

## ALICE FACTORS

ALICE lives in every community. Surprisingly, nearly half of Pierce County's 65 towns have 30 percent 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

Based on the newly developed Household Survival Budget, it takes more than double the U.S. poverty rate of \$23,550 for a family of four to afford the essentials.

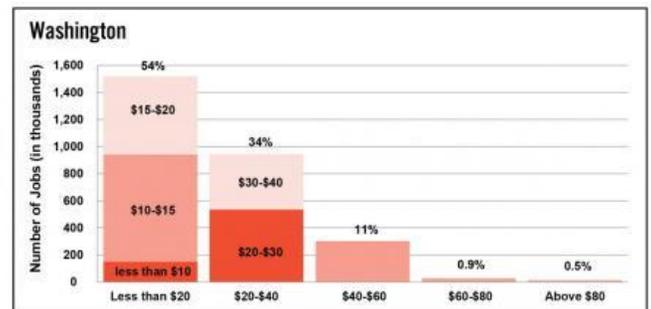
Despite working, ALICE and poverty-level households often need assistance to meet their most basic needs. Frequently, many of these households are still unable to make ends meet on a monthly basis. This gap in income forces families to make tough decisions like whether to pay an electric bill or fill a prescription, buy food or fill their gas tank.

Household Survival Budget, Pierce County		
	SINGLE ADULT	2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER
Housing	\$608	\$964
Child Care	\$-	\$1,309
Food	\$191	\$579
Transportation	\$322	\$643
Health Care	\$114	\$456
Miscellaneous	\$138	\$421
Taxes	\$149	\$261
Monthly Total	\$1,522	\$4,633
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$18,264	\$55,596
Hourly Wage	\$9.13	\$27.80

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and state Treasury, and ChildCare Aware, 2013; American Community Survey, 1 year estimate.

### Lack of High-Paying Jobs

ALICE provides vital services to our community – such as child care, health care, security, and retail services – yet is unable to make ends meet on the income these jobs provide. The Pierce County economy is increasingly dependent on low-paying, service jobs. More than half of all jobs in Pierce County pay less than \$20/hour (\$40,000/year if full-time). These jobs are projected to grow at double or triple the rate of medium- and high-skilled jobs over the next decade across Pierce County.



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2013b

### Race & Ethnicity

ALICE is men and women, young and old, of all races. Nearly 20 percent of the ALICE population is white while 37 percent are Hispanic, 29 percent African American and 17 percent Asian. Black and Hispanic households are still over-represented as a percentage of ALICE households, but overall, the race and ethnicity of ALICE households fairly closely mirrors that of the Pacific Northwest population as a whole.

	Poverty	ALICE	Above AT
Asian HHs	12%	17%	71%
Black HHs	22%	29%	49%
Hispanic HHs	12%	37%	51%
White HHs	10%	19%	70%

Source: American Community Survey, 2013, and the ALICE Threshold, 2013

## ALICE ON THE MAP

### [ALICE in Washington](#)

### [ALICE in the Pacific Northwest](#)