How many households are struggling?

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, or AT). Combined, the number of poverty and ALICE 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 as circumstances improve or worsen. The Great Recession, from 2007 to 2010, caused hardship for many families. Conditions started to improve between 2010 and 2014 for some, but not for all.

What does it cost to afford the basic necessities?

The bare-minimum Household Survival Budget does not include any savings, leaving a household vulnerable to unexpected expenses. ALICE households typically earn above the Federal Poverty Level of $11,670 for a single adult and $23,850 for a family of four, but less than the Household Survival Budget.
How many families with children are struggling?

Children add significant expense to a family budget, so it is not surprising that many Orleans Parish families with children live below the ALICE Threshold. More families are headed by single parents than married parents in Orleans Parish, and single parent families are more likely to have income below the ALICE Threshold.

Families with Children by Income, 2014

What assets do households have?

Ownership of assets can contribute to stability of households. Yet few families in Orleans Parish own liquid assets, such as a savings account, 401(k) plan, or rental income, that are readily available to cover emergency expenses. Vehicles, the most common asset, depreciate over time. Homeownership, the next most common asset, can build wealth, but is not a liquid asset.

Assets, All Households, 2014

Note: Municipal-level data on this page is for Places, which include Census Designated Places (CDP). These are overlapping geographies so totals will not match parish-level data. Municipal-level data often relies on 5-year averages and is not available for the smallest towns that do not report income.