Population: 6,739 • Number of Households: 2,653
Median Household Income: \$65,679 (state average: \$45,146)
Unemployment Rate: 3.5\% (state average: 7.0\%)
ALICE Households: 17\% (state average: 29\%) • Households in Poverty: 10\% (state average: 19\%)

## How has the number of ALLCE households changed 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 parish (the ALICE Threshold). Combined, the number of ALICE and poverty-level households equals the total population struggling to afford basic needs. The number of households below the ALICE Threshold changes over time; households move in and out of poverty and ALICE status as their circumstances improve or worsen. The recovery, which started in 2010, has been uneven across the state. Conditions have improved for some families, but with rising costs, many still find themselves struggling.

## What types of households are struggling?

The way Americans live is changing. There are more different family and living combinations than ever before, including more adults living alone, with roommates, or with their parents. Families with children are changing: There are more non-married cohabiting parents, same-sex parents, and blended families with remarried parents. The number of senior households is also increasing. Yet all types of households continue to struggle: ALICE and povertylevel households exist across all of these living arrangements.

Households hy Income, 2010 to 2016


## Household Types by Income, 2016



## Why do so many households struggle?

## The cost of living continues to increase...

The Household Survival Budget reflects the bare minimum that a household needs to live and work today. It does not include savings for emergencies or future goals like college. In 2016, costs were well above the Federal Poverty Level of $\$ 11,880$ for a single adult and $\$ 24,300$ for a family of four. Family costs increased by 33 percent statewide from 2010 to 2016, compared to 9 percent inflation nationally.

| Household Survival Budget, Gameron Parish |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | SNNGLE ADULT | 2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, <br> 1 PRESCHOOLER |
| Monthly Costs |  |  |
| Housing | $\$ 470$ | $\$ 762$ |
| Child Care | $\$-$ | $\$ 938$ |
| Food | $\$ 164$ | $\$ 542$ |
| Transportation | $\$ 322$ | $\$ 644$ |
| Health Care | $\$ 196$ | $\$ 726$ |
| Technology | $\$ 55$ | $\$ 75$ |
| Miscellaneous | $\$ 142$ | $\$ 407$ |
| Taxes | $\$ 213$ | $\$ 388$ |
| Monthly Total | $\$ 1,562$ | $\$ 4,482$ |
| ANNUAL TOTAL | $\$ 18,744$ | $\$ 53,784$ |
| Hourly Wage | $\$ 9.37$ | $\$ 26.89$ |

## ...and wages lag behind

Employment and wages vary by location; firms generally pay higher wages in areas with a higher cost of living, although those wages still do not always cover basic needs. Employment and wages also vary by firm size: Large firms tend to offer higher wages and more job stability; smaller businesses can account for more jobs overall, especially in rural areas, but may pay less and offer less stability. Medium-size firms pay more but typically employ the fewest workers.

Private-Sector Employment ty Firm Size With Average Annual Wages, 2016


[^0]Gameron Parish, 2016

| Town | Total Hl |  <br> Poverty |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Cameron | 102 | $50 \%$ |
| Hackberry | 481 | $33 \%$ |

## CAMERON PARISH, LA, 2016

## ALICE HOUSEHOLD SURVIVAL BUDGET

|  | Single Adult | Married Couple | 1 Adult, 1 SchoolAge Child | 1 Adult, 1 Infant | 2 Adult, 2 SchoolAge Children | 2 Adults, 1 Infant, <br> 1 Preschooler |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Housing | \$470 | \$604 | \$604 | \$604 | \$762 | \$762 |
| Child Care | \$- | \$- | \$275 | \$479 | \$550 | \$938 |
| Food | \$164 | \$372 | \$309 | \$258 | \$621 | \$542 |
| Transportation | \$322 | \$403 | \$403 | \$403 | \$644 | \$644 |
| Health Care | \$196 | \$392 | \$461 | \$345 | \$726 | \$726 |
| Miscellaneous | \$142 | \$216 | \$233 | \$253 | \$365 | \$407 |
| Technology | \$55 | \$75 | \$55 | \$55 | \$75 | \$75 |
| Taxes | \$213 | \$316 | \$225 | \$275 | \$275 | \$388 |
| Monthly Total | \$1,562 | \$2,378 | \$2,565 | \$2,672 | \$4,018 | \$4,482 |
| Annual Total | \$18,744 | \$28,536 | \$30,780 | \$32,064 | \$48,216 | \$53,784 |
| Hourly Wage | \$9.37 | \$14.27 | \$15.39 | \$16.03 | \$24.11 | \$26.89 |

Note: The budgets reflect different costs based on the age of children in the household; full-day care for infants and preschoolers (4-year-old) and after school care for school-age children. To create budgets for additional family types: For an additional infant, increase the total budget by 13 percent; for an additional 4 -year-old, by 13 percent; and for a school-age child, by 8 percent.
Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; U.S. Department of Agriculture; Bureau of Labor Statistics; Internal Revenue Service; Tax Foundation; and Louisiana Department of Education, 2016.
ALICE HOUSEHOLD STABILITY BUDGET

|  | Single Adult | Married Couple | 1 Adult, 1 SchoolAge Child | 1 Adult, <br> 1 Infant | 2 Adult, 2 SchoolAge Children | 2 Adults, 1 Infant, 1 Preschooler |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Housing | \$755 | \$953 | \$953 | \$953 | \$973 | \$973 |
| Child Care | \$- | \$- | \$303 | \$504 | \$605 | \$1,046 |
| Food | \$318 | \$685 | \$598 | \$490 | \$1,204 | \$1,039 |
| Transportation | \$370 | \$740 | \$740 | \$740 | \$1,184 | \$1,184 |
| Health Care | \$250 | \$569 | \$953 | \$953 | \$1,160 | \$1,160 |
| Miscellaneous | \$180 | \$308 | \$366 | \$375 | \$525 | \$553 |
| Savings | \$180 | \$308 | \$366 | \$375 | \$525 | \$553 |
| Technology | \$109 | \$129 | \$109 | \$109 | \$129 | \$129 |
| Taxes | \$472 | \$739 | \$751 | \$742 | \$1,059 | \$1,265 |
| Monthly Total | \$2,634 | \$4,431 | \$5,139 | \$5,241 | \$7,364 | \$7,902 |
| Annual Total | \$31,608 | \$53,172 | \$61,668 | \$62,892 | \$88,368 | \$94,824 |
| Hourly Wage | \$15.80 | \$26.59 | \$30.83 | \$31.45 | \$44.18 | \$47.41 |

Note: The budgets reflect different costs based on the age of children in the household; full-day care for infants and preschoolers (4-year-old) and after school care for school-age children. To create budgets for additional family types: For an additional infant, increase the total budget by 9 percent; for an additional 4 -year-old, by 10 percent; and for a school-age child, by 6 percent.
Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; U.S. Department of Agriculture; Bureau of Labor Statistics; Internal Revenue Service; Tax Foundation; and Louisiana Department of Education, 2016.
Reference: UnitedWayALICE.org

The United Way ALICE Project is a collaboration of United Ways in Connecticut, Florida, Hawai'i, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.


[^0]:    Sources: 2016 Point-in-Time Data: American Community Survey. ALICE Demographics: American Community Survey; the ALICE Threshold. Budget: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; U.S. Department of Agriculture; Bureau of Labor Statistics; Internal Revenue Service; Tax Foundation; and Louisiana Department of Education, 2016.

