PORTAGE

A Natural Place to Move

HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

October 2, 2014

CITY OF PORTAGE HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

A G E N D A

Thursday, October 2, 2014
(6:30pm)

Conference Room #1

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

* September 4, 2014

OLD BUSINESS:

* 1. Enhancement of Human Services Information & Referral Update

NEW BUSINESS:

* 1. United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region Presentation of the Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) Report – Peggy Gagen

* 2. Red Ribbon Week (October 23-31, 2014) activities – Board discussion

3. Election of Officers

4. Kalamazoo Transit Authority LAC update – Maye

STATEMENT OF CITIZENS:

ADJOURNMENT:

MATERIALS TRANSMITTED

Star (*) indicates printed material within the agenda packet.

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CITY OF PORTAGE HUMAN SERVICES BOARD
Minutes of Meeting, September 4, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane Durian, Shawn Havens, Effie Kokkinos, Ray LaPoint, Elma (Pat) Maye, Edwin Morgan, and Amanda Woodin.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Woodin moved and Kokkinos supported a motion to excuse Nadeem Mirza and Sandra Sheppard. Motion passed 7-0.

MEMBERS UNEXCUSED: Sharat Kamath (Youth Advisory representative)

STAFF PRESENT: Elizabeth Money, Neighborhood Program Specialist

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Maye moved and Havens supported approval of the minutes as submitted. Motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Enhancement of Human Services Information & Referral: Havens indicated that, based on the research he conducted, the most effective method of dealing with homelessness and panhandling was through education efforts, such as handouts and direct contact, and that making arrests seemed to be the least effective deterrent. LaPoint added that in addition to handouts many communities utilize signs that varied in size between small bus-stop sized signs to billboards. The subjects of the signs varied from where to seek assistance if you are in need to requesting that people do not give to panhandlers. The Board noted that fewer panhandlers were present at the South Westnedge Avenue and I-94 interchange. With regards to the handout being developed, Woodin questioned why the Gospel Mission was the only shelter noted. Staff indicated that anyone could find shelter at the Gospel Mission in an emergency and that they could contact 211 or Portage Community Center during normal business hours to receive help finding another shelter that had space available. Durian asked if the handout was going to be given to people who come into City Hall. Staff indicated that it could be given out at any time but it was generally thought the police and park rangers would utilize them the most by giving them directly to homeless persons and panhandlers. Maye indicated that in her research, Savanah, Georgia has an ordinance similar to ours and they enforce it and provide educational information. The Board asked if there were specific areas of homeless encampments within Portage and if there were any shelters located in Portage and any other service agencies in Portage. Staff indicated there were some areas along the public trails people were prone to staying and a few businesses have had people sleeping on their properties. Further, staff noted the Portage Community Center was the major service agency in the city and they did not provide any shelter. Kokkinos suggested giving the handout to local restaurants and stores that may be frequented by either homeless or panhandling individuals. After a discussion on homeless verses panhandling individuals, the Board indicated that the handout as drafted would likely prove effective at helping those that were actually interested in receiving help.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Red Ribbon Week (October 23-31, 2014) Activities: The Board discussed Red Ribbon Week activities and LaPoint suggested that contacting the Student Councils at each school and requesting 2-3 representatives per school would be a way to incorporate more schools each year. The Board requested that staff contact the Mayor to determine how early he could meet with students before the

meeting and to check if the city had a list of schools and contact numbers for the Board to use. LaPoint volunteered to lead the Board's Red Ribbon Week organizational efforts for this year.

2. Kalamazoo Transit Authority LAC update - Maye: Maye had nothing new to report as they had not met since the last meeting.

STATEMENT OF CITIZENS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business before the Board, Maye moved and Woodin supported adjournment. Motion passed 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Money, Neighborhood Program Specialist

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DRAFT

CITY OF PORTAGE **COMMUNICATION**

TO: Human Services Board **DATE:** September 26, 2014

FROM: Vicki Georgeau, Director of Community Development

SUBJECT: Enhancement of Human Services Information & Referral

Please accept this communication as an update on staff activities regarding enhancements to human services information and referrals.

As indicated in September, the attached article on the *Human Services Information & Referral Resources* will appear in the October edition of the *Portager*. Furthermore, the brochure referenced in the article has been updated and is on the city website and available for distribution.

Finally, attached is the final version of the *Quick Reference Help Guide* which has been printed. The cards will be distributed to city staff and training provided on both the brochure and guide. Training is being developed with the assistance of Gryphon Place and it is anticipated the training will occur in late October or early November.

