Financial Hardship Has Changed Over Time in Washington County

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 wages fail to keep pace with the rising cost of household essentials (housing, 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.

The Cost of Basics Outpaces Wages

Households in Washington County struggle with the rising cost of household essentials (housing, 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.

The Cost of Basics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>ALICE Households</th>
<th>ALICE Households &amp; Poverty</th>
<th>Poverty Only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing - Rent</td>
<td>$1,204</td>
<td>$1,204</td>
<td>$1,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>$368</td>
<td>$368</td>
<td>$368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$252</td>
<td>$252</td>
<td>$252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care</td>
<td>$401</td>
<td>$401</td>
<td>$401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>$54</td>
<td>$54</td>
<td>$54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,889</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,889</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,889</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Household Income needed:

- **$2,889** to cover the cost of the basics
- **$1,204** to stay above the ALICE Threshold
- **$207** to stay above the Federal Poverty Level

Not all of Washington County’s households fall below the ALICE Threshold. However, among the 8,853 households below the ALICE Threshold, it is clear that some groups are more likely to be ALICE than others.

The Largest Demographic Groups

By total number, groups with the largest population of households below the ALICE Threshold tend to also be in the largest demographic groups. However, when looking at the proportion of each group that is below the ALICE Threshold, it is clear that some groups are more likely to be ALICE than others.

By Type:

- **Married (with children)**: 54
- **Single or Cohabiting (no children)**: 5
- **Single-Male-Headed (with children)**: 3
- **Single-Female-Headed (with children)**: 1
- **Seniors (65+)**: 0
- **45 to 64 Years**: 0
- **25 to 44 Years**: 0
- **Under 25**: 0

By Income:

- **$11.78**
- **$16.22**
- **$21.02**

The Labor Landscape is Challenging for ALICE Workers

A small portion of adults (16 years and older) in Washington County were unemployed and a large number were working hours below the ALICE Threshold — ALICE households plus those in poverty — can't afford the essentials.

The Labor Status, Population 16 and Over, Washington County, Florida, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Labor Force Participation Rate</th>
<th>ALICE Households</th>
<th>ALICE Households &amp; Poverty</th>
<th>Poverty Only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>35% (state average 33%)</td>
<td>35% (state average 33%)</td>
<td>35% (state average 33%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not In Labor Force</td>
<td>65% (state average 67%)</td>
<td>65% (state average 67%)</td>
<td>65% (state average 67%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Households in Poverty:

- **45%**
- **50%**
- **56%**
- **65%**

Households Below ALICE:

- **20%** (state average 12%)
- **20%** (state average 12%)
- **20%** (state average 12%)
- **20%** (state average 12%)

Households Above ALICE:

- **80%** (state average 88%)
- **80%** (state average 88%)
- **80%** (state average 88%)
- **80%** (state average 88%)

The Labor Status: Adults 16 and Over, Washington County, Florida, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Labor Status</th>
<th>ALICE Households</th>
<th>ALICE Households &amp; Poverty</th>
<th>Poverty Only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>34.2% (state average 33.4%)</td>
<td>34.2% (state average 33.4%)</td>
<td>34.2% (state average 33.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not In Labor Force</td>
<td>65.8% (state average 66.6%)</td>
<td>65.8% (state average 66.6%)</td>
<td>65.8% (state average 66.6%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The ALICE Indicator in Washington County

Washington County Counties are the core geography for ALICE data: They reveal variations often masked by statewide averages, and the data is reported regularly and reliably.

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