

# ALICE IN THE CROSSCURRENTS

2024  
UPDATE

## AN UPDATE ON FINANCIAL HARDSHIP IN MICHIGAN

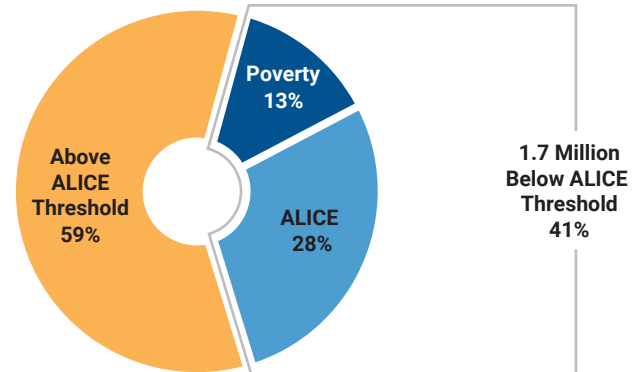
In 2022, financial hardship in Michigan continued to be shaped by the conflicting economic forces of the pandemic, and remained substantially undercounted by official measures.

These powerful crosscurrents – COVID-19, inflation, wage growth, and the expansion and expiration of [pandemic public assistance](#) – impacted how many Michigan households were below the [ALICE Threshold of Financial Survival](#).

Between 2021 and 2022, the number of households in poverty in Michigan remained relatively steady, increasing by 11,568 (but remaining at 13% of all households). However, the number of ALICE households increased by 88,904 (to 28% of all households). **In 2022, of the 4,056,442 households in Michigan, 1,671,196 – 41% – were below the ALICE Threshold.**

With the latest data from the [American Community Survey](#) (2022), the [U.S. Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey](#) (2023), and the [Federal Reserve Board's Survey of Household Economics and Decisionmaking](#) (SHED) (2022), this Update highlights the conflicting forces that continue to present opportunities for, and barriers to, financial stability in Michigan.

Total Households in Michigan = 4 Million



## KEY TERMS

- **ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed** – households that earn above the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) but cannot afford the basic cost of living in their county. Despite struggling to make ends meet, ALICE households often do not qualify for public assistance.
- **ALICE Household Survival Budget:** Reflects the minimum costs of household necessities in Michigan (housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and technology) plus taxes, adjusted for different counties and household types
- **ALICE Threshold of Financial Survival:** Derived from the Household Survival Budget, the minimum average income that a household needs to afford basic costs, calculated for all U.S. counties
- **Below ALICE Threshold:** Includes households in poverty and ALICE households combined
- **ALICE Essentials Index:** A measure of the average change over time in the costs of essential goods and services

