

THE NEED REMAINS...



- Food Pantries in Macon County have seen a dramatic increase in families seeking food assistance. While 14% of households in Macon County are living below the federal poverty level* and utilize our local food pantries to supplement their food needs, many of these families are seeking assistance for the first time.
- One of the fastest-growing populations using food pantry assistance are ALICE families. We all know people who are ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed – earning more than the Federal Poverty Level, but not enough to afford the basics where they live.
- 26% of families in Macon County are considered ALICE families. This means that 1 in 4 families in Macon County are defined as ALICE Households.

Why are ALICE Families seeking assistance?

- When living paycheck to paycheck, one unexpected expense like a car repair or medical bill could cause a domino effect, leading to that ALICE family falling into poverty.
- With the rising cost of food and household essentials, wages are failing to keep pace.
- The COVID-19 pandemic spurred temporary expansion of public assistance through pandemic relief measures. However, those measures reverted to pre-pandemic levels in 2022. In 2019, 1,661,122 households in Illinois were below the ALICE Threshold; by 2022, that number had changed to 1,839,913. **

*2022 Point In Time Study

**United for ALICE Study of Food Insecurity in Macon County Illinois