

Kent County Department Of Social Services Advisory Board



ALICE Families - Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed

With the cost of living higher than what they earn, ALICE Families Innovation – an acronym for *Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed* – was developed to assist local families that have income above the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), but not high enough to afford a basic household budget that includes housing, childcare, food, transportation, and health care.

According to website unitedforalice.org/Maryland, Kent County has the 3rd greatest percentage of ALICE eligible families of counties in Maryland at 44%, only Allegany and Somerset Counties had a higher percentage.



The Kent County Cares Foundation developed this program to help ALICE Families. Some local families have come to the Department of Social Services for an evaluation to see if they are eligible for benefits. The guidelines are State or Federal and not up to determination by the caseworkers. Despite their best efforts, some families have a little too much income or assets, but clearly would benefit from some assistance. The caseworkers and managers submit a request to the foundation to help these families. The CARES Foundation provides assistance on a one-time basis, for now, to families who fall into this category to help with rent, utilities or childcare.





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A limit of \$500 is provided to each ALICE family for assistance in the payment of these necessities. Currently, foundation funds are limited, but through fundraising and donations and grant opportunities they hope to continue assisting families.



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The ALICE families who receive the benefits from this fund will already have been carefully screened by [Kent County Department of Social Services \(KCDSS\)](#). The Kent County CARES Foundation receives these requests from KCDSS staff and community partners with all identifying information deleted to maintain the anonymity of the families and the payments would be made directly to the landlord, utility compa-



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We believe this is a unique program and unique opportunity to help our neighbors in need.