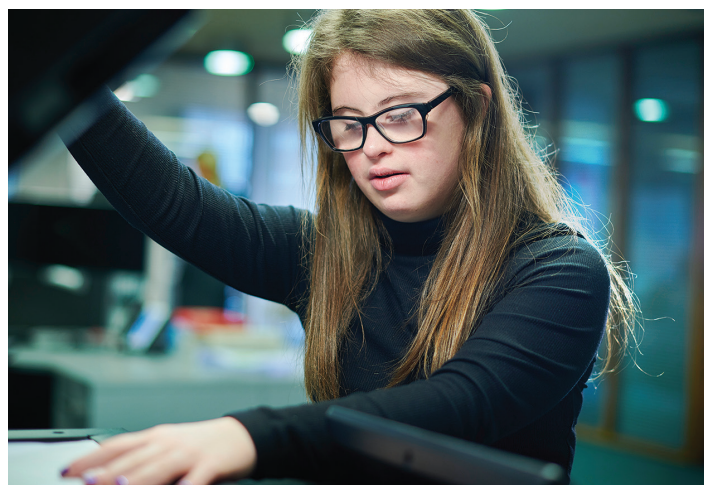


Michigan Association of  
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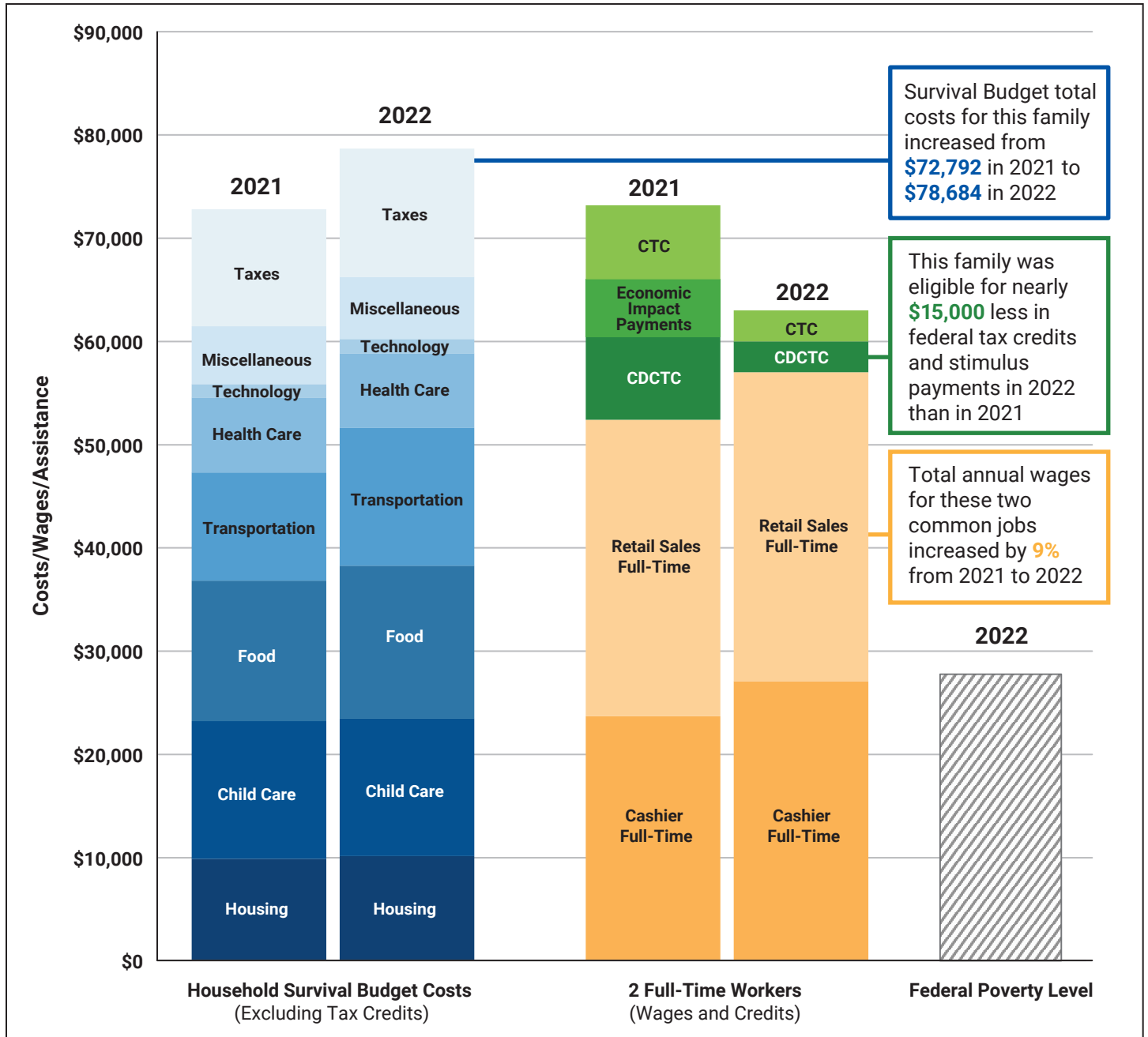
# HOUSEHOLD COSTS, PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, AND WAGES

Financial hardship among Michigan households shifted from 2021 to 2022 based primarily on three factors:

- **Costs:** From 2021 to 2022, the ALICE Household Survival Budget for a single adult in Michigan increased from \$25,932 to \$27,372, well above the FPL of \$13,590. For a family of four with an infant and a preschooler, the budget (including tax credits) increased from \$59,016 to \$73,488, well above the FPL of \$27,750. Before tax credits, costs for a family of four totaled \$78,684 in 2022, up from \$72,792 in 2021. (More data on inflation is available in the [ALICE Essentials Index](#) June 2024 Update.)
- **Public assistance:** Pandemic assistance had the most pronounced effects on families with children. The Economic Impact Payments and the expansions of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC) helped many ALICE families through 2021. But this assistance was substantially reduced when the [2021 American Rescue Plan](#) expired, stimulus payments ended, and tax credits reverted to 2020 levels. In 2022, a family of four with an infant and a preschooler in Michigan was eligible for approximately \$15,000 less in maximum federal tax credits and stimulus payments than in 2021.
- **Wages:** As pandemic assistance wound down, wages increased for most low-wage jobs. For example, median retail sales wages in Michigan increased from \$13.81 per hour in 2021 to \$14.38 per hour in 2022.



# Comparison of Costs, Public Assistance, and Wages, Family of Four, Michigan, 2021 and 2022



Note: CTC = Child Tax Credit, CDCTC = Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit. Full-time income is calculated based on 40 hours per week.

Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2021 and 2022; Bureau of Labor Statistics—Occupational Employment Statistics, 2021 and 2022; Internal Revenue Service, tax credits—CTC, CDCTC, EITC, 2021 and 2022; U.S. Department of the Treasury, 2022 and 2023

See page 13 for Household Survival Budget sources and visit [UnitedForALICE.org/Household-Budgets/Michigan](https://UnitedForALICE.org/Household-Budgets/Michigan) to see the Household Survival Budget for all counties and for any household composition.

Across the country, between 2019 and 2022, [wages for the lowest-paid jobs increased](#) at a faster rate than at any point since 1979. This was in part due to a [tighter labor market](#) in which workers reevaluated their employment situation in the wake of the pandemic and inflation, and employers had to offer more competitive wages to attract and retain them. Minimum wage increases in some states also contributed to this effect. In Michigan, the [minimum wage increased](#) from \$9.65 per hour in 2019 to \$9.87 per hour in 2022, while the federal minimum wage remained at \$7.25 per hour.

