

United Way of Greater Houston Second Century Vision Qualification Criteria for ALICE

Purpose: United Way of Greater Houston under Second Century Vision, is focused on individuals and families that are at or below the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained Employed) threshold (survival budget). The ALICE survival budget is defined as the bare-minimum costs of basic necessities (housing, childcare, food, transportation, health care, and a smartphone plan). ALICE is inclusive of individuals who may be employed, underemployed and unemployed as we are gathering household income available through earned income and other financial resources. According to the 2020 ALICE report, 47% of Greater Houston Area families are ALICE or living below the poverty level.

In order to determine the ALICE survival budget, which is based on household size and composition, organizations must utilize the ALICE Household Income Calculator and instructions found in **Appendix A** in this document to determine if families they serve meet this definition.

Tracking and monitoring of individual/family household income in Second Century Vision will serve multiple purposes, including (a) measuring return on investment (ROI)/impact on those who are ALICE and below, (b)informing investment decisions, (c)to measure the impact of programming on moving families to greater financial stability, and (d) to inform ongoing Continuous Quality Improvement strategies.

The method of capturing household income data may evolve over time. The ALICE evaluation methodology **defines households as all adults and children that are living together**. This does not include individuals living in institutional living facilities such as nursing homes or group homes. Household income collected is based on individuals that are sharing resources within the household and the survival budget is determined by the number of adults and children (varies by age) in the household.

Capturing data is (1) not designed to recreate how the ALICE threshold is calculated in the ALICE report; (2) nor is it designed to create barriers for serving individuals and/or families in need. Qualification criteria for ALICE allows UWGH to provide agencies with a guide of how to identify clients whose annual income is between \$0 and the ALICE survival budget.

Funded organizations must primarily serve ALICE in the program(s) they are applying for. This will be a part of the evaluation process to determine funding. However, qualification criteria should be approached in a strengths-based mindset with agencies

making their best attempts to identify which clients are ALICE and below but should not be used in a punitive way to withhold services due to income or lack thereof.

Criteria

- **Self-reported, gross income and household size** through initial assessment with individual or family **at the time of entry**. Documentation will not be required to verify income.
- Agencies will be asked to report household income range and number of adults and children within age categories per household.
- UWGH will utilize the Kinder Houston Area Survey household income ranges listed below.
- Agencies will be asked to capture (i.e. through a check box) if individuals or families are receiving public assistance such as TANF, SNAP, SSDI, etc.
- Individual and family updates (income and household size) should occur on an ongoing basis (at least annually) or at time of discharge.
- Sub-populations will be captured in the same manner. However, flexibility should be offered to allow for unique individual or family dynamics (i.e. children or adults with disabilities, Seniors, multi-generational families, or those fleeing violent situations.) If funded, organizations will work together to develop best practices on how to capture this information.
- Kinder Houston Area Survey Household Income Ranges: What was your total household income for all members of the household during the past year?

Less than \$12,500
\$12,501 to \$25,000
\$25,001 to \$37,500
\$37,501 to \$50,000
\$50,001 to \$62,500
\$62,501 to \$75,000
\$75,501 to \$100,000
\$100,001 to \$150,000
More than \$150,000

For more information on ALICE, please visit: <https://www.unitedwayhouston.org/alice>

Appendix A

Using the ALICE Household Survival Budget Calculator

To calculate the ALICE Survival budget based on household size and composition, use the Household Budget Calculator on the United for ALICE website.

1. Go to <https://www.unitedforalice.org/household-budgets/texas>
2. Enter United Way of Greater Houston's 4-county service area (Fort Bend, Harris, Montgomery and Waller county) into the **State and County Budget Tool, 2018**:

RESEARCH CENTER • TEXAS

We all know people who are **ALICE** – Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. ALICE workers educate our children, keep us healthy, and make our quality of life possible, yet do not earn enough to support their own families. ALICE households are forced to make tough choices, such as deciding between quality child care or paying the rent, which have long-term consequences not only for ALICE, but for all.

In order to better understand this growing population, United For ALICE provides a framework, language, statistics, and tools that community stakeholders can use to inform policy and drive innovation. The Research Center is the hub of UnitedForALICE.org – a one-stop source for exploring the latest ALICE data, on a national scale down to the local level in our partner states. Use the tabs below to navigate the Research Center.

