



**WORKING HARD BUT
STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE**

LIVE UNITED

Bergen County Funders Group

May 2020





ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed.

We are United For ALICE

Vision: We envision a world where all those who work to keep our economy running can support themselves and their family

Mission: Become the standard measure used by nonprofit, government, business, and academic institutions to define financial insecurity; change the common vernacular from “working poor” to “ALICE”

What we do:

- Conduct research and produce reports: We provide unbiased data that is replicable, updated regularly, and sensitive to local context
 - Lead a learning community: We facilitate a forum for sharing experiences, developing best practices, and building broader impact and fundraising strategies
 - Inspire action: Our ultimate goal is to stimulate action that will improve the financial stability of ALICE families and their communities
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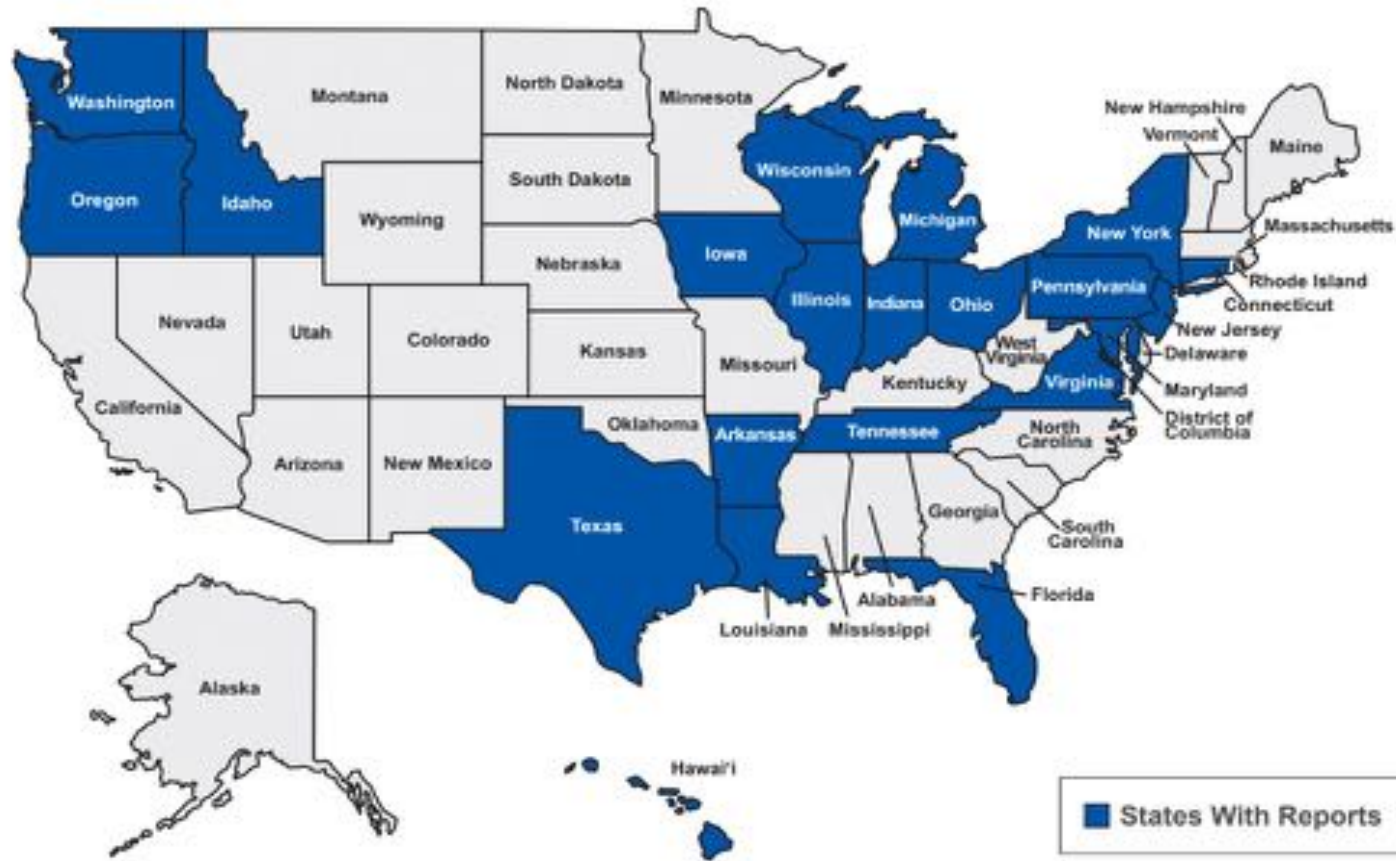
We are United For ALICE