While wage increases helped fill the gap when pandemic assistance ended, they were not enough to make up for years of falling behind. In 2022, of the 20 most common occupations in Michigan as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), 75% still paid less than \$20 per hour. And of the workers in these 20 most common occupations, 31% were below the ALICE Threshold in 2022. Occupations with the largest share of ALICE workers included personal care aides, fast food/counter workers, cooks, cashiers, and waiters/waitresses.

## Labor Characteristics of Most Common Occupations, Michigan, 2019–2022

Most Common Occupations	Total Employment, 2022 (BLS)	Percent of Workers Below ALICE Threshold, 2022 (ACS PUMS)	Median Hourly Wage, 2022 (BLS)	Percent Change in Wage, 2019–2022 (BLS)
Fast Food and Counter Workers	113,450	49%	\$13.00	23%
Retail Salespersons	112,710	29%	\$14.38	22%
Registered Nurses	101,470	11%	\$38.07	10%
Driver/Sales Workers and Truck Drivers	100,590	29%	\$19.59	8%
Office Clerks, General	94,720	29%	\$18.65	14%
Stockers and Order Fillers	91,640	38%	\$15.45	25%
General and Operations Managers	87,240	10%	\$45.86	-3%
Cashiers	85,920	46%	\$15.59	42%
Personal Care Aides	82,230	52%	\$13.74	19%
Customer Service Representatives	82,200	31%	\$18.00	10%
Laborers and Freight, Stock, And Material Movers, Hand	73,820	34%	\$17.05	16%
Waiters and Waitresses	63,810	46%	\$14.89	45%
Cooks	56,950	49%	\$14.40	16%
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing	51,610	16%	\$44.54	41%
Elementary and Middle School Teachers	50,390	10%	\$30.20	-5%
Teaching Assistants	44,810	37%	\$16.55	22%
Software Developers	42,200	4%	\$48.59	N/A
Nursing Assistants	41,050	41%	\$17.37	17%
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	39,570	21%	\$19.38	11%
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	37,630	19%	\$19.34	7%

Note: BLS = Bureau of Labor Statistics; ACS PUMS = American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample. Occupation titles and percent of workers below the ALICE Threshold come from ACS PUMS. ALICE Threshold status is determined by comparing workers' household income to the Household Survival Budget for their household composition and location. Employment and wage numbers are from BLS and are matched to the closest PUMS occupation title (which are generally broader than those in BLS). The 2019 median wage for Software Developers is missing/renamed in the Bureau of Labor Statistics—Occupational Employment Statistics dataset, therefore we cannot calculate the percent change in wage, 2019–2022.

Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2022; Bureau of Labor Statistics—Occupational Employment Statistics, 2022; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, PUMS, 2019 and 2022

To see the most common occupations for workers below the ALICE Threshold in your community, visit [UnitedForALICE.org/ALICE-EVD](https://UnitedForALICE.org/ALICE-EVD). For more data on jobs by hourly wages and full-time, part-time, and hourly work schedules, visit [UnitedForALICE.org/Labor-Force/Michigan](https://UnitedForALICE.org/Labor-Force/Michigan).

# Financial Hardship Over Time

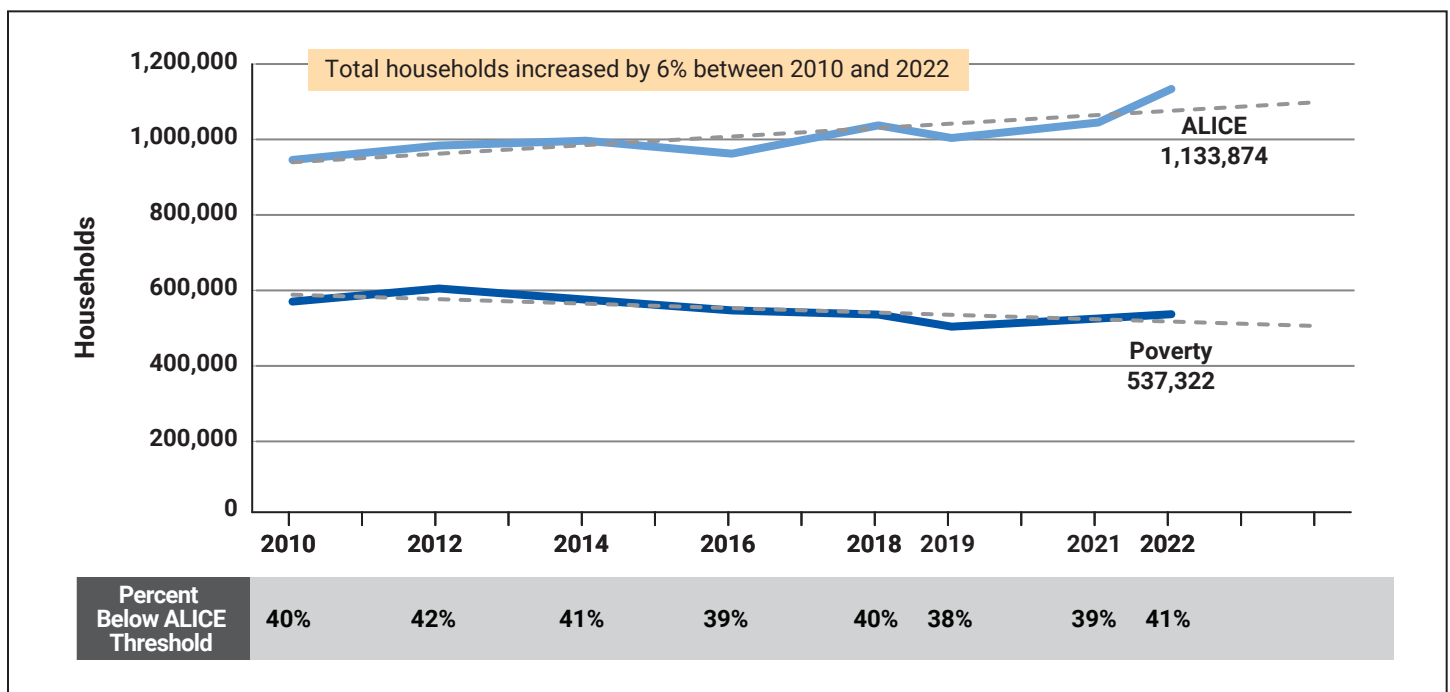
Despite some ups and downs in rates of financial hardship since the end of the Great Recession (2010–2022), the trend is clear: **The number of ALICE households in Michigan has continued to grow.** During this period, the total number of households in the state increased by 6%. At the same time, households in poverty decreased by 6%, while the number of ALICE households increased by 20%. By 2022, 13% (537,322) of all households were below the FPL, and 28% (1,133,874) of all households were ALICE – a combined 41% (1,671,196) of households struggling to make ends meet.

