.

3. HOW WILL THIS FUND HELP ALICE INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

\$20 of Free, Fresh Produce Each Week for Six Weeks

To address food needs, we are expanding benefits and enrollment under our Healthy Savings program. The program will allow participants to receive \$20 of free, fresh produce at participating stores for six weeks, beginning March 30. Participants can also receive up to \$50 or more in discounts on other healthy food staples, such as milk, eggs, lean meats, and wholegrain breads. Participating grocery stores include Stop & Shop, Walmart, and Acme.

Approximately 600 individuals and families have been enrolled in Healthy Savings to purchase healthy food right now.

Up to \$200 in Cash Assistance Per Household

Struggling individuals and families may also be eligible to receive up to \$200 to help them purchase necessities. We are working with social service agencies and municipalities to identify those most in need.

Once qualified, ALICE individuals will receive the funds through digital rewards that can be downloaded to their mobile phones.

4. HOW WILL INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES QUALIFY FOR THE FUND

We are working with social service agency partners in each of the cities and towns we serve to identify the greatest need and get the benefit to people who need it the most.

If you are in need, you can call **203-297-6674** to find out if you will qualify for benefits.

5. HOW CAN I DONATE TO THE ALICE EMERGENCY FUND?

To donate to the fund, go to www.uwwesternct.org/aliceemergencyfund or text WCTCOVID19 to 71777.

6. IS UNITED WAY OF WESTERN CONNECTICUT CHARGING ANY FEES TO ADMINISTER THIS FUND?

United Way of Western Connecticut will not charge administrative fees on donations to the ALICE Emergency Fund.

7. ARE THERE OTHER WAYS FOR INDIVIDUALS TO RECEIVE HELP FOR BASIC NEEDS?

Yes. Individuals and families may qualify for funds through the Connecticut United Ways COVID-19 Response Fund. That fund enables struggling households to receive \$200 in for basic needs. The funds can be download to their mobile wallet in their smartphone. To find out if you are eligible for those funds, **and live in the 15 towns served by United Way of Western Connecticut, call 203-297-6674.**

8. ARE THERE OTHER WAYS FOR INDIVIDUALS TO OBTAIN FOOD DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME?

United Way of Western Connecticut coordinates both the Danbury and Stamford Food Collaboratives. Each Collaborative keeps an up-to-date list of food resources.

To view a Guide to Accessing Food in Danbury, [click here](#).

To view a Guide to Accessing Food in Stamford, [click here](#).

The dates, times, and methods of obtaining food through those pantries may have recently changed due to social distancing requirements. Please call ahead to ensure that pantry policies and hours have not changed.

Additionally, CT Food Bank operates Mobile Food Pantries throughout the state. These pantries have also changed their operations, dates, and hours as a result of the pandemic. To find out more about Mobile Food Pantries in your area, [click here](#).