



United Way of Pierce County

OUR **BOLD** GOAL  
United, we will lift  
15,000 households  
out of poverty by 2028

*United for  
Change*

Scan the  
QR Code or  
visit [uwpc.org](http://uwpc.org)  
to learn more



To date, through your investments and our community partners,

**9,875 families are moving towards self sufficiency.**

Highlights from our  
**2023 Annual Report**

## Basic Needs

Basic Needs is an essential component of the social safety net. As a result of United Way of Pierce County investments, **130,177** individuals had access to food, shelter and other essentials to help households move from crisis to stability.

**1,122** were served through shelter/housing programs

**497** received behavioral health support

**1,604** received supports to break down barriers to self-sufficiency

**7,132** individuals received culturally appropriate food, social-emotional supports for students, parenting supports and more.

## 211 Help When You Need It Most

South Sound 211 is a free helpline that connects people facing barriers to hundreds of services and programs including utilities, transportation, behavioral health, housing and employment. The helpline supports Pierce, Thurston and Lewis Counties.

**76,529** Total Number of Contacts

**3,201** Connected to Transportation

**7,270** Connected to Rental Assistance

**2,092** Connected to Ride United Rides

**5,041** Connected to Shelter

## Center for Strong Families

Our Center for Strong Families (CSF) network of 22 coaches provided Pierce County individuals and families tools and resources that improve their resiliency by connecting them to living-wage career pathways, solid financial action planning and strategies to reduce debt and build their assets.

**\$1,972** Average Monthly New Income Increase

**\$6,042** Average Increase in Short-Term Savings

**\$21.04** Average Hourly Wage

**2,892** Total Number of CSF Clients served since 2016





Find more information at  
[uwpc.org/ALICE](http://uwpc.org/ALICE)



Scan the QR code above to view United Way of the Pacific Northwest's 2023 ALICE report for Washington and Pierce County to learn more about the racial wealth gap and trends among ALICE in our community.

## Advocacy

At the core of our advocacy is a deeply human mission, driven by often unheard voices. Our Board, Advocacy Committee, community partners, and individuals with lived experiences all contribute significantly.

The recent ALICE report reveals that in Pierce County, one in three households struggle to meet basic needs, with 48.5% of Black households categorized as ALICE and 13% living below the poverty line. These figures demand action.

We champion legislation to dismantle systems perpetuating poverty and inequality, focusing on housing, food equity, and support services. Each legislative victory on housing and disability support brings us closer to a fairer future. **Our focus areas:**

### Basic Needs & Supportive Services

- Housing and Shelter
- South Sound/Washington 211
- Food Equity

### Strong Families

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Guaranteed Basic Income
- Benefits Protection
- Federal Tax Credits/Assistance
- Quality, Affordable Child Care and Early Learning for Families

# Have you met *Alice*?

ALICE® is a United Way acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained and Employed. ALICE families often find innovative ways to get by and navigate issues such as food insecurity, difficulty paying bills, reducing debt and maintaining health care. Living paycheck to paycheck can take a toll on mental health and wellness. Dismantling poverty is not only about programs and services. Understanding and working to shift systems that create wealth disparities ensures our success.

## 107k

107,000 families in Pierce County, many who are hardworking families with children, struggle to make ends meet.

## 57%

More than half of ALICE families do not have enough saved to cover 3 months of living expenses in the case of an emergency or loss of employment.

## Partnerships

Our initiative, **Growing Resilience In Tacoma (GRIT)**, is a collaborative guaranteed basic income program run by UWPC, in partnership with **DSHS, the City of Tacoma and Pierce County**. Starting April 2024, GRIT will be providing \$500 monthly for 12 months to 175 Tacoma ALICE families. Participants are working single head-of-households with children under 18. From our previous GRIT project, we know that families used the dollars to reduce debt, pay for basic needs, increase credit, spend more time with their loved ones, and better their mental health.

UWPC's Center for Strong Families joins **The Siemer Institute** and **Tacoma Housing Authority** to promote two-generation (2-gen) approaches, addressing the needs of both children and adults. Their aim is to foster academic success and break the cycle of poverty through this partnership for generational success.

With United Ways of the Pacific Northwest, we launched **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library** as part of a statewide effort to provide books to children ages 0-5. Last year, 23,500 books were provided to Pierce County kids.

211 expanded our Workforce Development Common Referral System with our new partners, **Nine Line Veterans Services**, bringing a new focus to helping veterans improve their lives through housing, employment, and wellness.

For more info on advocacy and partnerships, visit [uwpc.org](http://uwpc.org).



From Poverty to Possibilities is Pierce County's signature economic equity summit. Our 7th Annual Summit, held on November 14, 2023, was a transformative event. It united community leaders and members to tackle economic equity barriers through open dialogue and systemic change. Keynote speaker, Edgar Villanueva spoke to the over 300 people in attendance.