- <http://www.unitedwaynj.org/ourwork/alice.php>
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ALICE: A grassroots movement

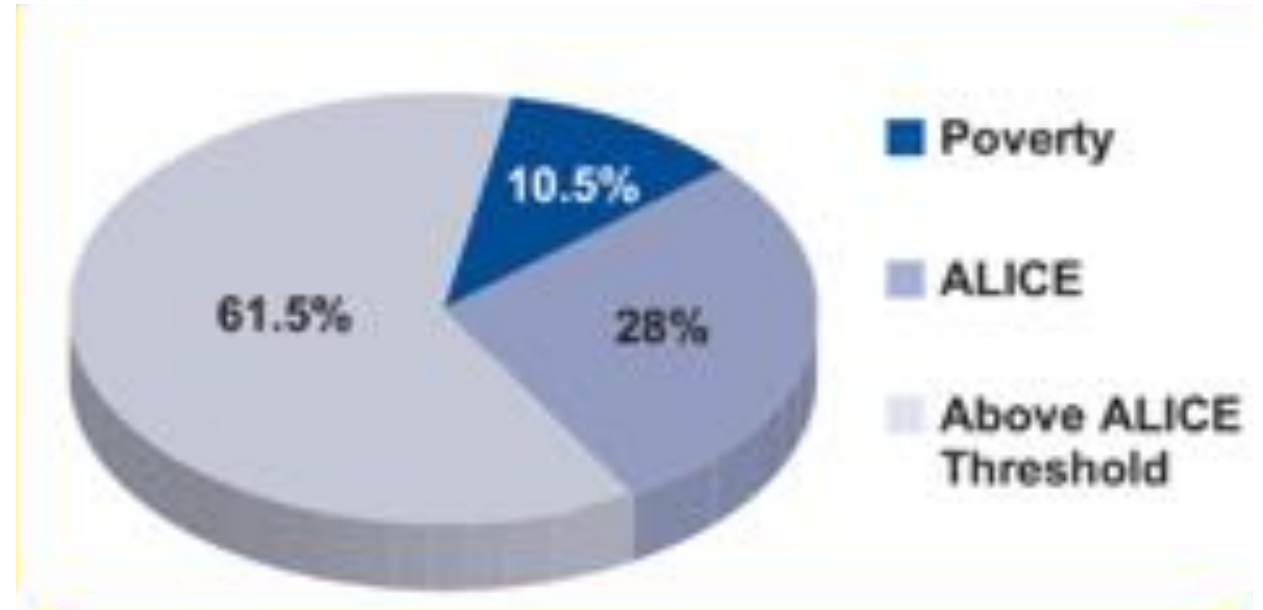
ALICE Reports in the United States



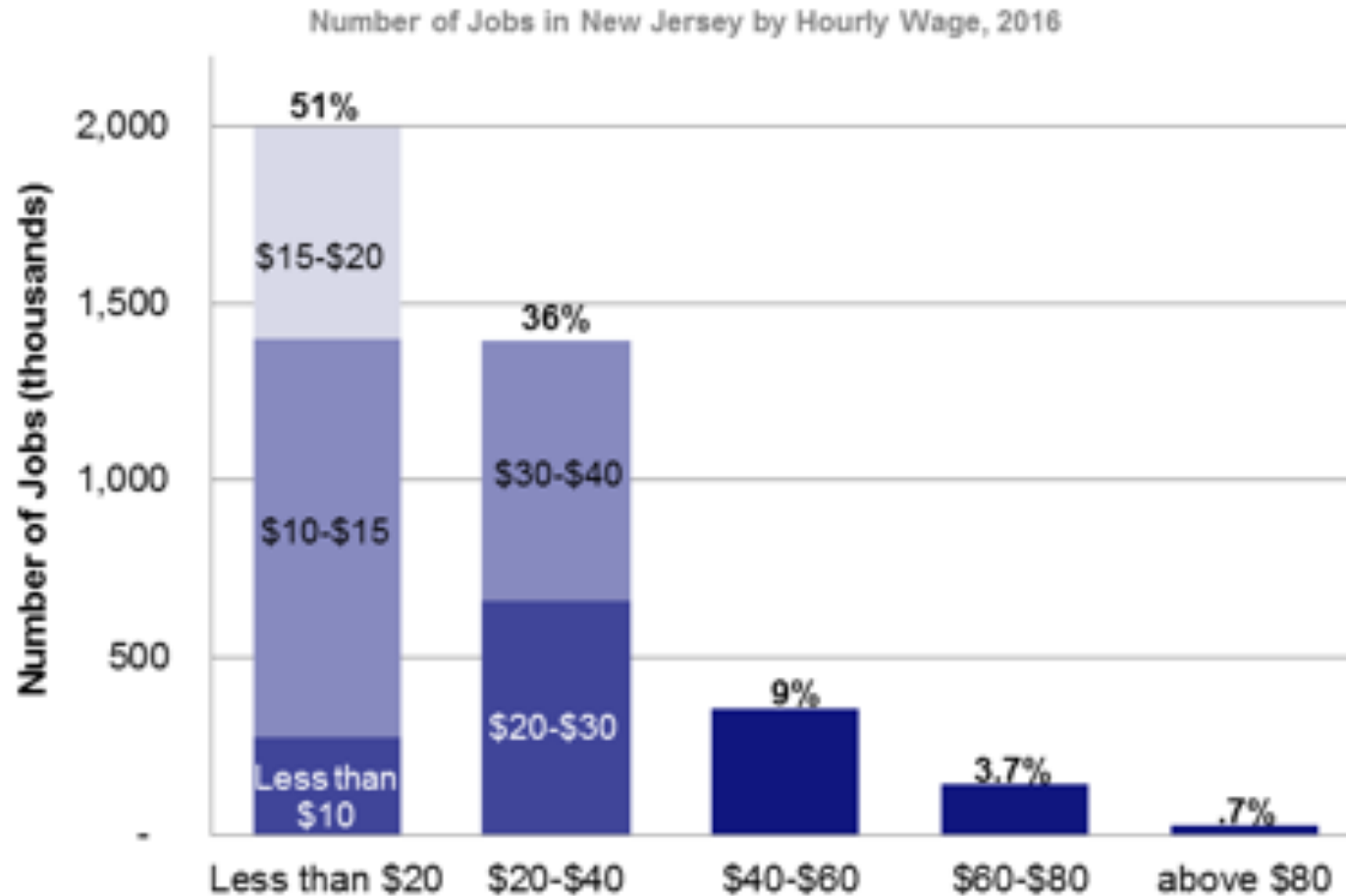
Redefining economic instability in N.J.

New Jersey: 38% of households earn below the ALICE Threshold

- More on the cusp: we estimate that 10 - 15% more of these households will become ALICE if they drop one income bracket (which is more likely in the current pandemic)



Low wages make financial stability difficult



- In 2010, 55% of jobs paid less than \$20/hour
- 2010: 3.75 million jobs
- 2016: 3.92 million jobs

Cost of living exceeds earning power for many

| Household Survival Budget, New Jersey Average, 2016 | | |
|---|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| | SINGLE ADULT | 2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER |
| Monthly Costs | | |
| Housing | \$922 | \$1,330 |
| Child Care | \$- | \$1,512 |
| Food | \$182 | \$603 |
| Transportation | \$280 | \$544 |
| Health Care | \$211 | \$787 |
| Technology | \$55 | \$75 |
| Miscellaneous | \$202 | \$566 |
| Taxes | \$368 | \$812 |
| Monthly Total | \$2,220 | \$6,229 |
| ANNUAL TOTAL | \$26,640 | \$74,748 |
| Hourly Wage* | \$13.82 | \$37.37 |

*Full-time wage required to support this budget

FPL

\$11,880 single adult
\$24,300 family

NJ minimum wage

\$8.38/hour =
\$17,200/year

Basic costs increased

(2010 to 2016)

16% for a single adult, 28% for a family of four (compared to 9% inflation)

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), 2016; U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), 2016; Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), 2016;

8 Consumer Reports, 2017; Internal Revenue Service (IRS), 2016; Tax Foundation, 2016; New Jersey Department of Human Services, 2016.

