The Labor Landscape is Challenging for ALICE Workers

A small portion of adults (16 years and older) in Holmes County earn enough to afford the essentials but to pay with the cost of household expenses. Child care, food, transportation, health care, and a basic smartphone plan. Households below the ALICE Threshold – ALICE households plus those in poverty – can’t afford the essentials.

Poverty Level of $12,880 for a single adult and $26,500 for a family of four.

The Household Survival Budget reflects the minimum cost to live and work in the modern economy and includes housing, food, transportation, health care, a smartphone plan, and taxes. It does not include savings for emergencies or household expenses.

The Cost of Basics Outpaces Wages

Households below the ALICE Threshold — ALICE households plus those in poverty — can’t afford the essentials.

Financial Hardship Has Changed Over Time in Holmes County

3,866,606

As circumstances change, households may find themselves below or above the ALICE Threshold at different times. While conditions have improved for some households, many continue to struggle, especially as income and less likely to receive benefits.

Financial Hardship is Not Equally Distributed

Households in Poverty: 19% (state average 12%)

Financial Support is Spurred by Pandemic

By total number, groups with the largest population of households below the ALICE Threshold tend to also be in the One In Every Two Households at Risk category, with the highest proportion in the Marital (with children) group.

Financial Hardship Has Changed Over Time in Holmes County

Financial Support is Spurred by Pandemic

There were also differences in financial hardship by household type and age of householder.

The Cost of Basics Outpaces Wages

The Labor Force Participation Rate: 55% (state average 55%).

By 2021 that number had changed to 3,639,583.

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