

HELLO
my name is

ALICE

I am a hardworker.
I live paycheck to paycheck.
I struggle to make ends meet.
I make tough choices daily.
I am 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 earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the country. Below is a snapshot comparison from the last ALICE report in 2017 to the most recent done in 2019 for Barry County.

As we look at this report, we can see a direct link into the work that our local FESO (Family Economic Support Office) is doing to assist the ALICE population. As a result of this work, there is a very noticeable difference from 2017 to 2019. FESO plays a huge roll in this as we work to implement programming such as:

- VITA program
- Working on site at our local businesses
- One on one direct case management

Despite COVID-19, we are confident that we will be back to seeing numbers closer to 2019 again. We did it once- we can do it again with your continued support and dedication to the Barry County United Way.

Because of you,
HOPE HAPPENS

2017

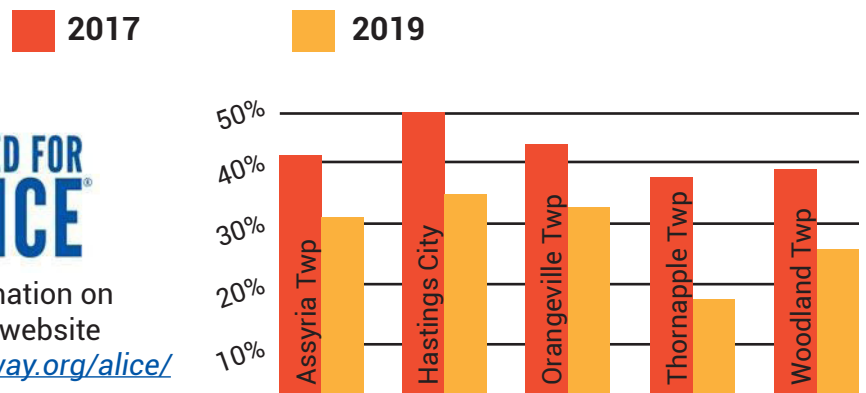
Population: 59,607
Number of Households: 23,539
Median Household Income: \$57,312

2019

Population: 60,540
Number of Households: 24,296
Median Household Income: \$64,490

	2017	2019
Unemployment Rate	6.2%	4.8%
ALICE Households	28%	19%
Households in Poverty	9%	8%

Percentage of households that are below the ALICE Threshold (poverty level and ALICE households combined). We have highlighted a few areas in Barry County that showed significant change.



For more information on ALICE, visit our website www.bcunitedway.org/alice/

LIVE UNITED





PROVIDING ACCESS AND RESOURCES THAT SUPPORT YOUR SUCCESS AT WORK AND IN LIFE.

The Family Economic Support Office (FESO) helps families access social services and training programs that support successful employment by partnering with local government, non-profits and private employers to offer the best resources available.

The Family Economic Support Office networks with similar programs across the state to share best practices and ideas. The FESO Success Coach confidentially helps to offer guidance and connect individuals with resources when you are feeling overwhelmed, stuck in a rut, or are having problems at home or work that are affecting your work performance.

HOW CAN WE HELP

- Transportation
- Medical and Wellness
- Utility Assistance
- Food & Nutrition
- Housing
- Budgeting assistance
- Understanding your credit score
- Reliable childcare provider
- Help in improving work attendance
- Apply for Medicaid, Food Assistance, childcare and other assistance
- Referral to personal, marital or family counseling
- Access to training or education
- Connecting to community resources

Meet Michael...

Michael was referred to our Family Economic Support Office (FESO) as part of his last-chance agreement with his employer.

Michael, a single father had weight-loss surgery and hadn't worked a full week since returning to work – over four months prior to meeting with our FESO Success Coach. He had used FMLA to account for many of those days. Because of the decreased income he had incurred two loans through his financial institution, as well as a payday loan and an online payday installment loan. He admitted that he is basically robbing Peter to pay Paul each week.

Our Success Coach and Michael met many times. They would address one or two items each time they met so that his action items were clear and achievable. Michael is now receiving food and utility assistance through Michigan Department Health & Human Services. He is also now enrolled in a utility assistance program that provided monthly assistance for the next year.

"I'm glad my attendance reached this point. If I hadn't been made to meet with you, I'd be out there digging myself into an even bigger financial hole and I probably would have lost my job by now." - **MICHAEL**

Because of you,

HOPE HAPPENS

How can you get involved in helping your friends, family and neighbors who are a part of the ALICE population?

VOLUNTEERING!

- The VITA (Volunteer Income tax Assistance program)
- Local food/clothing pantries or fresh food initiatives

RESOURCES

- Follow our Facebook page and share programs, events and information to others.

DONATE

- Join us in supporting our local ALICE population by donating at www.bcunitedway.org

