

ALICE

Lives Here



Presentation to Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

July 28, 2023



WHEN NONE ARE IGNORED,
ALL WILL THRIVE.



WHY FOCUS ON ALICE?

- ✓ ALICE households earn above the Federal Poverty Level, yet they are not eligible for assistance and **cannot afford the basic household necessities**, including housing, childcare, food, transportation, and health care.
- ✓ **Nearly 500,000 households** in our region are ALICE.
- ✓ **Prevention strategy** to keep more individuals from falling below the Federal Poverty Level.



Economic and social fallout from the global financial crisis and the resultant headwinds to global growth and employment have heightened attention to rising income inequality.

Lack of income mobility and opportunity are reflective of persistent disadvantages to ALICE households.

ALICE Households tend to have worse health and education outcomes.

Growing number of ALICE households present significant implications for regional growth and macroeconomic stability

Large number of ALICE individuals negatively impacts workforce needs and extends economic instability.

**WHEN NONE ARE IGNORED,
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**United Way of the
National Capital Area**

ALICE Lives Here

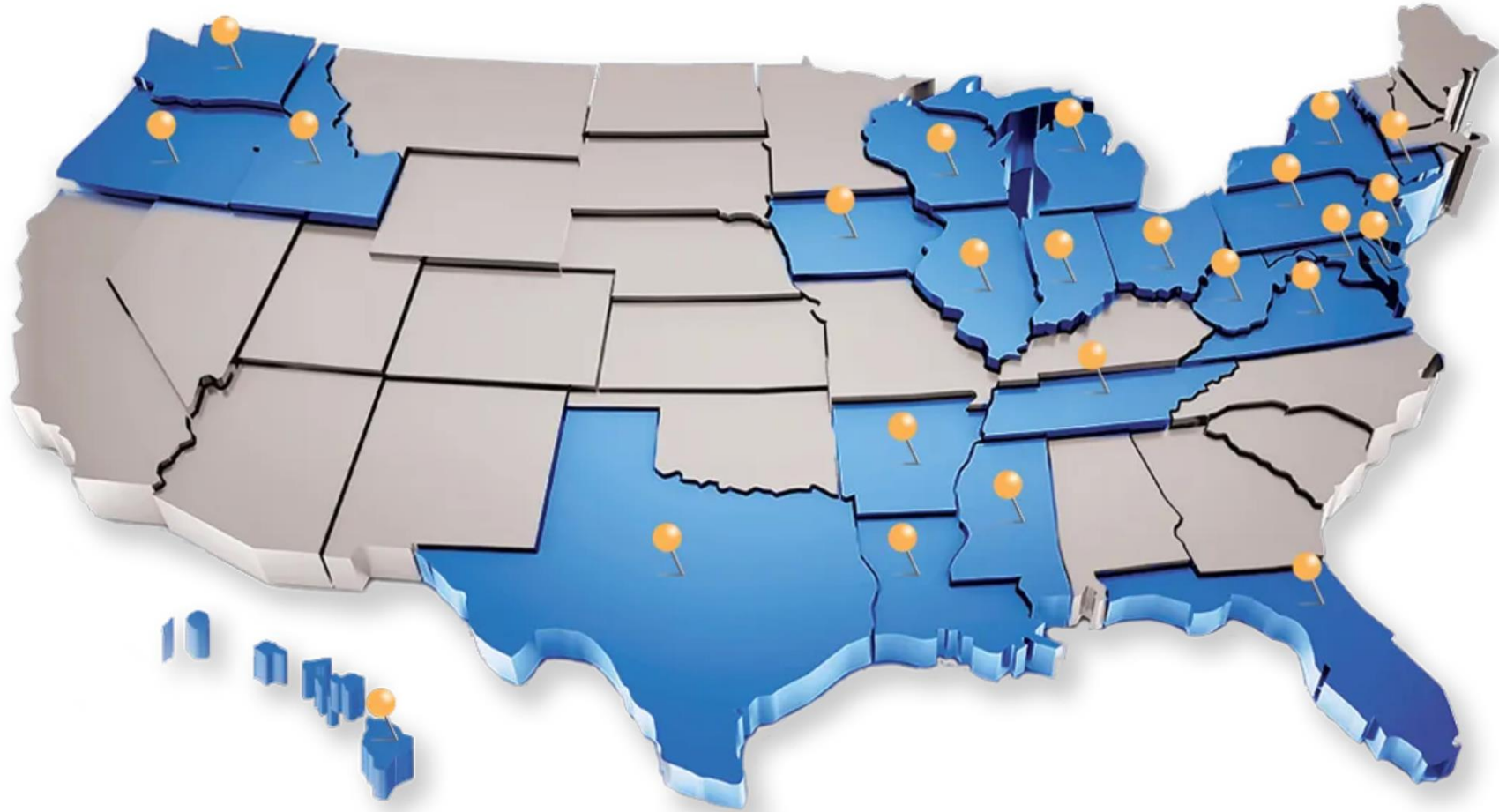
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ALICE IS A MOVEMENT