It is recommended that Board Chair Sandra Sheppard present an update to the City Council on Board activities with regards to this matter on October 21, 2014.

Neighborhood Program Specialist Money will be in attendance at the October 2, 2014 meeting to assist the Board with questions or comments in regard to this matter.

Attachments: *Portager* article
Draft *Quick Reference Help Guide*

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Portager

October 2014

PORTAGE
A Natural Place to Move

7900 South Westnedge Avenue
Portage, Michigan 49002
www.portagemi.gov

How to Help Individuals In Need, In Crisis or Conflict

Do you know a Portage resident or other citizen that is struggling with meeting basic human needs, or someone in crisis or conflict? The City of Portage has provided annual grants for more than 20 years to human service agencies that provide housing, food and other assistance to Portage citizens in need. More recently, the City of Portage Human Services Board developed a Human Services Information & Referral Resources brochure to:

- help organizations within the community direct individuals to the services that can best meet their needs and
- guide those seeking assistance to "portals" or mainstream human service providers where information or direct assistance can be obtained.

The brochure is available at several locations including City Hall, the Portage Senior Center, the Portage District Library and the Portage Community Center. The brochure is also available on the City of Portage website at two locations: ***www.portagemi.gov*** > *Board and Commissions > Human Services Board* – and – ***www.portagemi.gov*** > *Departments > Community Development.*

Individuals in need are also encouraged to dial 2-1-1 to reach Gryphon Place, which serves as the primary access point or "portal" to information concerning a wide range of human services available in the community. In addition, the city has had a long standing partnership with the Portage Community Center as the primary human service agency located within the city. Call 323-1942 or visit the Portage Community Center, centrally located in the city at 325 East Centre Avenue, for assistance.

For additional information, contact the Department of Community Development at 329-4477.

Need Assistance Preparing Your Home For Winter?

Fall has arrived but it's not too late to prepare your home for winter. Funding is available to assist Portage homeowners with a variety of improvements such as insulation, roof and gutters, windows and doors, furnace repair or replacement and other interior and exterior repairs.

Eligible homeowners can obtain a low interest or no interest deferred loan to complete repairs. Deferred loans do not require annual payments as long as the home is owner occupied. To qualify, household income must be at or below the income levels listed to the right.

Please call the Department of Community Development at 329-4477 for more information and an application form today.

Household Size	Maximum Income
1 person	$33,200
2 person	$37,950
3 person	$42,700
4 person	$47,400
5 person	$51,200
6 person	$55,000
7 person	$58,800
8 person	$62,600

Home Improvement Contractors Wanted

The City of Portage is seeking licensed contractors to participate in the Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program. This program is funded by a Community Development Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In an effort to improve housing and neighborhoods, the city facilitates the completion of home improvements between homeowners and contractors. Licensed contractors interested in participating are encouraged to contact the Department of Community Development at 329-4477 for more information and a Contractor Registration form.

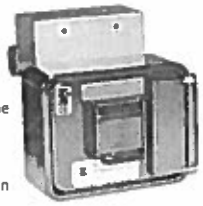
Portage Celebrates Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week is October 5 - 11, 2014! The Portage Department of Public Safety – Fire Division will visit schools to conduct puppet shows during the week and will hold an open house on Saturday, October 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Fire Station 1, 7830 Shaver Road. The open house will feature fire safety events and demonstrations, as well as displays of public safety equipment. Sparky and Sniffer will be on hand, along with plenty of fun activities for kids.

The theme for the 2014 Fire Prevention Week is *Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives*. The Portage Fire Division takes this opportunity to remind residents to test smoke alarms every month and change the batteries every six months. When changing the batteries, it is important to clean the smoke alarm by vacuuming it or blowing compressed air over the sensor, then push the test button to ensure it functions properly. The life expectancy of a standard smoke alarm is 8-10 years, after which time it should be replaced.

Knox Box Rapid Entry Systems

Not Just for Businesses Anymore



Imagine receiving a phone call from a public safety dispatcher telling you that the fire alarm in your home is sounding. Then imagine that you are 30 miles away. Do you ask the dispatcher to tell the firefighters to kick in your front door? Do you ask them to wait until you are there to unlock the front door? Neither is a great option.

The International Fire Code requires all businesses to be equipped with a Knox Box Rapid Entry System, providing firefighters entry to the building in the event of an emergency without the need to force entry and potentially damage the property. Now, the Knox Box Rapid Entry System is available for residential homes, with cost-effective purchase options.