What does it cost to live in Bergen County?

| | Single Adult | 2 Adults, 1 Infant, 1 Preschooler |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Housing | \$1,088 | \$1,440 |
| Child Care | \$0 | \$1,875 |
| Food | \$182 | \$603 |
| Transportation | \$116 | \$186 |
| Health Care | \$196 | \$727 |
| Technology | \$55 | \$75 |
| Miscellaneous | \$200 | \$574 |
| Taxes | \$364 | \$832 |
| Monthly Total | \$2,201 | \$6,312 |
| ANNUAL TOTAL | \$26,412 | \$75,744 |
| Hourly Wage | \$13.21 | \$37.87 |

FPL

\$11,880 single adult

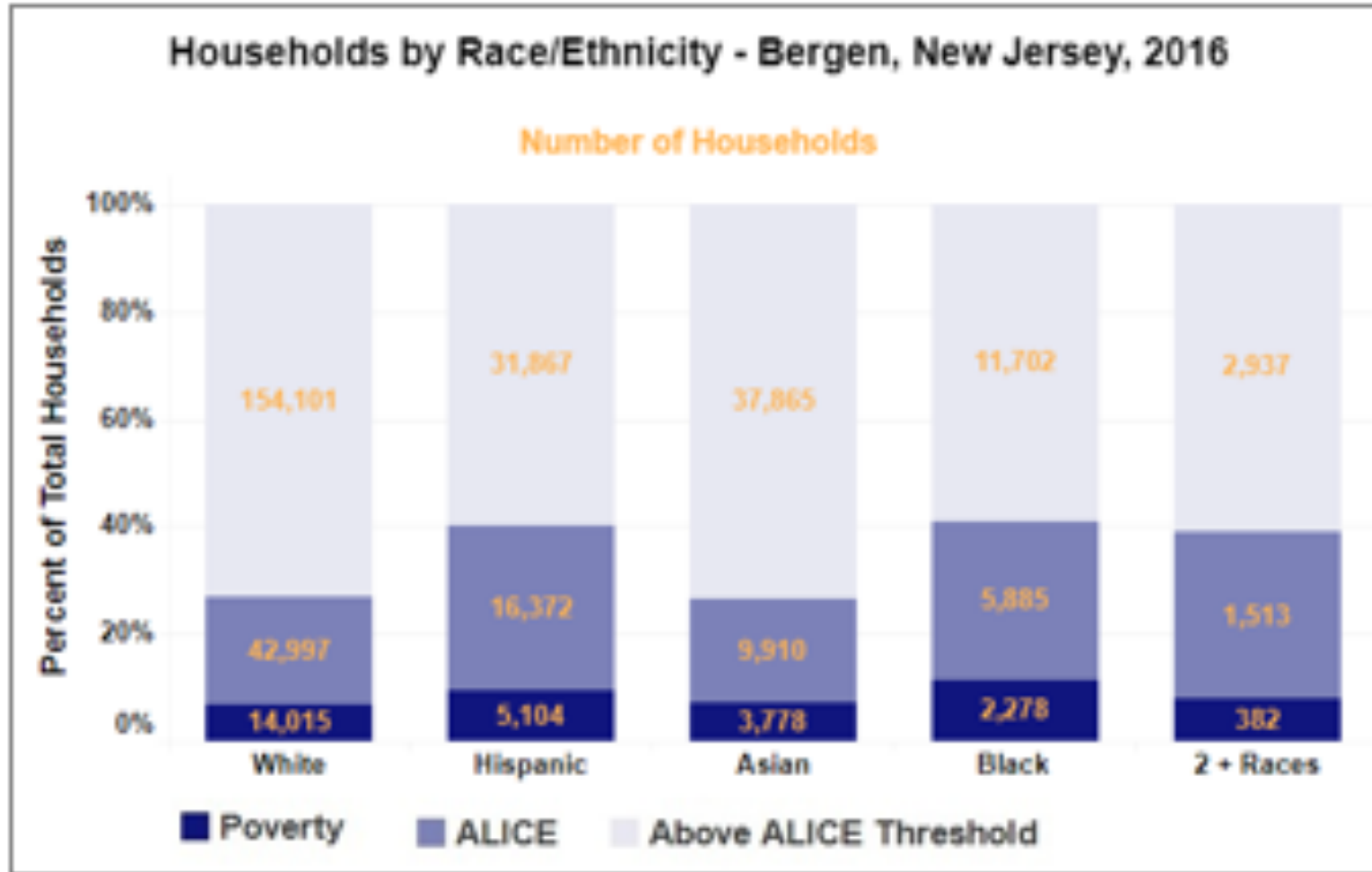
\$24,300 family

NJ minimum wage:

\$8.38/hour =

\$17,200/year

Who is ALICE in Bergen County?



Certain population groups impacted more than others

Source: American Community Survey, 2016, and the ALICE Threshold, 2016.
Note: Data in all categories except Two or More Races is for one race alone. Because race and ethnicity are overlapping categories, the totals for each income category do not add to 100 percent exactly.

New! Trend analysis by county (2010-2018)

Coming this fall....

Households below the ALICE Threshold by:

- Race and Ethnicity
- Age Group
- Household Composition

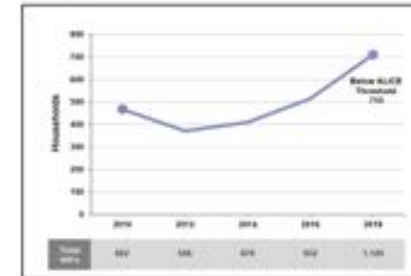
HOUSEHOLDS BY AGE IN BOONE COUNTY

