

## WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO MAKE ENDS MEET?

Family of Four (two adults, one infant, one 3-year-old)

Expense	Palm Beach County	Florida	
	Survival Budget	Survival Budget	Stability Budget
Housing	\$1,206	\$842	\$1,213
Health care	\$506	\$628	\$1,002
Transportation	\$837	\$653	\$1,185
Child care	\$1,147	\$1,015	\$1,300
Food	\$547	\$547	\$1,047
Miscellaneous	\$468	\$408	\$554
Taxes	\$437	\$395	\$913
Savings	\$0	\$0	\$455
<b>MONTHLY TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,148</b>	<b>\$4,488</b>	<b>\$7,670</b>
Annual Total	\$61,776 ( <i>Federal Poverty Level = \$24,600</i> )	\$53,856	\$92,034
Required Hourly Wage	\$30.88 (or \$15.44 per each of 2 adults)	\$26.93 (or \$13.47 per each of 2 adults)	\$46.02 (or \$23.01 per each of 2 adults)

### ALICE and the Household Survival Budget

What does it take for a family of four (two adults, one infant, one 3-year-old) living in Florida—and Palm Beach County specifically—to make ends meet?

The Palm Beach County and Florida Survival Budgets define a standard for temporary sustainability, identifying the minimum cost option for household essentials. Households with income that is above Federal Poverty Level but less than the annual Survival Budget are called ALICE – Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. In Palm Beach County, an ALICE family of four with two young children would have annual income above \$24,600 but below \$61,776.

ALICE households work hard, but don't earn enough to cover even the basics. They cannot set aside savings to cover emergencies, leaving them in a precarious economic situation. ALICE workers are child care providers, bank tellers, home health aides, store clerks, office assistants and other essential employees. In Palm Beach County, 28% of households are ALICE. Added to the 12% in poverty, a total of 40% of households are financially struggling in our community.

The Miscellaneous category, representing about 10% of the total monthly Survival Budgets, is not enough to provide for a family's every need. It could cover some but not all of the following: clothing, household goods, toiletries, diapers, cleaning supplies, cell phones, cable and internet. This category would not include large or unexpected expenses such as car repairs or hospital stays. There would also not be enough for holiday gifts, vacations, birthday parties, toys, or children's activities—things many households take for granted.

Notice that the monthly Palm Beach County Survival Budget is 15% higher overall (\$5,148) compared to the Florida Survival Budget (\$4,488), posing additional challenges for local families. Housing, transportation and child care are among the budget items that cost more in Palm Beach County.

### The Household Stability Budget

What does it take for the same family of four to not just survive, but thrive? The Florida Stability Budget is modest, not extravagant, yet still totals \$7,670 per month, 71% more than the Florida Survival Budget of \$4,488 per month. Only the Stability Budget includes the ability to accrue savings, a crucial component to self-sufficiency.