

# ALICE IN LEWIS COUNTY



## Do You Know ALICE?

Of course you do. **ALICE** is everywhere. In fact, you know many ALICE's.

**ALICE** is a United Way acronym which stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed.

**ALICE** represents community members working in jobs that are needed, but don't always pay enough to afford the basics of housing, food, child care, health care, and transportation. ALICE is men and women of all ages and races. ALICE is your customers, constituents, neighbors - even family members and friends. ALICE is the 'working poor'.

The **United Way ALICE Project** provides high quality, research-based information to foster a better understanding of who is struggling in our communities. United Ways of the Pacific Northwest developed and released the ALICE report for Idaho, Oregon, and Washington to equip communities with information to create innovative solutions.

In Lewis County, **15% of residents live below the poverty threshold**, but an additional **23% live just above the poverty threshold** and are unable to consistently afford the basic necessities. **This is the ALICE population.**

In reality, 38% of Lewis County residents are barely making ends meet, living paycheck to paycheck to survive, not thrive.

## What Research Revealed In Lewis County

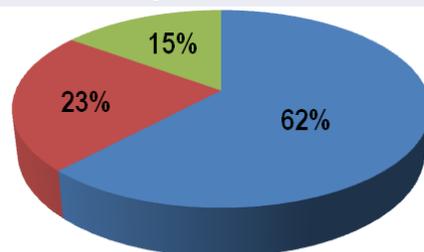
Population: 75,128

Number of Households: 29,969

ALICE/Poverty Households: 11,388

Median Household Income: \$43,575  
(State Average: \$61,366)

Unemployment Rate: 11.3%  
(State Average: 6.5%)



■ Above ALICE threshold ■ ALICE ■ Poverty

**Poverty:** 4,495 households

**ALICE:** 6,893 households

**Above ALICE:** 18,580 households

In Lewis County, **TWO** of every **FIVE** struggle to make ends meet.

## Why Does ALICE Exist?

ALICE lives in every community. Surprisingly, well over half of Lewis County's towns have 50% or more households earning less than what is needed to afford the basics. While each ALICE family has its own set of unique circumstances, two primary factors emerged from this study – **HIGH COST OF LIVING** and **LACK OF HIGHER PAYING JOBS**.

### Affording the Basics

Based on the newly developed Household Survival Budget, it takes more than double the U.S. poverty rate of \$23,850 for a family of four (\$11,670 for a single adult) to afford the essentials.

The bare minimum Household Survival Budget does not include any saving, leaving a household vulnerable to unexpected expenses. Frequently, many ALICE households are still unable to make ends meet on a monthly basis. This gap in income forces families to make tough decisions; pay the electric bill or fill a prescription, buy food or fill their gas tank.

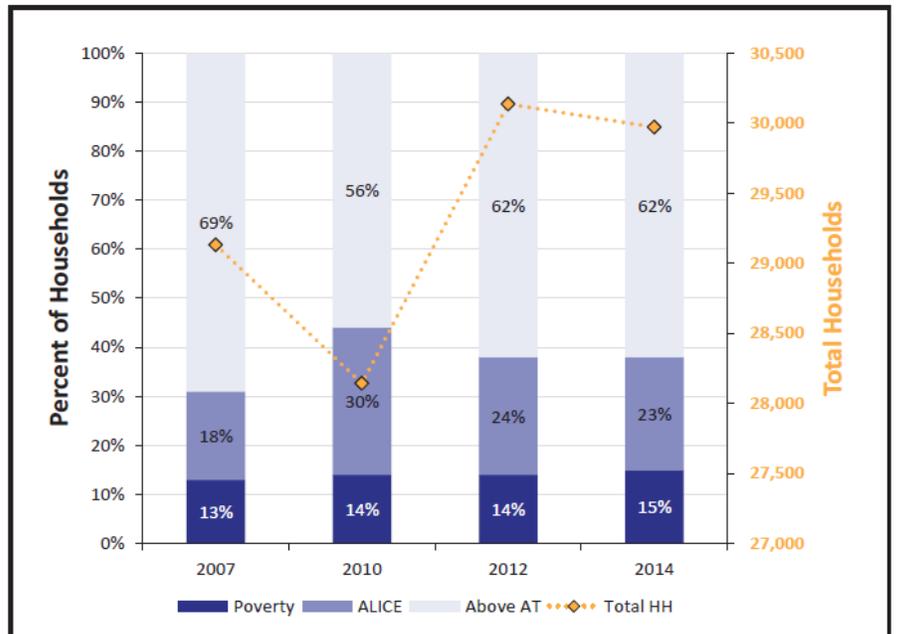
### How many households are struggling?

ALICE households – those that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level but less than the basic cost of living for the county. Combined, the number of poverty and ALICE households equals the total population struggling to afford basic needs. The number of households below the ALICE threshold changes over time; households move in and out of poverty and ALICE as circumstances improve or worsen. The Great Recession from 2007-2010, caused hardship for many families. Conditions started to improve in 2010 and 2012 for some, but not for all.

Household Survival Budget, Lewis County		
	SINGLE ADULT	2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER
<b>Monthly Costs</b>		
Housing	\$465	\$733
Child Care	\$-	\$1,168
Food	\$197	\$595
Transportation	\$345	\$690
Health Care	\$120	\$481
Miscellaneous	\$128	\$394
Taxes	\$158	\$268
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>\$1,413</b>	<b>\$4,329</b>
<b>ANNUAL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,956</b>	<b>\$51,948</b>
<b>Hourly Wage</b>	<b>\$8.48</b>	<b>\$25.97</b>

Sources: 2014 Point-in-Time Data: American Community Survey. ALICE Demographics: American Community Survey; the ALICE Threshold. Budget: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS); Internal Revenue Service (IRS); ; Child Care Aware of Washington.

### Households by Income, 2007 to 2014



For more information on ALICE, visit [www.lewiscountyuw.com/content/alice-report](http://www.lewiscountyuw.com/content/alice-report).