Threshold in 2019 to 41% in 2022, and the number of households below the Threshold increased from 1.5 to nearly 1.7 million.

This consistent trend – a growing number of households that are struggling financially, often ineligible for public assistance, and undercounted by official measures – represents a major vulnerability in our economic system. It also suggests that overall social and economic policies are falling short in addressing the root causes of financial instability.

Narrowing the focus to the period around the COVID-19 pandemic, the rate of financial hardship in Michigan increased from 38% of households below the ALICE

## Households by Income, Michigan, 2010–2022



Note: The gray dashed trend lines in this figure highlight the general direction of the point-in-time data for the years shown. These lines indicate whether the numbers of ALICE and Poverty-Level households have been generally increasing, decreasing, or remaining flat. The ALICE and Poverty trend lines are both statistically significant (ALICE at  $p < 0.05$  and Poverty at  $p = 0.01$ ).

Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2010–2022; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010–2022

To see additional data on financial hardship over time in Michigan, visit [UnitedForALICE.org/Michigan](https://UnitedForALICE.org/Michigan).

# SPOTLIGHT ON ALICE DEMOGRAPHICS

## Families With Children

While recent attention has focused on the rising [Supplemental Poverty Rate](#) for children following the expansion and lapse of the expanded Child Tax Credits during and after the pandemic, longer-term trends — specifically, the decline in total families with children and the rise in ALICE households — tell a more nuanced story.

The total number of households with children in Michigan has declined (down 10% from 2010 to 2022). This trend has been driven by married-parent households, which fell in number from 733,213 in 2010 to 652,034 in 2022 (down 11%), and single-female-headed households, which fell from 284,006 in 2010 to 238,616 in 2022 (down 16%). At the same time, the number of single-male-headed households increased, from 81,993 in 2010 to 94,217 in 2022 (up 15%).

While overall in Michigan, the number of households with children and the number of households with children in poverty has been declining over the past decade, the number of ALICE households with children has increased for both married-parent and single-parent families.

By 2022, 33% of families with children in Michigan were below the ALICE Threshold. And longstanding disparities in financial hardship by household type remained: 73% of single-female-headed families and 52% of single-male-headed families were below the ALICE Threshold in 2022, compared to 16% of married-parent families.

## Households With Children, Michigan

	Married-Parent	Single-Female-Headed	Single-Male-Headed
<b>Percent Change 2010 to 2022</b>			
Total Households	▼ Decreased 11%	▼ Decreased 16%	▲ Increased 15%
Households in Poverty	▼ Decreased 34%	▼ Decreased 31%	▼ Decreased 25%
ALICE Households	▲ Increased 12%	▲ Increased 14%	▲ Increased 44%
<b>Percent Below ALICE Threshold, 2022</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>52%</b>

*Note: Poverty rates for families with children differ from rates for individual children, in part due to different surveys and in part because there are often multiple children in a single household, which can accentuate swings.*

*Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2010–2022; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010–2022*

### THE COST OF CHILD CARE

Child care remains one of the highest Survival Budget costs for households with children, and the [child care system](#) is still feeling the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Provider shortages and lack of affordable care present fewer options for parents. According to the October 2023 Household Pulse Survey, when families in Michigan were asked what they did when child care was closed, unavailable, or unaffordable, the most common responses for respondents below the ALICE Threshold were to cut work hours (37%) and to take unpaid leave (28%).