The residential Knox Box is a high-security, UL listed key safe that only Portage firefighters can access. Emergency responders can respond quickly to an emergency or a false alarm without forcing entry by simply removing the entrance key stored inside the Knox Box. Having access to an entry key also significantly reduces the time needed to reach a person in need of medical assistance who may not be able to open the door for a first responder.

Residential Knox Boxes can be purchased from the Knox Company at ***http://www.knoxbox.com/store/Knox-Box-1650-Residential-Series.cfm***. The Portage Fire Division recommends the over-the-door models #1659 or #1651. After receiving the Knox Box, residents may take the box, along with a house key, to the Fire Station 1, where the house key will be locked inside the Knox Box. Then simply mount the box in the desired location. (Surface or recessed mounted options will require the Fire Marshal to lock the key in the box once it has been mounted on the home.) Please contact the City of Portage Fire Marshal at 329-4486 with questions or for more information.

PORTAGE
A Natural Place to Move

This *Quick Reference Help Guide* is intended to help citizens connect with resources that may assist with meeting basic human needs, including: health and safety, food, housing and more.

This guide was prepared by the City of Portage in partnership with the organizations listed.

NEED HELP NOW?

For Life Threatening Emergencies:

- Dial 9-1-1
  Available 24 hours per day, every day

For Suicide Intervention:

- Dial 381-HELP (381-4357)
  Available 24 hours per day, every day

NEED HELP WITH BASIC NEEDS?

- Dial 2-1-1

Or Visit of Call:

- ***Portage Community Center***
  325 East Centre Avenue, Portage
  Phone: 323-1942
  Open Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For mail, phone or internet access, visit
Ministry with Community, 440 North Church Street, Kalamazoo

HUNGRY?

For Free Meals, Visit or Call:

- ***Ministry with Community***
  440 North Church Street, Kalamazoo
  Phone: 343-6073
  Open daily, 6:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., serving breakfast and lunch

For Free Food, Visit or Call:

- ***Portage Community Center***
  325 East Centre Avenue, Portage
  Phone: 323-1942
  Open Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

NEED SHELTER OR HOUSING?

For Nightly Shelter, Visit:

- ***Kalamazoo Gospel Mission***
  448 North Burdick Street, Kalamazoo
  Phone: 345-2974
  Open daily, 6 a.m. - 9 p.m. For shelter, arrive before 9 p.m.
  Also serves 3 meals daily.

For Housing, Visit the "Housing Hour"

- ***Housing Resources, Inc.***
  420 East Alcott Street, Kalamazoo - Phone: 382-0287
  Every Wednesday at 4 p.m.

FOR OTHER HELP, VISIT OR CALL

- ***Ministry with Community***
  440 North Church Street, Kalamazoo - Phone: 343-6073
- ***Michigan Department of Human Services***
  322 Stockbridge Avenue, Kalamazoo - Phone: 337-4900
- ***Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services***
  3299 Gull Road, Kalamazoo - Phone: 373-5200
- ***Kalamazoo Community Mental Health & Substance Abuse Service***
  418 West Kalamazoo Avenue, Kalamazoo
  Phone: 1-888-373-6200

CITY OF PORTAGE **COMMUNICATION**

TO: Human Services Board **DATE:** September 26, 2014

FROM: Vicki Georgeau, Director of Community Development

SUBJECT: United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region – Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) Report

The United Ways of Michigan have recently prepared a comprehensive report entitled Asset Limited, Income Contained, Employed (ALICE). The ALICE report is part of a nation-wide initiative conducted by the United Way, which focuses research on low-income populations and, in particular, the working poor.

The United Way's Michigan ALICE report is for the entire state, but Peggy Gagen, Associate Director of Community Investment from the United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region, will present information that focuses on the Kalamazoo-Portage area during the October 2nd Board meeting.

Enclosed is the Executive Summary and Kalamazoo County Summary page from the ALICE report. Please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the attached materials. The full report is available online at www.unitedwayalice.org/michigan.

