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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than $12,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>$12,501 to $25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>$25,001 to $37,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$37,501 to $50,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>$50,001 to $62,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>$62,501 to $75,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>$75,501 to $100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,001 to $150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than $150,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information on ALICE, please visit: [https://www.unitedwayhouston.org/alice](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:

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Add 1 Adult</th>
<th>Add 1 Senior (65+)</th>
<th>Add 1 Infant</th>
<th>Add 1 Preschooler</th>
<th>Add 1 School-Age Child</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$17,135</td>
<td>$18,579</td>
<td>$17,504</td>
<td>$16,822</td>
<td>$11,323</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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:

1. 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).
2. 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

April 16, 2021