NATIONAL OVERVIEW | SELECT STATE ▼ | ALICE ESSENTIALS INDEX | METHODOLOGY | ALL REPORTS

STATE OVERVIEW | DEMOGRAPHICS | **HOUSEHOLD BUDGETS** | LABOR FORCE | RESOURCE GAPS | INDICATORS | COUNTY PROFILES

TEXAS • HOUSEHOLD BUDGETS 2018

Traditional economic measures systematically underestimate the actual cost of basic needs and how quickly they increase over time, concealing important aspects of the local and national economy. To better capture the reality of how much households need to live and work in the modern economy in each Texas county, United For ALICE provides three basic budgets, each of which can be calculated for various household types:

- The ALICE Household Survival Budget ▼
- The Senior Survival Budget ▼
- The ALICE Household Stability Budget ▼

State and County Budgets Tool, 2018

County:

Fort Bend × Harris × Montgomery × Waller ×

3. Scroll down to the **ALICE Household Survival Budget, Selected Counties, Texas, 2018 Table**. You will find the ALICE survival budgets for the following groups: single adult, two adults, two adults, 2 school-aged children, two adults, two in childcare, single senior and two seniors.

ALICE Household Survival Budget, Selected Counties, Texas, 2018

	Single Adult	Two Adults	Two Adults Two School-Age Children	Two Adults, Two in Child Care	Single Senior	Two Seniors
Housing	\$1,038	\$1,172	\$1,434	\$1,434	\$1,038	\$1,172
Child Care	\$0	\$0	\$455	\$1,300	\$0	\$0
Food	\$275	\$572	\$954	\$833	\$234	\$487
Transportation	\$358	\$530	\$826	\$826	\$312	\$438
Health Care	\$194	\$544	\$809	\$809	\$548	\$1,096
Technology	\$55	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$55	\$75
Miscellaneous	\$225	\$337	\$509	\$600	\$252	\$375
Taxes	\$334	\$479	\$534	\$721	\$334	\$479
Monthly Total	\$2,479	\$3,709	\$5,596	\$6,598	\$2,773	\$4,122
Annual Total	\$29,748	\$44,508	\$67,152	\$79,176	\$33,276	\$49,464
Hourly Wage	\$14.87	\$22.25	\$33.58	\$39.59	\$16.64	\$24.73

View Notes | View Source

- Underneath that table, you will see the **Additional Household Sizes, Selected Counties, Texas 2018 table**.



Additional Household Sizes, Selected Counties, Texas, 2018

The ALICE Household Survival Budget can also be customized for different household sizes using the numbers below:

Add 1 Adult	Add 1 Senior (65+)	Add 1 Infant	Add 1 Preschooler	Add 1 School-Age Child
\$17,153	\$18,579	\$17,854	\$16,822	\$11,323

[View Notes](#) [View Source](#)

Annual Total Formula:

To create the annual survival budget, add annual total from the **ALICE Household Survival Budget, Selected Counties, Texas, 2018 Table** to the annual amount from the **Additional Household Sizes, Selected Counties, Texas 2018 table** based on household size and composition as needed.

For example: Calculate annual ALICE survival budget for the one adult and one school-aged child:

- Take the annual total for the single adult from the **ALICE Household Survival Budget, Selected Counties, Texas, 2018 table** (\$29,748) plus the annual total from the one school-age child on the **Additional Household Sizes, Selected Counties, Texas, 2018 table** (\$11,323).
- That would calculate the annual survival budget for a single adult and school-age child as $\$29,748 + \$11,323 = \$41,071$.

Follow the same formula to calculate other annual survival budgets by household size and composition. For example:

- 1 adult (\$29,748) + 1 preschooler (\$16,822) = \$46,570
- 2 adults (\$44,508) + 1 school aged (\$11,323) = \$55,831
- 2 adults, 2 in childcare (\$79,176) + 1 senior, 65+ (18,579) = \$97,755

Monthly Total Formula:

If the survival budget for the monthly total is needed, divide the annual total by 12.

- Annual Survival Budget: 1 adult (\$29,748) + 1 school-aged child (\$11,323) = \$41,071
- Monthly total: $\$41,071/12 = \$3,422.58$

Hourly Wage Formula:

If the survival budget for hourly wage is needed, divide annual total by 40 then divide that by 50.

- Annual Survival Budget: 1 adult (\$29,748) + 1 school-aged child (\$11,323) = \$41,071
- Hourly wage: $\$41,071/40/50 = \20.54