

NEWSLETTER

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion



Welcome to week two. In week one we focused on our personal journey. Now we will look deeper into racial inequity and social justice in Michigan. Did you know that nearly 50% of our households in Montcalm and Ionia Counties struggle to make ends meet? Today, we will look at why that is. Please join us in discovering who ALICE is and what defines an ALICE household.

Terri

Day Seven - Opportunity in Michigan

In Michigan, 63 percent of Black households are struggling to afford basic necessities like housing, child care, food, transportation, and technology, according to [recently released 2018 ALICE data](#). These households, also known as ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but not enough to cover the basic cost of living, called the ALICE threshold, in their counties. The 63 percent of Black households falling below the ALICE Threshold was almost double that of white households—just 36 percent.

During the recovery from the Great Recession, the number of Black households under the ALICE Threshold in Michigan increased by eleven percent from 2010 to 2018, while the number of white households below the Threshold increased by only one percent. Since COVID 19, households below the ALICE threshold is even greater. This means that a very large percentage of parents, especially Black parents have to make trade-offs between necessities like rent or stocking the refrigerator or going without healthcare as a parent to ensure that a child has access to preschool.

We know that where you live and where children are raised can have a strong influence on opportunity. We also know that when these factors are combined with race, people of color are disproportionately impacted. Over the next few days, we will be exploring how ALICE, race, and other factors impact a person's housing, health, education, financial stability, and more.

Today's Challenge

Option 1: Check out the [ALICE Report for the State of Michigan](#) (based on 2017 data) and dig down further into your county.

Option 2: See this [NY Times article](#) (15 minute read) debunking widely held beliefs about income inequality and exploring the disproportionate impact race has on boys.

Option 3: Read about [Raj Chetty](#), a Harvard economist committed to showing how zip code shapes opportunity. Dive into his research through the [Equality of Opportunity Project](#).

UWMI Staff Pick

Check out the [ALICE Report for Montcalm County](#) and the [ALICE Report for Ionia County](#) to see even more localized data.

Read the [United Way Montcalm-Ionia Counties' Blogs:](#)

June 8 – Equity and Inclusion (3 minute read)

August 17 – New Data Points Reveal Disproportionate Financial Hardship in Black Households Across Michigan (3 minute read)

Tomorrow's topic: Segregation in Michigan

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