United For ALICE has grown to include partners in half of the U.S. states – and counting:

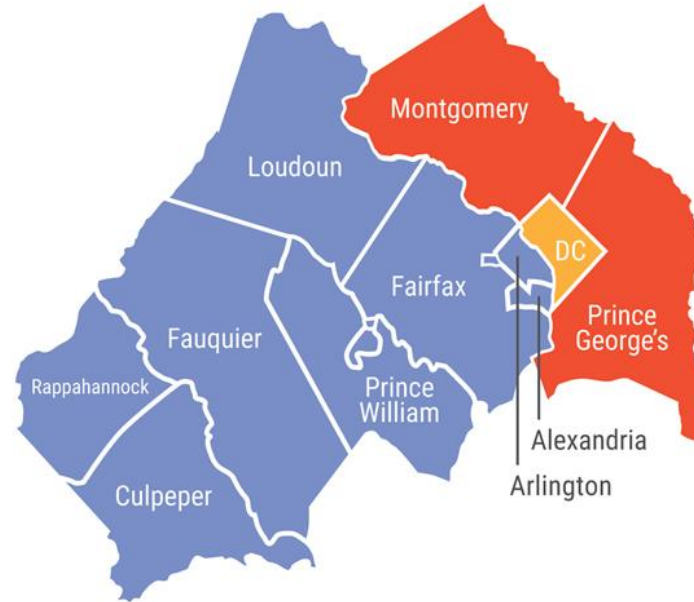


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Federal Poverty Level + ALICE Population = Under ALICE Threshold



- Nationwide, **16.2M** households are at or below the FPL and another **36.3M** are ALICE.
- In the NCA, **176,774** live below the FPL, an **additional 487,967** are ALICE (almost 3x more!), equaling **664,711 households** (33% of NCA population) living under the ALICE Threshold.

