



ALICE in Montgomery County



2021 Point-in-Time Data

Population: 648,886

Number of Households: 232,095

Median Household Income: \$86,903
(state average: \$66,963)

Labor Force Participation Rate: 63.1%

(state average: 64.6%)

ALICE Households: 24% (state average: 29%)

Households in Poverty: 10% (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, 71,342 households in Montgomery County were below the ALICE Threshold; in 2021 this number changed to 79,577, (a 12% change).

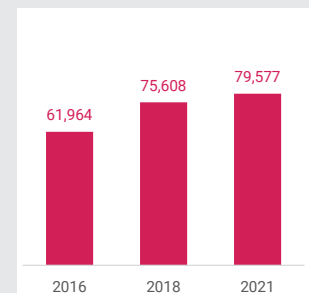
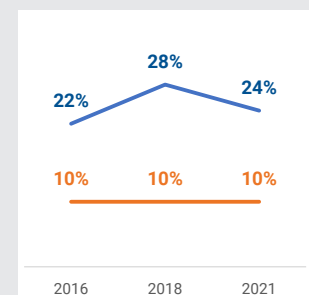
The Cost of Basics Outpaces Wages

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 Montgomery County, visit:

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

In Montgomery County 10% of households are living below the federal poverty threshold and another 24% of households are experiencing ALICE.



monthly costs	1 adult, 2 school-age	2 adults, 1 school-age	1 adult, 1 school-age, 1 preschool
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$60,660	\$63,600	\$64,020
Monthly Total	\$5,825	\$5,685	\$6,381
Hourly Wage	\$30.33	\$31.80	\$32.01
Housing - Rent	\$1,334	\$1,334	\$1,334
Housing - Utilities	\$262	\$262	\$262
Child Care	\$541	\$270	\$991
Food	\$918	\$1,011	\$891
Health Care	\$841	\$841	\$841
Transportation	\$614	\$705	\$614
Miscellaneous	\$459	\$453	\$501
Technology	\$75	\$110	\$75
Taxes	\$781	\$699	\$872
Tax Credits	(\$770)	(\$385)	(\$1,046)