# Households Headed by People Age 65 and Over

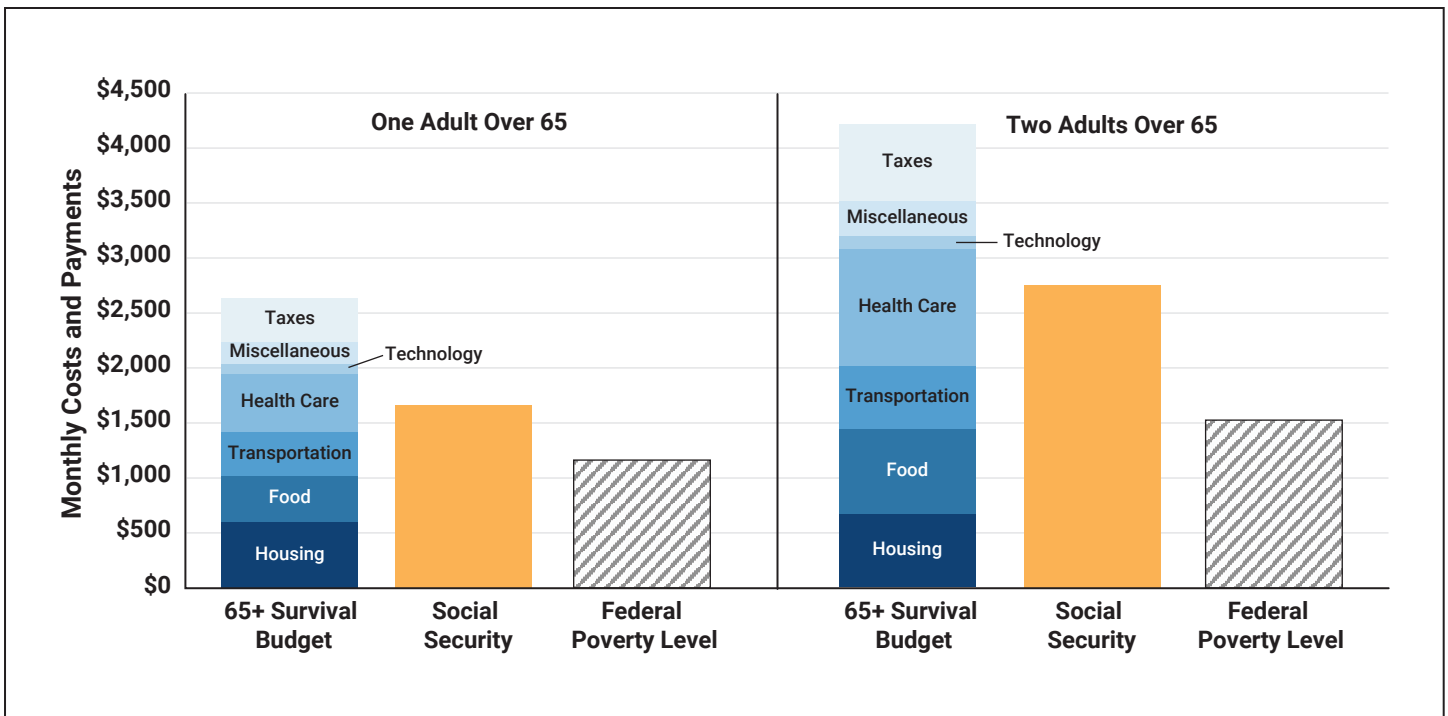
With the [aging of the Baby Boomer generation](#), households headed by people age 65 and over are the fastest-growing age group in Michigan (up 36% between 2010 and 2022). They are also the age group with the most substantial increase in the number of households below the ALICE Threshold (up 37% during the same period).

In 2022, 51% of Michigan’s 65+ households were below the ALICE Threshold (602,697). While Social Security helps [reduce the poverty rate for households headed by older adults](#) (11% in Michigan in 2022), benefits have not been enough to help bring older adults to financial stability. As

a result, for more than a decade, a substantial number of these households have been ALICE (40% in 2022). In 2022, monthly costs for the ALICE 65+ Survival Budget for one adult in Michigan were \$978 more than [the average Social Security payment](#) of \$1,657.

With increasing costs and insufficient retirement savings, many older adults have needed to continue working. In 2022, nearly 463,000 people age 65 and over living below the ALICE Threshold in Michigan did not have retirement savings beyond Social Security, and nearly 61,700 were working.

## Monthly ALICE 65+ Survival Budget Total, Average Monthly Social Security Payments, and the Federal Poverty Level, Michigan, 2022



Note: See page 13 for a breakdown of monthly ALICE 65+ Survival Budget costs.

Sources: ALICE 65+ Survival Budget, 2022 (see the ALICE [Methodology](#) for details); Social Security Administration, 2022

# Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous Households

Rates of financial hardship differ substantially by race/ethnicity in Michigan due to [persistent systemic racism, discrimination](#), and [geographic barriers](#) that limit many families' access to resources and opportunities for financial stability. In 2022, 63% of Black, 52% of American Indian/Alaska Native, 48% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and 47% of Hispanic households, as well as 45% of households headed by someone of Two or More Races, were below the ALICE Threshold in Michigan, compared to 38% of White and 27% of Asian households.