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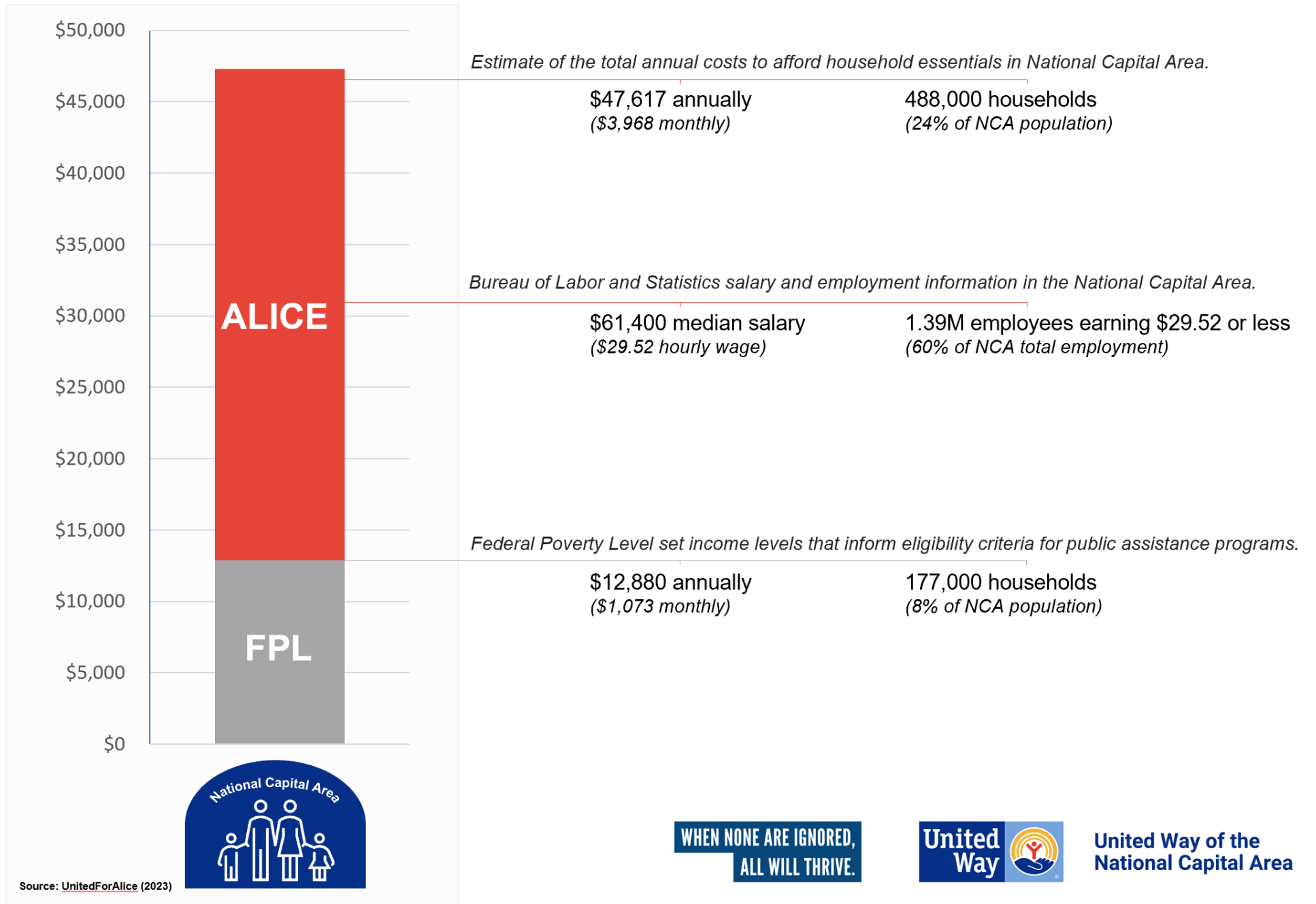
ALICE Single Adult

ALICE Survival Household Budget estimates minimal total cost of household essentials.

Avg. Monthly Expenses in National Capital Area

-  \$ 667
Taxes
-  \$ 300
Miscellaneous
-  \$ 75
Technology
-  \$ 227
Health Care
-  \$ 243
Transportation
-  \$ 502
Food
-  \$ 0
Child Care
-  \$ 1,954
Housing

Monthly Total \$ 3,968
Avg. Hr. Wage \$ 23.81



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ALICE Family of Four

ALICE Survival Household Budget estimates minimal total cost of household essentials.


