

2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



United Ways of Iowa is committed to advancing public policies that create lasting change and strengthen the foundation of our communities. Our legislative priorities support our goal to ensure all Iowans can thrive through key priority areas: improving **Youth Opportunity**; enhancing **Financial Security**; ensuring **Healthy Community**; and fostering **Community Resilience**.

Youth Opportunity

Goal: Promote the success and well-being of young people to achieve their full potential.

- ✓ **Childcare:** Expand affordable, high-quality childcare options to support parents in the workforce and foster early childhood development.
- ✓ **Education & Literacy:** Invest in literacy programs so early learners achieve educational benchmarks.

Financial Security

Goal: Help individuals and families create pathways to a sustainable financial future and enrich community well-being.

- ✓ **Affordable Housing:** Provide affordable, safe, stable housing in communities across Iowa.
- ✓ **Workforce Development & Job Training:** Expand workforce development efforts to provide Iowans education and training to support individual long-term financial growth.

Healthy Community

Goal: Improve the overall health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities by advancing equitable access to healthcare, nutrition, food security, and brain health supports.

- ✓ **Brain Health:** Align policies to expand equitable access to brain health supports to all Iowans in need of care.
- ✓ **Food Security:** Promote equitable access to food and nutrition to improve health outcomes for Iowans.

Community Resilience

Goal: Address urgent community needs today to strengthen communities for the future.

- ✓ **Crisis Response:** Expand Iowa's 211 hotline to serve as a central resource during times of crisis and disaster.

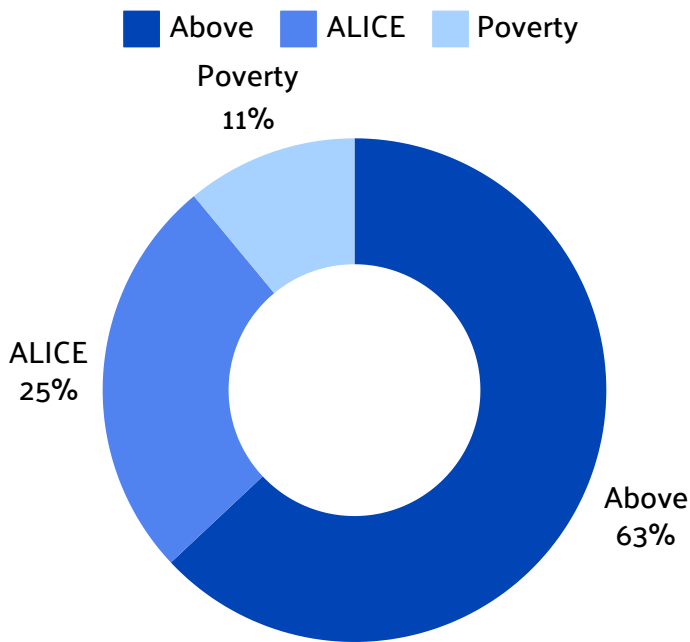
ALICE IN IOWA



UNITED WAY
United Ways of
Iowa

ALICE® stands for Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed. These are households in Iowa that earn above the Federal Poverty Level yet struggle to meet the basic needs budget, including housing, food, childcare, healthcare, and transportation. ALICE earns income, pays taxes, and contributes to Iowa's economy, yet their household income is not enough to meet the basic survival budget.

Who is ALICE?



Iowa Household Survival Budget

The ALICE Household Survival Budget represents what it really costs just to survive in Iowa as a family with two adults, an infant, and a preschooler:

\$76,356

About United Ways of Iowa

UWI is a statewide network comprised of 21 local United Ways, serving communities in every corner of the state. Local United Ways mobilize communities to take action to create environments where all Iowans can achieve their full potential.

Learn More www.uwiowa.org

A Snapshot of Iowa Households

48%

of Iowans age 65+ live below the ALICE threshold

59%

of Black households live below the ALICE threshold

35%

of working age adults with no children live below the ALICE threshold

27%

of households with children live below the ALICE threshold

Iowa ALICE Data

