



UNITED WAY
Allen County

2026 PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

United Way of Allen County engages in public policy advocacy to advance solutions for families that are working hard but struggling to survive. We believe in collaborating and innovating on civic engagement and scaling effective, efficient solutions. Our approach to policy is non-partisan and issue focused as we aim to inform, educate, and build consensus. **UNITED IS THE WAY** to create lasting change.

Healthy Community

SUPPORT policies that enable residents to take care of their basic needs as well as their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

HOUSING:

- Increase the supply of safe, accessible, and affordable housing, while ensuring the preservation of existing affordable housing units remain for Allen County residents.
- Support eviction prevention policies that provide representation to households facing eviction.

FOOD:

- Preserve and improve food security programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Expand access to school meals for children.

Financial Security

SUPPORT policies that lead to a more sustainable economic environment for all.

CHILDCARE:

- Increase affordability of childcare by expanding childcare subsidy eligibility for families and increasing subsidy reimbursement rates for providers.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:

- Expanding incentivized sector-based strategies that help meet employer demand for a more educated and skilled workforce.

Youth Opportunity

SUPPORT the advancement of quality education from infancy through post-secondary.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION:

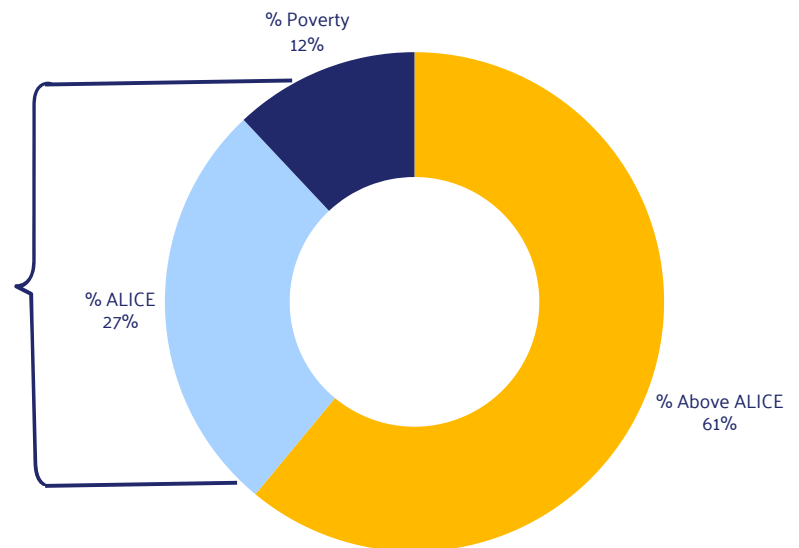
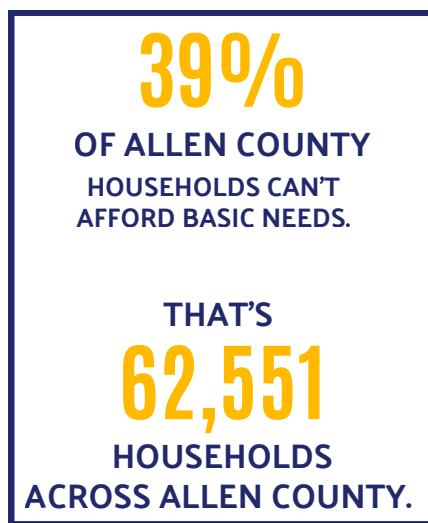
- Invest in students by expanding funding for wraparound services—like childcare, transportation, and income supports—to help postsecondary and skilled-training participants reach their goals.
- Support funding for career and technical education that opens pathways to livable-wage jobs for youth, veterans, people with disabilities, and other nontraditional learners.

ALICE in Allen County



ALICE® (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed)

ALICE earns above the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the cost of basics. Households below the ALICE Threshold – ALICE households plus those in poverty – can't afford the essentials.



**ALICE IS EVERYWHERE—
YET OFTEN UNSEEN.**

ALICE is your childcare provider. Your home health aide. Your cashier. Your delivery driver.

**HARD WORK
SHOULD
BE ENOUGH...**

**but for a growing number
of households, it isn't.**

**For ALICE® in Allen County, Paychecks Don't Add Up.
Family of 4 (2 Adults, 2 in Childcare)**