Avg. Monthly Expenses in National Capital Area

 \$ 437


Taxes

 \$ 728

Miscellaneous

 \$ 110


Technology

 \$ 917


Health Care

 \$ 554


Transportation

 \$ 1,370

Food

 \$ 2,037

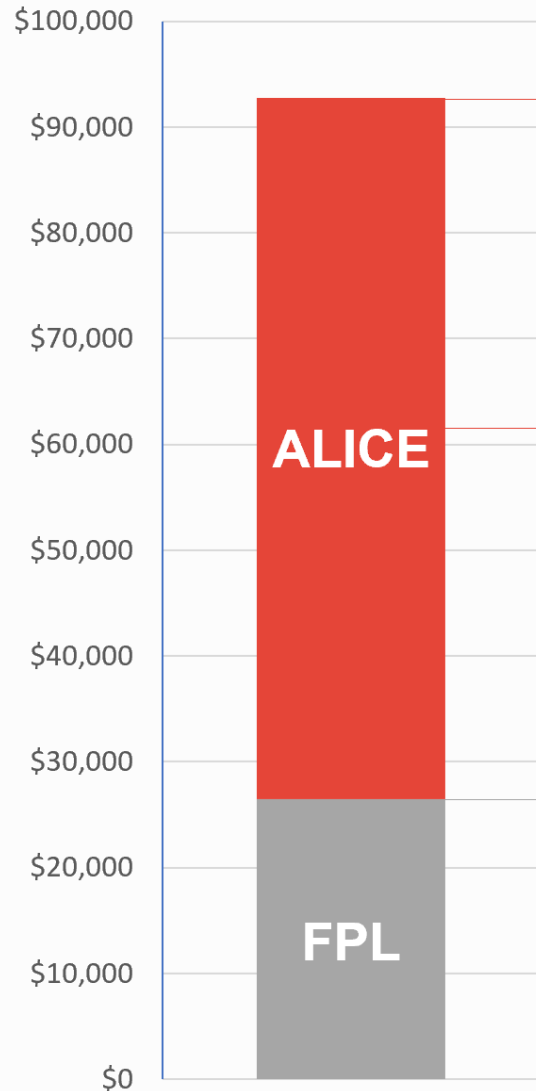
Child Care

 \$ 2,288

Housing

Monthly Total \$ 8,440

Avg. Hr. Wage \$ 50.64



Estimate of the total annual costs to afford household essentials in the National Capital Area.

\$101,281 annually
(\$8,440 monthly)

488,000 households
(24% of NCA population)

Bureau of Labor and Statistics salary and employment information in the National Capital Area.

\$61,400 median salary
(\$29.52 hourly wage)

1.39M employees earning \$29.52 or less
(60% of NCA total employment)

Federal Poverty Level set income levels that inform eligibility criteria for public assistance programs.

\$26,500 annually
(\$2,208 monthly)

177,000 households
(8% of NCA population)

Source: [UnitedForAlice](#) (2023)



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ALICE IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

Households living under ALICE Threshold:

Struggle to afford a healthy, practical diet – even when receiving SNAP benefits

63% of 137K households in the NCA receiving SNAP benefits are ALICE.

SHB food expenses for a family of four: \$1,562 monthly.

Max. SNAP benefit for a family of four is \$939, average amount is \$684.

More likely to be under-insured and vulnerable to unexpected medical expenses

19% of NCA households under ALICE Threshold paid out-of-pocket for major medical expense.

28% increase of DC households under ALICE Threshold missed, delayed or skipped child's well-being visit.

Parents cannot afford all the materials to prepare their children for the next school year

Across the National Capital Area, 48% of students enrolled in K-12 schools are economically disadvantaged.

30% of households under ALICE Threshold said their child are not eating enough because they cannot afford enough food.

Black and brown households are more likely to be ALICE than White households

ALICE population reveals 3x the rate of financial hardship for Black/AA populations than the FPL.

ALICE population reveals 6x the rate of financial hardship for Hispanic populations than the FPL.

