



## Questions & Answers for the October 13, 2020 ALICE Report Launch for Frederick County

**Q1: I heard that the launch was recorded - will we be able to access the recording afterward?**

A1: Yes, the recording and the slides from the presentation are available at <https://www.unitedwayfrederick.org/alice>.

**Q2: What is the interplay between local, state, and federal benefits and any benefit cliffs on those in poverty as they cross into the ALICE population?**

A2: Here is a link to a study from earlier this year on the interplay between benefits cliff and ALICE data for Maryland. Please note however this uses 2016 ALICE data and not the new 2018 ALICE data. [https://www.uwcm.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/BENEFITS-CLIFF-STUDY-FINAL-7\\_24\\_20.pdf](https://www.uwcm.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/BENEFITS-CLIFF-STUDY-FINAL-7_24_20.pdf)

**Q3: Do the numbers associated with 1 infant/1 toddler include the cost of childcare in Frederick County?**

A3: The survival budget for a family of four with 1 infant/1 toddler does include the estimated cost of childcare in Frederick County based on data from Maryland Family Network.

**Q4: Does the ALICE survival budget include resources/assets that come from state/federal aid programs, or is this pre aid?**

A4: Yes, it does to a limited extent, but for the most part does not include government benefits because many households at the upper limits of the survival budget threshold for their household size would not qualify for government benefits. The link shared in A2 above regarding the analysis of the benefits cliff and ALICE may be helpful as it addresses this question in more detail.

**Q5: I would really appreciate some guidance on tracking our clients and program work in relation to ALICE. I want to make sure that we are asking the right questions/collecting the right information.**

A5: You can email Malcolm Furgol at [malcolm@uwfrederick.org](mailto:malcolm@uwfrederick.org) to discuss this further. Malcolm has worked with many nonprofits to discuss this very issue.

**Q6: Is all the data reporting only individuals who are employed, per the E in ALICE (Employed)?**

A6: We want to stress that the ALICE analysis includes households who are unemployed as well as employed. The unemployment percentage for Frederick County was 3.7% for 2018 (the year of the ALICE data) so this would only be a small portion of the ALICE households in our county.

The emphasis on employed in ALICE refers to the fact that despite being employed, sometimes in multiple jobs, many households in our community cannot afford the basic cost of living without going into significant debt or sacrificing basic needs. ALICE can also be used as an indicator to help explain the important role of nonprofits in serving this population. As many ALICE households don't qualify for full government benefits, they may rely on nonprofit assistance to help make ends meet.



**Q7: I noticed that my organization is not listed as a Local ALICE partner. How do we become one?**

A7: We are always open to adding new ALICE partner organizations to our list of local partners. Please email Malcolm at [malcolm@uwfrederick.org](mailto:malcolm@uwfrederick.org) for information on how to be added to our partner list.

**Q8: Wonderful information coming out from Comcast regarding their broadband connectivity programs for the community. Could we receive more information regarding Internet Essentials and IEPP?**

A8: For more information on Internet Essentials, please go to [www.InternetEssentials.com](http://www.InternetEssentials.com) and for more information on either IE or the Comcast IEPP program you may contact Josh Bokee at [Joshua\\_Bokee@comcast.com](mailto:Joshua_Bokee@comcast.com).

**Q9: I understand not being a Comcast customer for 90 days; however, if for whatever reason (family did not know of the program, or perhaps they could afford the internet service fee before but not anymore due to a reduction in income, etc.) a family who already have the service at the regular price and their children are FARM approved, would COMCAST be willing to honor the Internet Essentials price especially now when having internet is key element of distance learning?**

A9: At this time, the policy remains that eligibility is tied to families and individuals who have not had Comcast internet service within the past 90 days and that's rooted in the program focusing on unserved households. There may be some exceptions on a case by case basis if the family is signing up under an Internet Essentials Partnership Program (IEPP) where they fall under an organization's sponsorship. Please go to [www.InternetEssentials.com](http://www.InternetEssentials.com) and for more information on either IE or the Comcast IEPP program you may contact Josh Bokee at [Joshua\\_Bokee@comcast.com](mailto:Joshua_Bokee@comcast.com).

**Q10: Many ALICE households do not qualify for assistance because the federal poverty level disqualifies them. How do you propose we address this in Frederick County to ensure more households who need assistance receive it?**

A10: Nonprofit organizations have used the ALICE data to better guide their eligibility guidelines. In addition, the financial stability work at the Prosperity Center is focused on serving ALICE households and welcomes them to our various programs. You can learn more about the Prosperity Center at <https://www.unitedwayfrederick.org/theprosperitycenter>. We also share the ALICE information with our elected officials through our annual advocacy platform that you can learn more about here: <https://www.unitedwayfrederick.org/Advocate>. Here is a link to a study from earlier this year on the interplay between benefits cliff and ALICE data for Maryland that may also be helpful. Please note however this uses 2016 ALICE data and not the new 2018 ALICE data. [https://www.uwcm.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/BENEFITS-CLIFF-STUDY-FINAL-7\\_24\\_20.pdf](https://www.uwcm.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/BENEFITS-CLIFF-STUDY-FINAL-7_24_20.pdf)