# HAVE YOU MET ALICE?



North Idaho is known for its beauty and a great place to call home. But if you look a little closer, scratch the surface and take a deeper look, you will find that far too many residents have a very different reality.

## What is the ALICE report?

In 2016, the United Ways of the Pacific Northwest unveiled the ALICE Report, a data-driven, comprehensive research project that challenges existing definitions of poverty and how it is measured. The updated 2018 ALICE Report shows the growing number of individuals who earn more than the Federal Poverty Level but less than the basic cost of living in North Idaho. 41% of North Idaho residents are walking a financial tightrope.

This demographic is known as ALICE, an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed.



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Who is ALICE



### Who is ALICE?

ALICE is the more than 76,000 men and women in North Idaho who get up each day to go to work—who sometimes work two jobs—but aren't sure if they'll be able to put dinner on the table each night.

ALICE often earns too much to qualify for subsidies like SNAP and Medicaid, but not enough to make ends meet. ALICE is your child care worker, home health aide, restaurant server, store clerk, mechanic, and office assistant – all people essential to you and to our community's success.





### What creates ALICE?

ALICE lives in every community in the Pacific Northwest. In general, low wage jobs dominate local economies, yet the basic cost of living is high.

While each ALICE family has its own set of unique circumstances, three initial focus areas have been identified in North Idaho:

- Access to quality, affordable child care
- · Access to reliable, efficient public transportation
- · Opportunities to build financial literacy

# **The Financial Tightrope**

When ALICE households cannot make ends meet, they are forced to make difficult choices like forgoing healthcare, accredited child care, healthy food, or car insurance. These "savings" threaten their health and safety and increase the risk of even a minor crisis crippling the family finances.



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What's in the ALICE budget



### What is the ALICE threshold?

Based on the newly developed Household Survival Budget, it takes roughly double the U.S. poverty rate of \$24,300 for a family of four to afford the essentials in North Idaho.

The bare-minimum Household Survival Budget does not include any savings, leaving households vulnerable to unexpected expenses. Included in the budget is housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, taxes, and miscellaneous.

The ALICE budget for a family of four, by county (click the county name for full budget info):

Benewah County	\$52,620
Bonner County	\$58,092
Boundary County	\$51,468
Kootenai County	\$54,624
Shoshone County	\$52,620



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What we're doing to help



# Collaborating to help ALICE.

ALICE tools can help policy makers, community leaders, and business leaders better understand the magnitude and variety of households facing financial hardship, and to create effective systemic change.

We all share a vested interest in improving conditions for ALICE: a community's economic and social health hinges on the ability of all residents to be selfsufficient

Tap here to see the growing list of our partners and learn how **you can join the movement**.

Give: Donations to UWNI

Advocate: Share ALICE information

Volunteer: Serve on an ALICE committee



Thank you for learning about ALICE The next step is yours!