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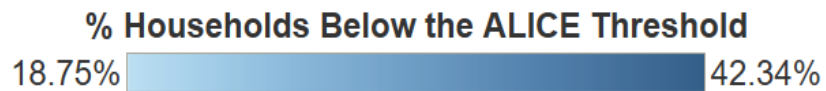
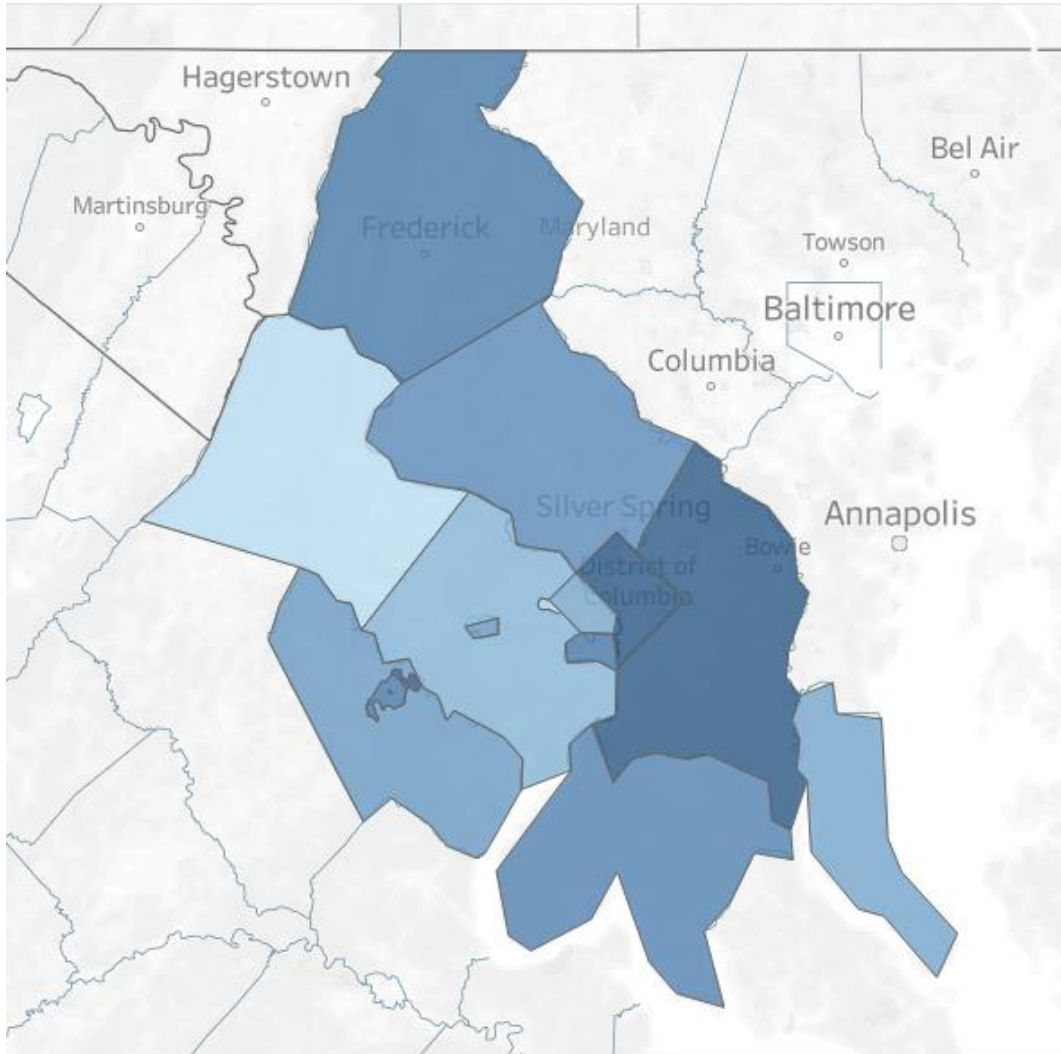
ALICE x State of the Commute 2022

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ALICE IN THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS' REGION



- **Washington, DC – 135,314 households below ALICE Threshold**
- Prince George's County, MD – 144,632
- Manassas Park City, VA – 2,112
- Alexandria City, VA – 26,370
- Frederick County, MD – 4,946
- Charles County, MD – 37,055
- Montgomery County, MD – 126,077
- Fairfax City, VA – 2,781
- Prince William County, VA – 46,215
- Arlington County, VA – 30,410
- Calvert County, MD – 9,134
- Fairfax County, VA – 104,198
- Falls Church City, VA – 1,185
- **Loudoun County, VA – 26,606 households below ALICE Threshold**