Attachments: Excerpt from the Michigan ALICE Report

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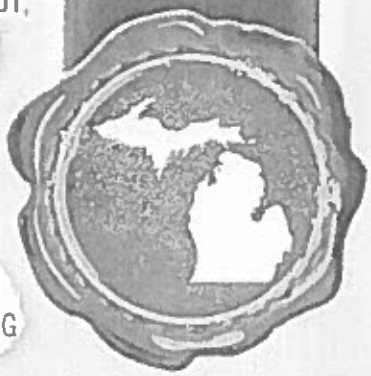
ALICE

ASSET LIMITED, INCOME CONSTRAINED, EMPLOYED

MICHIGAN

ALABAMA, ALASKA, ARIZONA, ARKANSAS, **CALIFORNIA**, COLORADO, **CONNECTICUT**, DELAWARE, **FLORIDA**, GEORGIA, HAWAII, IDAHO, ILLINOIS, **INDIANA**, IOWA, KANSAS, KENTUCKY, LOUISIANA, MAINE, MARYLAND, MASSACHUSETTS, **MICHIGAN**, MINNESOTA, MISSISSIPPI, MISSOURI, MONTANA, NEBRASKA, NEVADA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, **NEW JERSEY**, NEW MEXICO, NEW YORK, NORTH CAROLINA, NORTH DAKOTA, OHIO, OKLAHOMA, OREGON, PENNSYLVANIA, RHODE ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, SOUTH DAKOTA, TENNESSEE, TEXAS, UTAH, VERMONT, VIRGINIA, WASHINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA, WISCONSIN, WYOMING



September 2014

STUDY OF FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

United Ways of Michigan

UnitedWayALICE.org/Michigan

LIVE UNITED

United Way

UNITED WAYS IN MICHIGAN

Albion-Homer United Way
Allegan County United Way
Barry County United Way
Branch County United Way
Capital Area United Way
Char-Em United Way
Cheboygan County United Way
Chelsea United Way
Copper Country United Way
Crawford County United Way
Eaton County United Way
Gogebic Range United Way
Greater Huron County United Way
Greater Ottawa County United Way
Heart of West Michigan United Way
Lenawee United Way
Livingston County United Way
Marshall United Way
Mecosta-Osceola United Way
Ogemaw County United Way
Oscoda Area United Way
Otsego County United Way
Plymouth Community United Way
Roscommon County United Way
Shiawassee United Way
St. Joseph County United Way
Tri-City Area United Way
United Way for Southeastern Michigan
United Way of Bay County
United Way of Clare and Gladwin Counties
United Way of Delta County
United Way of Dickinson County
United Way of Eastern Upper Peninsula
United Way of Genesee County
United Way of Gratiot County
United Way of Isabella County
United Way of Jackson County
United Way of Lapeer County
United Way of Manistee County
United Way of Marquette County
United Way of Mason County
United Way of Midland County
United Way of Monroe County
United Way of Montcalm-Ionia Counties
United Way of Northeast Michigan
United Way of Northwest Michigan
United Way of Saginaw County
United Way of Sanilac County
United Way of Southwest Michigan
United Way of St. Clair County
United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region
United Way of the Lakeshore
United Way of Tuscola County
United Way of Washtenaw County
United Way of Wexford & Missaukee Counties
Van Buren County United Way

This report was powered by CMS Energy.

NATIONAL ALICE ADVISORY COUNCIL

The following companies are major funders and supporters of the United Way *ALICE Project*.

AT&T | Atlantic Health System | Deloitte | Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation | UPS

NOTE: In addition to the corporate sponsorships, this Report was made possible by the United Ways noted above.

LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear Michiganders,

We all saw the physical devastation that Hurricane Katrina brought to New Orleans in 2005, and we watched Superstorm Sandy pummel the Northeast seven years later. But the effects of other types of storms aren't always quite as clear. A decade-long economic decline capped by the Great Recession hit Michigan's communities with hurricane force, hobbling the auto industry, bruising wages, and destabilizing families statewide.

No one has been hit harder by that gale than ALICE. **ALICE** is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed – those among us who are working, often at more than one job, yet still falling behind. No matter how hard these Michiganders try, they can't get ahead; and as you will learn in the pages of this Report, all of Michigan's communities ultimately pay a price for that. There was a time in my life when ALICE was me. I grew up on a family-run potato farm, and I saw how much of their lives and energies my father and his brother put into that. But perhaps the biggest challenge we faced came in the 1980s, when my father left farming to work as a welder. Thanks to the strength of our family structure, we made it through that transition, but I saw ALICE often in those years. Without enough educational opportunities, and faced with barriers at every level, from income to child care to transportation, ALICE families struggled then as they struggle now.

The magnitude of that struggle in Michigan is greater than most of us imagine. What we learned about ALICE in the process of creating this Report is startling: today, **40 percent of Michigan households earn too little to provide for basic needs**, and nearly two-thirds of jobs statewide pay less than $20 per hour. Changing the lives of ALICE families in Michigan means keeping three things in mind:

Michigan is vast. From our southeast corner to the tip of the Upper Peninsula is a 12-hour drive. Measuring need and providing services to households across that area – including those in small, isolated rural communities – is an enormous challenge.