How has the number of ALICE households changed by age group?

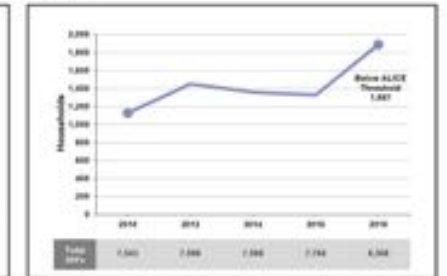
The largest age group in Boone County in 2018 was 45- to 64-year-olds, followed by 25- to 44-year-olds, seniors, and under-25-year-olds. Changes in financial hardship differed across age groups between 2010 and 2018, but younger and older households were more likely to be ALICE or living in poverty. The youngest group (under 25 years) had a 52% increase in the number of households below the ALICE Threshold from 2010 to 2018. Senior households below the ALICE Threshold remained flat. For those in their prime working years, the number of households below the ALICE Threshold increased by 67% for those aged 25-44 years and increased by 44% for those aged 45-64.

Household Income by Age, Boone County, 2010-2018

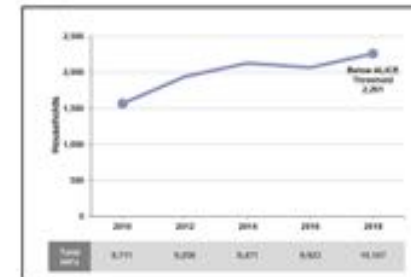
Under 25



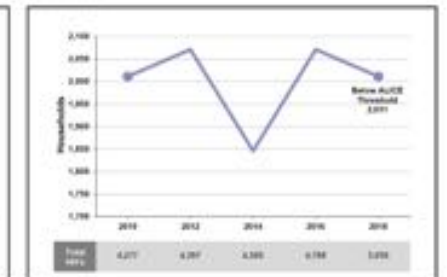
25 to 44



45 to 64



65 and Over



Source: ALICE Threshold 2010-2018; American Community Survey 2010-2018

Many of these subgroups have small populations, in which case even small changes in numbers can produce large swings in percentages. Therefore, it is most useful to focus on the general trends and not year-to-year fluctuations.