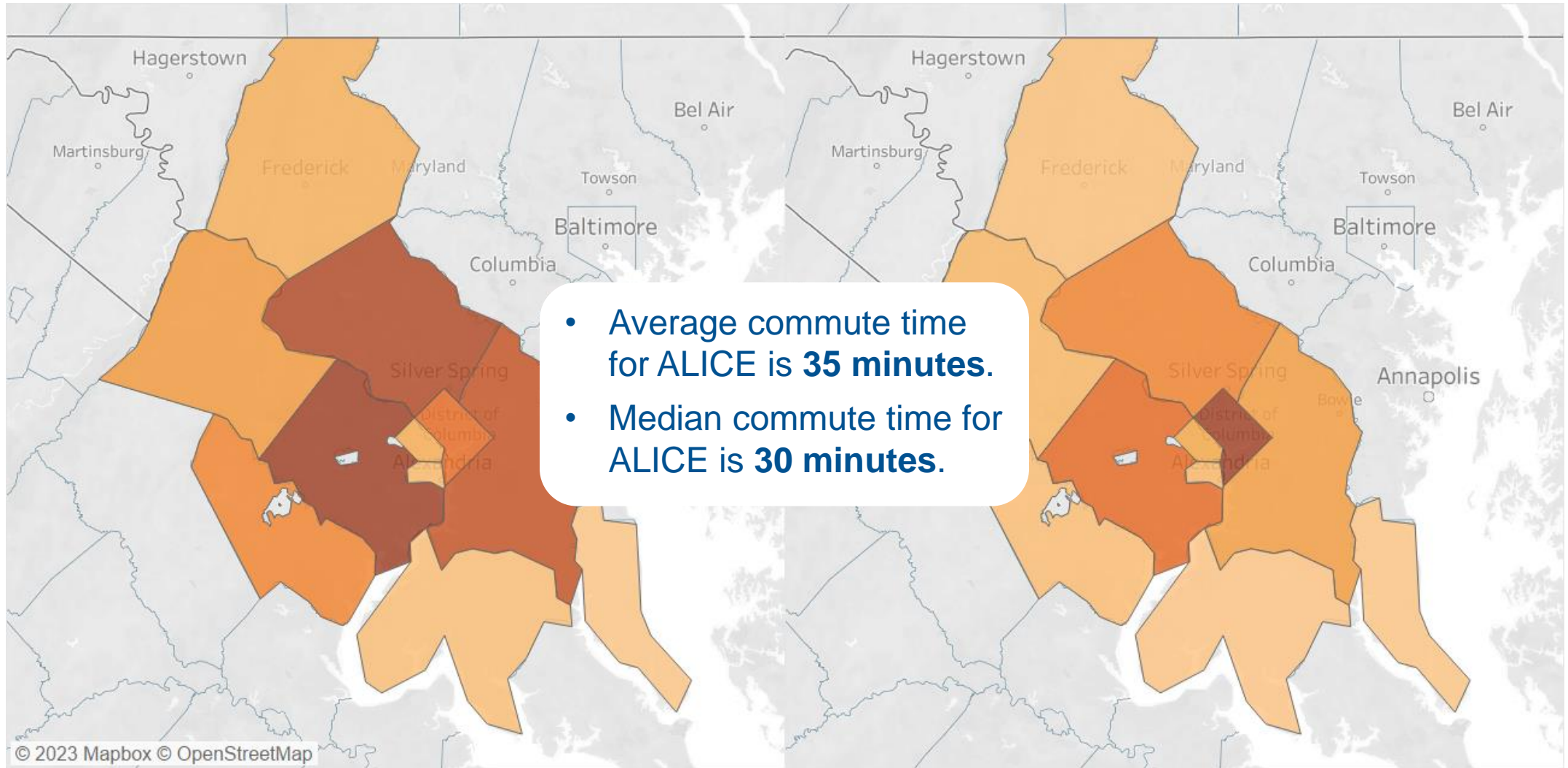
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WHERE ALICE LIVES

