

21 DAY EQUITY CHALLENGE

#UNITEDFOREQUITY – #CREQUITYCHALLENGE

DAY 7: Opportunity in the Capital Region

Of New York State's 7.3 million households, over 1 million (14%) households earned below the Federal Poverty Line and 2.2 million (31%) were ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). These households are struggling to afford basic necessities like housing, child care, food, transportation, and technology, according to the [2020 ALICE Report](#) by the United Way of New York State. These households, also known as ALICE, earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but not enough to cover the basic cost of living, called the ALICE threshold, in their counties. This means that a parent within an ALICE household may 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.

In the Capital Region of New York, these numbers are just as concerning ([2020 ALICE Report](#)).

COUNTY	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	% ALICE & POVERTY
Albany	126,578	40%
Columbia	25,243	36%
Greene	17,117	51%
Rensselaer	64,614	34%
Saratoga	94,156	33%
Schenectady	55,262	45%
Schoharie	12,559	45%

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: Read the [ALICE Report](#) for New York State. Want more information on ALICE and the Capital Region? Check our site [here](#). To learn more about how you can get involved in advocating and creating change for ALICE in New York, click [here](#).

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

Surprised by the data and information found on ALICE? **Spread awareness of ALICE to inform others by sharing on your social media.** Use the hashtags [#unitedforequity](#), [#equitychampions](#), and [#CREquitychallenge](#)

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Questions to Consider for Self-Reflection:

- What feelings came up for you as you explored the ALICE data? What do those feelings tell you about yourself and your beliefs?
- Are you surprised to see so many in your community with less than they need?
- Did your beliefs about race and poverty change? Why or why not?
- How did the data and stories in today's challenge compares with the commonly told story that the United States is a land of opportunity?