On many levels, New York is an affluent state – one with high median incomes, quality schools, and prosperous corporations. But look a little more closely at almost any New York community and you will find that within this affluence is a growing number of people who are barely getting by.

The United Way ALICE Project is more than an in-depth study. It is a multi-state grassroots movement that ignites a dialogue about the financial hardship of all people who earn less than the true cost of living. ALICE is critical to the fabric of our community and includes health aides, retail salespersons, teaching assistants and other professionals who struggle to support their families.
THE REASONS WHY ALICE EXISTS

High Cost of Living

Based on the Household Survival Budget, more than four in ten New York households can’t afford the basics of housing, food, health care, technology, child care, and transportation. Using the thriftiest official standards, it takes an average of $68,808 for a family of four (two adults, an infant, and a preschoo) to afford the basics – more than double the U.S. poverty rate of $24,300. The Household Survival Budget for a single adult is $23,148, also more than double the U.S. poverty rate of $11,800.

Lack of High-Paying Jobs

More than half of all jobs in New York pay less than $20/hour (or $40,000/year if full-time) which is about two-thirds of the Household Survival Budget for a family of four.

ALICE families face a variety of challenges: low-wage jobs located far from their homes (with the attendant rise in commuting costs); financial barriers that limit access to lowcost community banking services; and having few or no assets to cushion the cost of an unexpected health emergency or caregiving need.

ALICE NEEDS YOU

More than 40 United Ways across New York State work year-round for the health, education and financial stability for all members of our communities. To find out more about ALICE, connect with your local United Way or to get involved, go to UWNYS.org.