WHERE ALICE WORKS

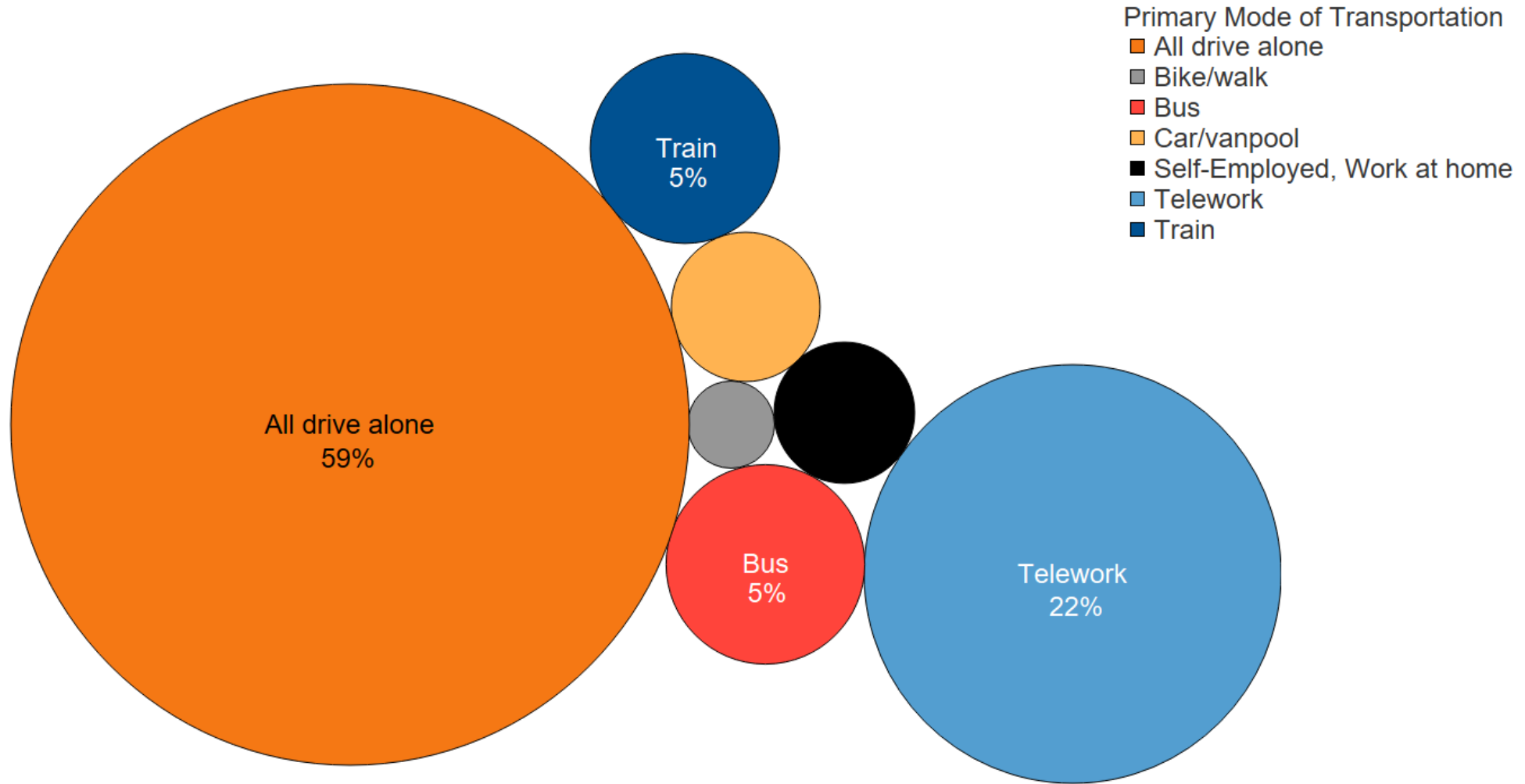


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HOW DOES ALICE COMMUTE?