Michigan is varied. Ask out-of-staters about Michigan and they tend to think of Detroit; yet the state's geographic, demographic, and economic variety is astounding. One-fourth of the state's population lives in rural areas.

One-third of the city of Dearborn claims Arab heritage, and the four-county area around Detroit boasts one of the largest Arab populations outside the Middle East. And Michigan's economy, built on a backbone of manufacturing industries, now extends far beyond that core, with major universities, a $91.4 billion agriculture industry, and a newly burnished focus on "Pure Michigan" tourism and recreation.

Michigan was built by workers. Think of the successes driven by the labor movement in the U.S., which created phenomenal overall gains for families across the country. Michigan's goal now is to make the state more of an economic destination, rebuilding wage levels and, especially, creating more urban job opportunities for young adults – people in their twenties and thirties who will be the future of Michigan's workforce.

To accomplish any of this, we have to go back to our roots, to our most basic beliefs about opportunity. If two adults in a family both work full-time, should their income be enough to cover their bills? By getting to know ALICE in the pages of this Report, I hope that we can come closer to having a common language to describe the lives of this group of workers and the challenges that they face. And I hope that readers come to realize what a key role ALICE plays in all of our lives, every day – teaching our children at preschool, getting food to our tables, providing the array of services that make Michigan run for all who live here.

By strengthening ALICE individuals and households, we fortify all of Michigan's communities. With this Report, we look forward to taking the first significant step on that path.

Sincerely,

Scott Dzurka, *President and CEO, Michigan Association of United Ways*

THE ALICE PROJECT

ALICE

Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed

Though we have chosen a woman's name, this population is comprised of households with men and women alike, and includes children and seniors.

United Way is committed to ensuring that our communities are viable places to live and work. To do that, we promote current research, community dialogue, and data-driven policy solutions. These elements form the basis of one of United Way's broadest and fastest-growing initiatives – the United Way *ALICE Project.*

ALICE was coined by United Way in 2009 after a pilot research project looked at the low-income population in affluent Morris County, one of the five founding communities which merged in 2011 to become United Way of Northern New Jersey. The original study focused primarily on data from 2007, largely before the effects of the economic downturn, known as the Great Recession, were widespread.

The value of this research was immediately evident: ALICE became a part of the common vernacular in Morris County, helping define a need and a focus for United Way's work. ALICE also began to appear in many grant applications, in the media, and in public forums discussing need in this "wealthy" community.

It quickly became clear that ALICE extended far beyond the borders of Morris County. In 2011 United Way commissioned a second ALICE study looking at all counties in New Jersey. That Report relied primarily on data collected in 2007 and 2010, measuring the impact of the Great Recession and offering a broader illustration of the challenges ALICE households face.

The Report's findings were stark: ***fully 30 percent of New Jersey households earned too little to provide basic necessities, and more than half the state's jobs paid less than $20 an hour.***

With the forecast for low-wage jobs to continue to dominate the job market, the reality is that ALICE will continue to play an integral role in our communities for the foreseeable future. That is why ALICE has become a central part of all aspects of United Way's work.

Now the *ALICE Project* has expanded to five additional states, with ALICE Reports being released in California, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Michigan and New Jersey. The baseline information established in New Jersey's 2012 study allows these new Reports to compare our progress as the country's economic conditions continue to change and, in some cases, improve.

We challenge stakeholders in every state to consider the ALICE Reports and their measures as an opportunity for a new dialogue around how to make our communities viable places to live and work. As more and more states embrace ALICE, our hope is that this Report and its companions can serve as a model for the nation.

ALICE RESEARCH

About Rutgers University-Newark's School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA)

In developing the *ALICE Project*, United Way has partnered with Rutgers University-Newark's School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA), an educational leader in government and non-profit management and governance. Ranked 10th nationally in public management and administration, SPAA promotes an ethics-based performance approach to effective, equitable, and accountable policy implementation through its innovative and comprehensive undergraduate, professional and graduate degrees and certificate programs. The school's faculty generates knowledge and best practices in public service and administration, and collaborates with public and nonprofit sector organizations and professionals throughout the U.S. and the world. Guided by the principles of knowledge, competence, diversity, and service – with an emphasis on public service values and competencies for effective performance – SPAA promotes accountability, transparency, and performance in the public and nonprofit sectors.

