

Virginia • ALICE State and County Household Budgets 2021

Traditional economic measures underestimate the actual cost of basics. To better capture the reality of household costs in each Virginia county, United For ALICE provides budgets that are tailored by county and household type.

These budgets include **housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and technology** (smartphone plan), **plus taxes** and a 10% **miscellaneous** category.

The ALICE Household Survival Budget

The Household Survival Budget reflects the minimum cost to live and work in the modern economy. This budget is the basis for determining whether households are above or below the ALICE Threshold by county.

In 2021, household costs in every county in Virginia were well above the Federal Poverty Level of \$12,880 for a single adult and \$26,500 for a family of four. Overall, household costs increased in Virginia between 2019 and 2021.

Survival Budget Expenses Differ by Household Type and Location

Monthly Costs and Credits	Single Adult	One Adult, One Child	One Adult, One In Child Care	Two Adults	Two Adults Two Children	Two Adults, Two In Child Care	Single Senior	Two Seniors
Housing - Rent	\$558	\$478	\$478	\$478	\$647	\$647	\$558	\$478
Housing - Utilities	\$154	\$239	\$239	\$239	\$292	\$292	\$154	\$239
Child Care	\$0	\$211	\$563	\$0	\$422	\$1,229	\$0	\$0
Food	\$416	\$706	\$634	\$764	\$1,245	\$1,136	\$384	\$705
Transportation	\$330	\$428	\$428	\$507	\$807	\$807	\$283	\$413
Health Care	\$230	\$530	\$530	\$530	\$927	\$927	\$508	\$1,017
Technology	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$110	\$110	\$110	\$75	\$110
Miscellaneous	\$176	\$267	\$295	\$263	\$445	\$515	\$196	\$296
Tax Payments	\$309	\$493	\$571	\$405	\$898	\$1,093	\$365	\$644
Tax Credits	\$0	(\$356)	(\$581)	\$0	(\$711)	(\$1,215)	\$0	\$0
Monthly Total	\$2,248	\$3,071	\$3,232	\$3,296	\$5,082	\$5,541	\$2,523	\$3,902
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$26,976	\$36,852	\$38,784	\$39,552	\$60,984	\$66,492	\$30,276	\$46,824
Hourly Wage	\$13.49	\$18.43	\$19.39	\$19.78	\$30.49	\$33.25	\$15.14	\$23.41

The ALICE Stability Budget is Even Further Out of Reach

The ALICE Stability Budget incorporates the higher costs for maintaining a more financially stable household over time, including a 10% savings category that can be used in an emergency, for additional education, or to buy a home.

Monthly Costs and Credits	Single Adult	Two Adults	Two Adults Two Children	Two Adults, Two In Child Care
Housing - Rent	\$742	\$935	\$1,052	\$1,052
Housing - Utilities	\$154	\$239	\$292	\$292
Child Care	\$0	\$0	\$484	\$1,396
Food	\$620	\$1,151	\$2,039	\$1,763
Transportation	\$844	\$1,044	\$1,308	\$1,308
Health Care	\$200	\$453	\$804	\$804
Technology	\$125	\$160	\$160	\$160
Miscellaneous	\$269	\$398	\$614	\$678
Savings	\$269	\$398	\$614	\$678
Tax Payments	\$567	\$767	\$1,370	\$1,547
Tax Credits	\$0	\$0	(\$742)	(\$1,267)
Monthly Total	\$3,790	\$5,545	\$7,995	\$8,411
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$45,480	\$66,540	\$95,940	\$100,932
Hourly Wage	\$22.74	\$33.27	\$47.97	\$50.47

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