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ALICE COMMUTERS IN THE NCA & MWCOG REGION

Insights about ALICE from the data:

+1M ALICE live outside Washington, DC

ALICE: 18% (88,464) ALICE households live in DC vs. 82% (442,385) outside DC.

MWCOG: Work in DC -- 21% ALICE respondents, 18% living below FPL and 15% above ALICE threshold.

ALICE are less likely to have hybrid or remote jobs

Only 39% of ALICE respondents and 26% of respondents living below FPL work from home some or all workdays

vs. 74% of those living above the ALICE Threshold.

...More likely to have longer commutes

32% of ALICE respondents and 37% of respondents living below FPL commute >30 minutes

vs. only 27% of those living above the ALICE Threshold.

...More likely to commute using a car

59% of ALICE respondents and 48% of respondents living below FPL primarily drive to work

vs. 36% of respondents living above the ALICE Threshold.

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United Way NCA Programs

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United Way NCA Programs and Strategy to Reduce ALICE

Economic Security is impacted by Health, Education and Economic Opportunity

Our Strategy -

- Collaborative **placed-based** strategies with community organizations as partners
- **Address racial disparities** and barriers.
- **Data-driven**, integrated, **two-generation solutions**.
- Results-based impact to **influence policy and transforms systems**.

Program Areas of focus -

- **Health:** Food insecurity, mental health intervention and disease prevention through outreach and education
- **Education:** Middle and high school success and transition to college and career
- **Economic Opportunity:** Powerful network of **5** Financial Empowerment Centers (**Prince George's Community College**, South County, Prince William, DC, and **Montgomery County**)

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HEALTH	GOALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Deliver a multi-tiered disease prevention approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • logistical support • outreach & education • care coordination <p>for populations living with or at risk of chronic disease</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Develop & expand mental health resources that are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accessible • trauma-informed
	OUTCOMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Access to & use of preventative health services ▲ Healthcare provider & community collaboration ▲ Awareness of healthcare resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ Gaps in health & wellness services ▼ Comorbidities & health disparities





EDUCATION

GOALS

- ★ Develop programs that serve the needs of students, schools & families in the community
- ★ Equip youth and young adults with the skills & technology to succeed in school and at work
- ★ Deliver food & supplies to fill the gaps in school-funded resources
- ★ Support initiatives that:
 - reduce interpersonal conflict
 - promote positive-behavioral health

OUTCOMES

- ▲ Services & resources available to school partners
- ▲ Participation in STEM learning and SEL programs
- ▲ Post-secondary enrollment and completion
- ▼ Rate of absenteeism
- ▼ Rate of behavioral disruptions





ECONOMIC OPP.

GOALS

- ★ Remove barriers & provide access to financial services and information
- ★ Programs that support savings & tax benefits
- ★ Community outreach to raise awareness of free financial services
- ★ Organize events to provide essential needs and services

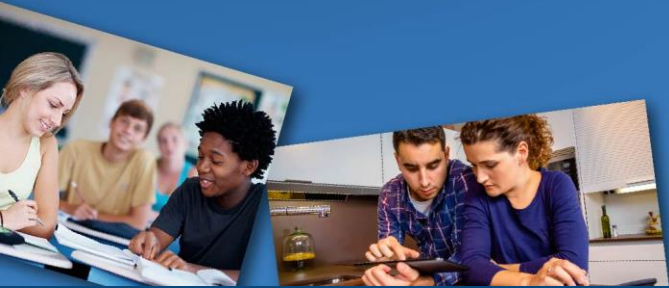
OUTCOMES

- ▲ Financial stability, growth & behaviors
- ▲ Financial coaching & workforce development
- ▲ First & repeat use of free tax services
- ▲ Number of small-business & entrepreneurs
- ▼ Poverty rate
- ▼ Unemployment rates
- ▼ Need and use of public assistance



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QUESTIONS

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THANK YOU