The ALICE Research Team

Stephanie Hoopes Halpin, Ph.D., assistant professor at the School of Public Affairs and Administration, Rutgers-Newark, and lead researcher and author of the United Way ALICE Report

Assisted by:

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Jyoti Punjab
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ALICE Research Advisory Council for Michigan

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Special Thanks to Michigan Tax Advisor

Marshall J. Hunt, CPA, Director, Tax Services, Accounting Aid Society

ALICE IN KALAMAZOO COUNTY

Population: 254,580 | **Number of Households:** 100,789
Median Household Income: $44,306 (state average: $46,859)
Unemployment Rate: 7.1% (state average: 9.1%)
Gini Coefficient (zero = equality; one = inequality): 0.48 (state average: 0.46)

How many households are struggling?

ALICE, an acronym for **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed, are households that earn more than the U.S. poverty level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county. Combined, the number of poverty and ALICE households equals the total population struggling to afford basic needs.

Poverty	ALICE		Above ALICE
17,245 HH	24,141 HH	STRUGGLING	59,403 HH
17%	24%		59%

What are the economic conditions?

The **Economic Viability Dashboard** evaluates community conditions for ALICE in three core areas. Each is an index with a scale of 1 (worst) to 100 (best).

Housing Affordability	Job Opportunities	Community Support
poor (40)	fair (58)	good (63)

What does it cost to afford the basic necessities?

This bare-minimum budget does not allow for any savings, leaving a household vulnerable to unexpected expenses. Affording only a very modest living in each community, this budget is still significantly more than the U.S. poverty rate of $11,170 for a single adult and $23,050 for a family of four.

Household Survival Budget, Kalamazoo County

	SINGLE ADULT	FAMILY (INFANT AND PRE-K)
Housing	$530	$688
Child care	$-	$1,201
Food	$196	$592
Transportation	$341	$681
Health care	$130	$518
Miscellaneous	$133	$400
Taxes	$133	$319
Monthly total	$1,462	$4,399
ANNUAL TOTAL	$17,547	$52,786
Hourly wage	$8.77	$26.39

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and state Treasury, and ChildCare Aware, 2012; American Community Survey, 1 year estimate.

Kalamazoo County, 2012

Town	Total HH	% ALICE & Poverty
Alamo Township	1,394	29%
Brady Township	1,582	27%
Charleston Township	711	23%
Climax Township	887	28%
Comstock Charter Township	6,112	33%
Cooper Charter Township	3,954	25%
Galesburg City	744	44%
Kalamazoo Charter Township	9,925	45%
Kalamazoo City	27,971	56%
Oshtemo Charter Township	9,790	44%
Parchment City	845	49%
Pavilion Township	2,200	33%
Portage City	19,058	31%
Prairie Ronde Township	827	19%
Richland Township	2,780	26%
Ross Township	1,844	19%
Schoolcraft Township	3,305	32%
Texas Charter Township	4,916	16%
Wakeshma Township	525	30%

NOTE: Municipal-level data may not match county-level data; municipal-level data often relies on 3- and 5-year averages; is not available for the smallest towns that don't report income, and may overlap with Census Designated Places (CDP).

NATIONAL RED RIBBON PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, tobacco, alcohol and other drug usage among young people is a serious concern; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that visible, unified prevention education efforts by community members be launched to reduce the demand for drugs; and

WHEREAS, the National Family Partnership, the Red Ribbon Coalition, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Students Against Drunk Driving, Portage Public Schools and the Kalamazoo County Substance Abuse Task Force are sponsoring the National Red Ribbon Campaign offering citizens the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to drug-free lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, the National Red Ribbon Campaign will be celebrated in communities throughout America during **"Red Ribbon Week," October 23-31, 2014** and

WHEREAS, business, government, law enforcement, schools, religious institutions, service organizations, youth, physicians, senior citizens, the military, sports teams, and individuals will demonstrate their commitment to drug-free, healthy lifestyles by wearing and displaying red ribbons during this week-long campaign; and

WHEREAS, the community of Portage further commits its resources to ensure the success of the Red Ribbon Campaign.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Peter J. Strazdas, Mayor of the City of Portage, Michigan, do hereby proclaim the week of October 23-31, 2014, as **RED RIBBON WEEK**, and encourage Portage citizens to participate in drug prevention education activities, showing our commitment to a drug-free community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the **City Council of the City of Portage** encourages all citizens to pledge: **My choice.....Drug-Free.**

Signed this 21st day of October 2014

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Peter J. Strazdas, Mayor