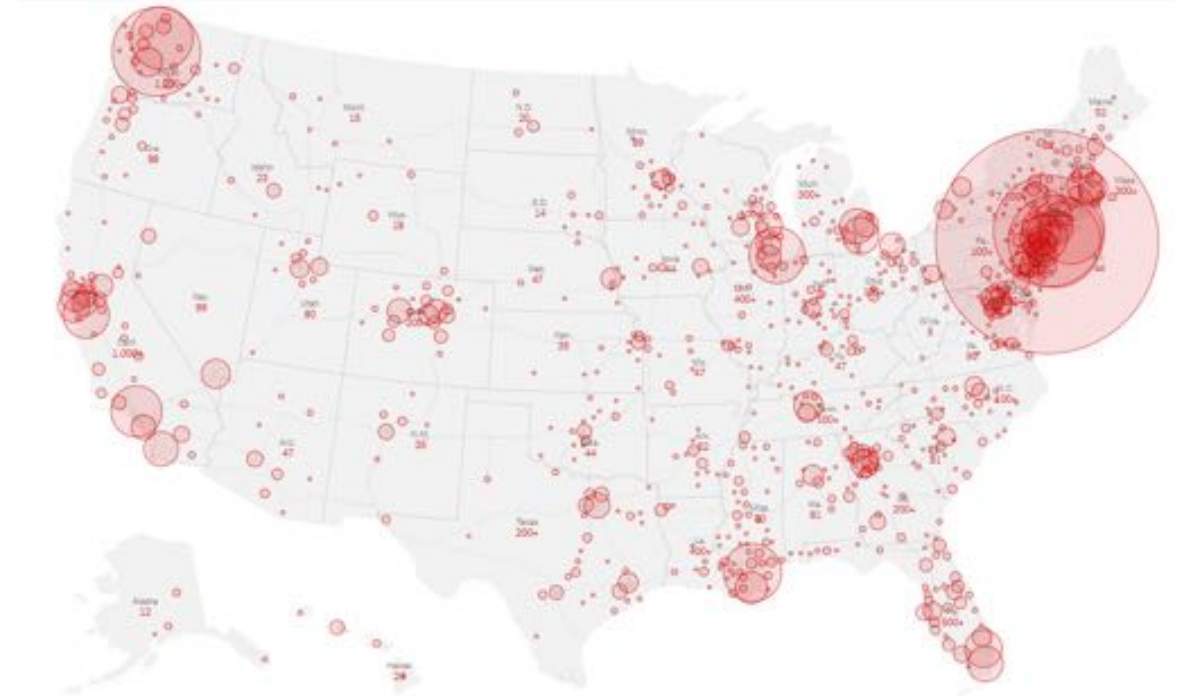
ALICE research to action (before COVID-19)

- **Policy agenda:** NJ state legislators, gubernatorial candidates, think tanks, Anti-Poverty Network, state libraries, freeholder boards
- **Strategic planning:** ALICE data influenced the strategic plans of many organizations, including Interfaith Food Pantry, Raritan Valley College, Housing Authorities
- **Health and Human Services planning:** State and county advisory boards, hospitals
- **Workforce development:** WorkFirst NJ, NORWESCAP, SETC, Title II Adult Literacy programs, Workforce Development Boards (Greater Raritan policy adopted using ALICE income threshold)
- **Education outreach:** Drew University, Rutgers, high schools, AmeriCorps VISTA
- **Business investment:** NJBIA, county Chambers of Commerce, Rising Tide Capital

ALICE research in action (during COVID-19)

ALICE data can help us understand the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable households, communities, and the economy.

- Crisis is unprecedented
- Impact on:
 - Workers
 - Children and families
 - Seniors
- Job projections
- Next steps



ALICE research in action (during COVID-19)

Mapping COVID-19 and correlation of economically vulnerable households in the state

Johns Hopkins:

<https://bao.arcgis.com/covid-19/jhu/county/34003.html>

ALICE Recovery Fund

- <http://www.unitedwaynnj.org/>



UNITED FOR ALICE

<https://www.unitedforalice.org/new-jersey>

