



# ALICE in Harris County



## 2021 Point-in-Time Data

**Population:** 4,728,030

**Number of Households:** 1,735,020

**Median Household Income:** \$63,498  
(state average: \$66,963)

**Labor Force Participation Rate:** 67.1%

(state average: 64.6%)

**ALICE Households:** 32% (state average: 29%)

**Households in Poverty:** 15% (state average: 14%)

## Financial Hardship Changes Over Time

ALICE is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed – households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county (the ALICE Threshold). Households below the ALICE Threshold – ALICE households plus those in poverty – can't afford the essentials.

As circumstances change, households may find themselves below or above the ALICE Threshold at different times. While the COVID-19 pandemic brought employment shifts, health struggles, and school/business closures in 2021, it also spurred unprecedented public assistance through pandemic relief measures. In 2019, 773,253 households in Harris County were below the ALICE Threshold; in 2021 this number changed to 818,494, (a 6% change).

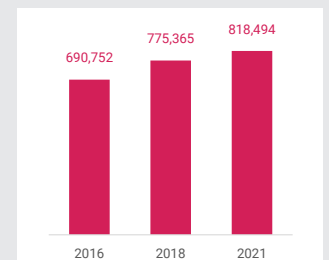
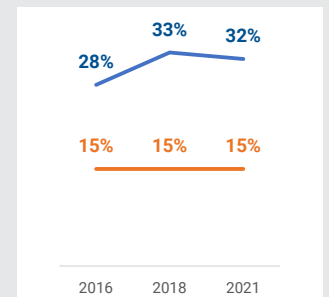
## The Cost of Basics Outpaces Wages

The Household Survival Budget reflects the minimum cost to live and work in the modern economy and includes housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, a smartphone plan, and taxes. It does not include savings for emergencies or future goals like college or retirement. The Household Survival Budget is calculated at the county level and varies by household composition, as costs can vary greatly depending on location and household needs.

To see costs for different household compositions in Harris County, visit:

<https://unitedwayhouston.org/alice-household-budget/>

**In Harris County**  
**15% of households are living below the federal poverty threshold and another 32% of households are experiencing ALICE.**



monthly costs	1 adult, 2 school-age	2 adults, 1 school-age	1 adult, 1 school-age, 1 preschool
<b>ANNUAL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$59,832</b>	<b>\$62,772</b>	<b>\$63,204</b>
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>\$4,986</b>	<b>\$5,231</b>	<b>\$5,267</b>
<b>Hourly Wage</b>	<b>\$29.08</b>	<b>\$30.53</b>	<b>\$30.77</b>
<b>Housing - Rent</b>	\$1,208	\$1,208	\$1,208
<b>Housing - Utilities</b>	\$262	\$262	\$262
<b>Child Care</b>	\$541	\$270	\$991
<b>Food</b>	\$886	\$976	\$860
<b>Health Care</b>	\$841	\$841	\$841
<b>Transportation</b>	\$614	\$705	\$614
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	\$443	\$437	\$485
<b>Technology</b>	\$75	\$110	\$75
<b>Taxes</b>	\$747	\$664	\$839
<b>Tax Credits</b>	<b>(\$770)</b>	<b>(\$385)</b>	<b>(\$1,046)</b>