Michigan is also home to [twelve Native American tribes](#) – with the most members living on the Isabella Reservation, the L'Anse Reservation, and the Sault Ste. Marie Reservation. In 2022, the overall rate of financial hardship for households on reservations or other tribal trust lands in Michigan was higher (48% below the ALICE Threshold) than for all state households (41% below the Threshold).

**Disparities were also noted in the workplace:** Black and Hispanic workers were more likely than White workers to experience [disruptions in employment](#) during the pandemic. And gaps in employment persisted, especially for Black workers: Overall, adults age 16+ below the ALICE Threshold in Michigan were more likely to not be working, but looking for work (11%) than those above the Threshold (3%) in 2022. The unemployment rate for Black workers below the Threshold (20%) was twice as high as the rate for Hispanic workers and White workers (both 9%).





# Household Financial Status and Key Demographics, Michigan, 2022

	Total	Below ALICE Threshold	<span style="color: #0056b3;">■</span> Poverty <span style="color: #4f81bd;">■</span> ALICE <span style="color: #ffc000;">■</span> Above ALICE Threshold		
<b>ALL HOUSEHOLDS</b>	4,056,442	1,671,196	13%	28%	59%
<b>AGE</b>					
Under 25 Years	164,116	108,756	33%	33%	34%
25 to 44 Years	1,227,751	440,667	14%	22%	64%
45 to 64 Years	1,480,850	519,076	12%	23%	65%
65 Years and Over	1,183,725	602,697	11%	40%	49%
<b>RACE/ETHNICITY</b>					
American Indian/ Alaska Native	16,586	8,654	13%	39%	48%
Asian	109,393	29,435	8%	19%	73%
Black	522,331	327,012	21%	42%	37%
Hispanic	158,422	74,209	10%	37%	53%
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	841	406	20%	28%	52%
Two or More Races	163,541	74,229	11%	34%	55%
White	3,101,737	1,167,709	8%	30%	62%
<b>HOUSEHOLD TYPE</b>					
Married With Children	652,034	104,517	7%	9%	84%
Single-Female- Headed With Children	238,616	175,288	42%	31%	27%
Single-Male-Headed With Children	94,217	48,664	19%	33%	48%
Single or Cohabiting, Under 65, no Children	1,887,850	740,030	13%	26%	61%
<b>RURAL/URBAN</b>					
Rural	702,426	302,845	14%	29%	57%
Urban	3,354,016	1,368,351	13%	28%	59%

Note: The groups shown in this figure are based on head of household and overlap across categories. Within the race/ethnicity category, all racial categories except Two or More Races are for one race alone. Race and ethnicity are overlapping categories; in this Update, the American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Black, Native Hawaiian (includes other Pacific Islanders), and Two or More Races groups may include Hispanic households. The White group includes only White, non-Hispanic households. The Hispanic group may include households of any race. Because household poverty data is not available for the American Community Survey's race/ethnicity categories, annual income below \$15,000 is used as a proxy. Counties are defined as rural or urban based on the USDA's designation of metropolitan or non-metropolitan at the census tract level. Counties with 50% or more of the population in metropolitan tracts are designated as urban; those with 50% or more of the population in non-metropolitan tracts are designated as rural.

Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2022; American Community Survey, 2022

# ALICE REMAINS IN THE CROSSCURRENTS

Many ALICE households face [ongoing distress](#) because they have not recovered from the Great Recession, debt accumulation, a job loss, or other major challenges. Many are working hard and still struggling to find safe housing, quality child care, nutritious food, accessible health care, and reliable transportation that they can afford. Rising wages and pandemic assistance mitigated some of the financial impact of business disruptions, a health crisis, and rising inflation that characterized the past few years. Yet 41% of households in Michigan were still struggling in 2022 – [ranking](#) Michigan 28th among all states and the District of Columbia in financial hardship (with 1st representing the lowest rate of hardship). Insights from the Federal Reserve SHED and the Household Pulse Survey help explain why:



## Inflation is Hitting ALICE Harder

- **The cost of basics** is increasing faster than the overall rate of inflation, as reported by the [ALICE Essentials Index](#). And it has gotten even harder for ALICE to keep up with bills than at the height of the pandemic. According to the Household Pulse Survey, 55% of households below the ALICE Threshold in Michigan reported that it was somewhat or very difficult to pay for usual items such as food, rent or mortgage, car payments, and medical expenses in October 2023, up from 47% in August 2020.
- **Housing costs** are on the rise in many parts of the state, and the impact is greater for those who were already struggling financially. According to the SHED, in 2022, 36% of households below the ALICE Threshold in Michigan reported that their rent or mortgage had increased in the prior 12 months (compared to 18% of households above the Threshold).

