

ALICE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

The mission of United Way of Buffalo & Erie County is to **bring people, organizations and resources together to create systemic community change**. United Way is committed to listening to and raising the voices of people in the community with lived experience who benefit from our work. One of our focus areas is on households we call ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). ALICE represents households that, despite working hard, live paycheck to paycheck and struggle to afford necessities such as housing, food, childcare, transportation, technology, and healthcare. This demographic represents about one in three households in Erie County that have earnings above the Federal Poverty Level but below a basic cost-of-living. We are inviting you to join an ALICE Community Advisory Council based on your expertise gained from living in an ALICE household in Western New York.

Our goal is to positively impact the lives of ALICE households by improving their financial stability and ultimately reducing the number of ALICE households in Erie County. To do this, we aim to work together with members of ALICE households to find out their greatest needs

and ideas for ways to make life easier and more fulfilling. We are creating this ALICE Community Advisory Council so that ALICE members can help direct the work of United Way going forward.

Responsibility All members are responsible for the following.	Time Commitment (1 year)*
<p>Meetings The Council meets monthly during the evening.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is expected that members attend at least 75% of monthly meetings each year (8 of 11 meetings). Each meeting generally lasts for 1 hour. Members who cannot join meetings are expected to notify United Way prior to the meeting and may share any comments/questions they have via email or phone with the staff to be shared at the meeting. <p>All members will participate in meetings and be adequately prepared (familiar with agenda, read relevant materials).</p>	12–15 hours
<p>Communication Members are expected to communicate with the Director as needed outside of regularly scheduled meetings. This includes notifying the Director if they cannot attend a meeting and responding to requests for information in a timely manner (as requested).</p>	1 hour
<p>Total</p>	13–16 hours
<p>Confidentiality All discussion held during Advisory Council meetings is confidential. Any personal stories shared within the group must be held in confidence.</p>	

* The listed hours are only an estimate provided for ALICE Community Advisory Council members to have clear expectations for the work involved. The actual time commitment may vary.

Compensation

Each member will receive a stipend of \$25 per meeting and will be compensated via a gift card in the week following each meeting attended.

Size of the Council

10–15 people

Eligibility

Geographic

You must reside in Erie County in order to participate.

Income Eligibility

ALICE households are individuals and families that are working hard with limited assets but do not earn enough to afford basic necessities. To determine if your household would fall within the ALICE category, please see the income thresholds below. If your household income falls below this amount, you would qualify for the ALICE Community Advisory Council. However, this is not exact or a strict cut-off.

ALICE Household Survival Budget, Erie County, New York, 2018						
	Single Adult	Two Adults	Two Adults, Two School-Age Children	Two Adults, Two Children in Child Care	Single Senior	Two Seniors
Monthly Total	\$2,204	\$3,200	\$5,144	\$6,409	\$2,430	\$3,576
Annual Total	\$26,448	\$38,400	\$61,728	\$76,908	\$29,160	\$42,912
Hourly Wage	\$13.22	\$19.20	\$30.86	\$38.45	\$14.58	\$21.46

Location

Meetings are currently held on a virtual platform (Zoom or Google Meet).

Meeting Times

United Way will poll Council members to determine the day and time that works well for the most people to accommodate the schedule of working families. Meetings may occur during the early evening hours.

For more information visit uwbec.org/alicecouncil
or contact our Director of Health Initiatives:

Mary K. Comtois
mary_k.comtois@uwbec.org
716-310-3126