

NORTHWOOD TECH DEMOGRAPHICS

Income and Social Implications

The ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) project strives to provide data in an effort to identify and communicate the needs of people and communities to allow local change-makers to understand, measure, and advance change to improve the lives of Wisconsin residents and community members. ALICE households are those that earn more than the federal poverty level but less than the basic cost of living for the county. Within the 11 counties in the Northwood Tech district, 51,313 households earned less than the basic costs of living in 2016.

According to the ALICE project of the United Way, in 2018, the average poverty rate in the 11 counties served by Northwood Tech was 12%, with a range of 6% (Polk, St. Croix) to 17% (Burnett), indicating Northwood Tech was enrolling a representative portion of the population experiencing poverty. Across the Northwood Tech district and Wisconsin, households struggle to afford necessities of housing, childcare, health care, food, and transportation.

Northwood Tech's student population also reflects these concerns. Food and housing insecurities affect almost half of the undergraduate students at Northwood Tech. In 2016, 47.9% of students reported some form of housing insecurity within the previous six months and 45% of students reported having limited or uncertain availability of adequate or safe food (Wisconsin HOPE Lab, 2016). As awareness of this issue has grown, the Northwood Tech Foundation has started to support Nutrition Assistance efforts at Northwood Tech campuses and build on Emergency Assistance programs. It is important to note that most students work while attending school.

2018 ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Project

| County | # of Households | % of Households that classify as ALICE Households | Poverty Rate | Basic Cost of Living* per Month |
|-----------|-----------------|---|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Ashland | 6,670 | 31% | 15% | \$956 |
| Barron | 19,017 | 31% | 12% | \$1,025 |
| Bayfield | 6,798 | 26% | 11% | \$956 |
| Burnett | 7,308 | 25% | 17% | \$956 |
| Douglas | 18,538 | 27% | 16% | \$1,001 |
| Iron | 2,954 | 26% | 15% | \$913 |
| Polk | 18,188 | 24% | 6% | \$1,163 |
| Rusk | 6,245 | 29% | 16% | \$958 |
| Sawyer | 7,488 | 27% | 15% | \$975 |
| St. Croix | 33,460 | 25% | 6% | \$1,163 |
| Washburn | 7,151 | 27% | 12% | \$1,006 |

<https://unitedwaywi.site-ym.com/general/custom.asp?page=ALICEbyCounty&DGPCrSrt=&DGPCrPg=1>

*Basic Cost of Living = Food, Housing, Transportation for a Single Adult