## Changes in Public Assistance Impact ALICE

- **Food assistance:** Increased need for food assistance was a hallmark of the pandemic. Food pantries experienced a substantial increase in [demand for services](#), and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) [eligibility criteria broadened and monthly payments increased](#) (through February 2023). In 2022, the need remained high, with one in six Americans (49 million) [receiving private charitable food assistance](#) – down from the height of the pandemic, but still up markedly from 40 million in 2019. In part due to the SNAP income eligibility level in Michigan (200% of the FPL), public food assistance was not accessible to all households that were struggling financially: Only 46% of all Michigan households in poverty and 20% of all ALICE households participated in SNAP in 2022.
- **Rent:** With rising costs, the expiration of [pandemic rental assistance](#), and the end of [state](#) and [federal eviction bans](#), many Michiganders continued to struggle to pay their rent. In Michigan in 2022, 67% of households below the ALICE Threshold were rent burdened (paying more than 30% of their income on rent) and 38% were severely rent burdened (paying more than 50% of their income on rent). Rent burden impacts not only housing stability, but also has far reaching [physical and mental health implications](#) including increased risk for depression, anxiety, chronic diseases, and shortened life span.

Among all eligible people, estimated [SNAP participation rates were higher](#).

# ALICE is Less Prepared for Crises and Retirement

- **ALICE struggles to save:** According to the SHED, only 37% of households below the ALICE Threshold had emergency savings (or rainy day funds) that would cover their expenses for three months in the event of sickness, job loss, economic downturn, or another emergency in 2022, compared to 67% of households above the threshold.
- **ALICE faces unexpected medical expenses:** According to the SHED, 28% of respondents below the ALICE Threshold in Michigan incurred an unexpected major medical expense that they had to pay for out of pocket because it was not completely paid for by insurance in 2022, up from 15% in 2021. Medical debt generally reflects [poorer health](#) and lower rates of health care coverage, and can lead to [lower credit scores](#) and [additional financial hardship](#). Additionally, the [consequences of medical debt](#) are not experienced equally; those with lower incomes and people of color are more likely than their counterparts to be contacted by collection agencies and denied future care.
- **Financial hardship impedes retirement savings:** According to the SHED, in 2022 while 22% of all non-retired adults and 29% of non-retired adults above

the ALICE Threshold in Michigan reported that their retirement savings plan was currently on track, only 15% of those below the Threshold reported the same.
















- **Financial hardship takes a toll on mental health:** The negative impact of financial stress on mental health has been [well established](#). According to the Household Pulse Survey, 20% of respondents below the ALICE Threshold in Michigan reported feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge nearly every day over the prior two weeks in October 2023 – the same rate as during the height of the pandemic in August 2020 (20%), and still higher than the rate for those above the Threshold (11% in 2023).

This research shows a clear trend in our communities and our economy: Financial hardship is widespread, and it is not going away. The current system is not working for ALICE. The narrative in this Update helps make the case for innovative, cross-sector change in Michigan and across the U.S. The data, tools, and resources on the [United For ALICE](#) website can equip business, government, education, and nonprofit leaders to make data-informed decisions that address the root causes of financial hardship. Collaborative effort at all levels – local, state, and federal – will be needed to change the trajectory for ALICE households.



# ALICE ONLINE

Visit [UnitedForALICE.org](https://UnitedForALICE.org) to explore interactive data and resources. Click the icons below to get started.

 <p><b>Interactive Maps</b> Data at the state, county, municipal, and ZIP-code levels</p>	 <p><b>ALICE Demographics</b> Information about ALICE households by age, race/ethnicity, household type, and location</p>	 <p><b>County Reports</b> An in-depth look at ALICE data, county by county</p>
 <p><b>Data Sheet</b> Spreadsheet of ALICE data over time and by location</p>	 <p><b>ALICE Household Budgets</b> ALICE Household Survival and Stability Budgets for the state and one or more counties</p>	 <p><b>ALICE Essentials Index</b> Key data on the increase in the cost of household basics over time</p>
 <p><b>Legislative District Tool</b> ALICE data by legislative district, including state upper and lower chambers and congressional districts</p>	 <p><b>National Overview</b> National ALICE data and a comparison of financial hardship across U.S. states</p>	 <p><b>Economic Viability Dashboard</b> Key data on the local economic conditions that matter most to ALICE households: Work, Housing, and Community Resources</p>
 <p><b>Research Advisory Committees</b> Information about the members and role of these critical groups</p>	 <p><b>ALICE Methodology</b> Overview of the sources and calculations used in the ALICE research</p>	 <p><b>Equity for ALICE</b> Creating equity for ALICE by illustrating how structural racism and systemic barriers limit life outcomes, and working to remove those barriers so that all people can participate fully in all aspects of our social and economic systems</p>
 <p><b>ALICE Voices</b> Are you ALICE? Use this tool to share your story</p>	 <p><b>ALICE in Action</b> Programs, practices, and policy changes implemented by partners across the United For ALICE network</p>	 <p><b>ALICE Videos</b> Videos that highlight the ALICE research and partner network</p>

# ALICE RESEARCH & METHODOLOGY

The ALICE Household Survival Budget calculates the cost of household essentials for each county in Michigan and relies on a wide range of public data sources, listed below. For household income, the ALICE measures rely on the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) – both household tabulated data and individual data from the Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) records. Household costs are compared to household income to determine if households are below the ALICE Threshold. The latest [ALICE Methodology](#) review was completed in the summer of 2023. Methodology enhancements include:

- **Health care costs:** A “poor health multiplier” is used to capture the additional costs lower-income households incur for being in poor or fair health. Based on the latest research, out-of-pocket costs in the health care line item are increased by 19% (a more conservative estimate than the 30% used in prior years).

