



## Community Planning Council

The Community Planning Council was established by Greenwich United Way to encourage the most effective and efficient health and human service delivery system for Greenwich. Comprised of community leaders, nonprofit service professionals, Greenwich United Way board members, and community volunteers, the work of the Planning Council, particularly through its periodic Needs Assessments, has led to the development of some of the Town's most valued programs and institutions.

### Community Planning Council Meeting Friday 9/21, 8:30 am, Temple Shalom

#### Basic Human Needs: ALICE – A Study of Financial Hardship in Connecticut Richard Porth, President & CEO, United Way of Connecticut

According to the United Way's Needs Assessment, poverty persists in Greenwich and service providers cite continuing poverty and ALICE level income as the biggest driver of food insecurity, as many residents have not rebounded from constrained economic circumstances as the region's economy improved.

#### Highlights from the Presentation:

**United Way of Connecticut:** Mr. Porth noted the work United Way of Connecticut is doing across the state around community impact and that they are committed to supporting the ALICE population and supporting all Connecticut residents around health, education and financial security.

**ALICE:** Mr. Porth defined ALICE, an acronym for **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed and that this population represents about 30% of Connecticut households that have earnings above the Federal Poverty Level but below a basic cost-of-living. Mr. Porth mentioned that a recent Greenwich Time article provided an update on the ALICE population in Greenwich. He noted that financial hardship is growing in the state and a growing number of people are struggling to meet basic needs. He described the ALICE simulator ([www.makingtoughchoices.org](http://www.makingtoughchoices.org)) which provides people a chance to experience some of the tough choices that these families have to make every single day and how United Way is doing all that it can to help them along the way. His team works hard to put a "face" on ALICE.

**2018 ALICE Executive Summary:** Mr. Porth provided an overview of the report. Reported in 2016, 138 of Connecticut's 169 towns and cities, at least 1 in 5 households as ALICE households. Trends impacting ALICE households: 1) While Connecticut still has one of the highest per capita incomes, the fastest growing jobs have lower pay. 2) The increase in on-demand or project-to-project jobs has given rise to the "gig economy." 3) Shifting to a contingent workforce puts more financial risk on workers. 4) Asset limited is a defining characteristic of ALICE.

The ALICE report recommends both short-term and long-term strategies to help ALICE families. Connecticut United Ways work with community partners and continue to invest in programs and services that will enable ALICE households to achieve a more secure financial future. The four areas of focus are: investing in programs and services, promoting financial security, mobilizing community partners and connecting Connecticut residents to services.

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#GUW\_CommunityPlanningCouncil #WeAreGreenwich

**Next Community Planning Council Meeting:**

Thursday, 10/18, 8:30am, Older Adults: Dementia Friends Greenwich, at Temple Shalom

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