- **Broadband added:** To reflect the finding that the majority of Americans now [have home broadband](#), basic broadband internet has been added to technology costs. The smartphone plan has been updated to include an unlimited (albeit less expensive than the previous 10GB version) smartphone plan for each adult in the household.
- **Determining ALICE status:** For 2021 data and years prior, the ALICE Threshold was rounded to the nearest ACS income bracket (e.g., Threshold of \$32,500 corresponded to bracket \$30,000–\$34,999; all households in that bracket were below the ALICE Threshold). Starting this year (2022 data), the Threshold is calculated in proportion to where it falls within the bracket (e.g., if Threshold is \$32,500, half of households in the bracket are below the Threshold).

ALICE Household Survival Budget, Michigan, 2022			
	Single Adult (Age 18–64)	Single Adult (Age 65+)	2 Adults, 1 Infant, 1 Preschooler
<b>Monthly Costs</b>			
Housing – Rent	\$439	\$439	\$535
Housing – Utilities	\$163	\$163	\$310
Child Care	-	-	\$1,110
Food	\$453	\$418	\$1,234
Transportation	\$462	\$398	\$1,113
Health Care	\$174	\$533	\$601
Technology	\$86	\$86	\$116
Miscellaneous	\$178	\$204	\$502
Tax Before Credits	\$326	\$394	\$1,036
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>\$2,281</b>	<b>\$2,635</b>	<b>\$6,557</b>
<b>ANNUAL TOTAL Before Tax Credits</b>	<b>\$27,372</b>	<b>\$31,620</b>	<b>\$78,684</b>
Tax Credits (CTC and CDCTC)	\$0	\$0	(\$5,196)
<b>ANNUAL TOTAL With Tax Credits</b>	<b>\$27,372</b>	<b>\$31,620</b>	<b>\$73,488</b>
<b>Full-Time Hourly Wage</b>	<b>\$13.69</b>	<b>\$15.81</b>	<b>\$36.74</b>

Note: CTC = Child Tax Credit, CDCTC = Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit. Full-time hourly wage represents the wage needed at 40 hours per week to support the annual total, with credits. For the family of four, this represents the combined wage needed for two workers. Many households incur higher costs, especially for housing, as units may not be available at Fair Market Rent.

Sources: AAA, 2022; Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, 2022; American Community Survey, 2022; Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2022—Consumer Expenditure Surveys; Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2022—Occupational Employment Statistics; Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2023—Medicare - Chronic Conditions; Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2020—Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey; Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2023; Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta—Policy Rules Database; Federal Highway Administration, 2017; Feeding America, 2023; Frank, 2022; Internal Revenue Service, 2022; Medicare.gov; Michigan Department of Education, 2021; The Zebra, 2022; U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2022—Official USDA Food Plans; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2022—Fair Market Rents; USTelecom, 2022.

To view ALICE Household Survival Budgets for all counties and for any household composition, visit [UnitedForALICE.org/Household-Budgets/Michigan](https://UnitedForALICE.org/Household-Budgets/Michigan).

**Data Notes:** The income data used in this Update rely on ACS estimates. The ACS is based on a representative sample, rather than all housing units and people; therefore, these estimates have a [degree of uncertainty](#). Some data points are geographic averages, others are one- or five-year averages depending on population size (see the [Data Sheet](#) for details). Percentages are rounded to whole numbers, sometimes resulting in percentages totaling 99% or 101%. ALICE analysis includes households regardless of work status, as employment is fluid and most households have members who are working, have worked, are out on disability, or are looking for work. ALICE analysis does not include people who are unhoused or living in group quarters.

# ABOUT UNITED FOR ALICE AND OUR PARTNERS

*ALICE in the Crosscurrents: An Update on Financial Hardship in Michigan* is brought to you by the [Michigan Association of United Ways](#) in partnership with [United For ALICE](#), a driver of innovative research and action around financial hardship for ALICE households. With a commitment to [racial and economic justice](#), United For ALICE and United Ways across Michigan share this work with foundations, government, corporations, and other nonprofits to inform policy and promote positive change for ALICE households. The grassroots ALICE movement, developed by United Way of Northern New Jersey, has spread to 31 states and the District of Columbia. Learn more about the ALICE movement [here](#).

To create the ALICE Reports, our [team of researchers](#) works with [Research Advisory Committees](#) composed of experts from our partner states. This work is guided by our rigorous [methodology](#), which is updated biennially with experts from across our Research Advisory Committees.

United For ALICE partners with the [Michigan Association of United Ways](#) to bring this research to Michigan, and this work is sponsored by Consumers Energy Foundation.



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To learn more about how you can get involved in advocating and creating change for ALICE in Michigan, contact: **Bobby Dorigo Jones**, at [bobby.dorigojones@uwmich.org](mailto:bobby.dorigojones@uwmich.org).

To access interactive ALICE data and resources for Michigan, go to [UnitedForALICE.org/Michigan](https://UnitedForALICE.org/Michigan).

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