



COMMUNITY A.L.I.C.E. TASK FORCE

Objective: To bring together a cross-section of the community (business, government, nonprofits, faith-based) to understand the challenges facing the ALICE population (ALICE = **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed) and determine possible projects the task force can advocate for and/or pursue.

Who is A.L.I.C.E ?– anyone employed and working hard but still struggling to make ends meet and earn enough to get from month to month. Often there is little leftover for things like savings, preventative maintenance, home ownership, quality childcare, etc. **Learn more about North Idaho’s ALICE population, their unique needs, and their importance to our community.** - unitedwayofnorthidaho.org/alice

FEBRUARY ACTION BULLETIN

• PROFESSIONAL/PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT/JOB TRAINING

- Express Employment Professionals is offering a ‘2nd Chance’ Program for those who struggle to be employable due to lack of positive references, time out of the workforce, or discouragement with the job search. Attend 3 classes, be on time, and participate to receive a certificate of re-employability, a letter of reference, and access to client benefits. For more information call (208) 667-5627 or go to www.expresspros.com
- INSPIRE ID is a partnership between the University of Idaho, Innovation Collective and a Leading Industry Partner to deliver high-end skills to achieve upward mobility. Participants will receive custom training and a badge in Swift app development to compete in this multi-trillion dollar industry. Local employers are invited to sponsor/scholarship employees to receive this training. Classes held at Harbor Center and Innovation Den, dates TBD. MacBook Ai laptop required to complete the program (UofI will provide loaners). Contact Wanda Quinn at wquinn@uidaho.edu.
- CDA Vision 2030 and Department of Labor has a Soft Skills Training program available for the community. Your church could host or sponsor a training to help workers improve their employability and promotability. Contact Steve Wilson with the CDA Chamber of Commerce or Vicki Isakson at the Idaho Department of Labor for a list of local class locations.

• LEGAL SERVICES

- Legal services at reduced rates (40-59% based on income) available for divorce, child custody, wills and estates, small claims under \$5000, guardianships, adoptions, landlord/tenant (both), elder abuse, small business and self-employed contracts and

contract disputes. Contact non-profit law firm Attorneys Northwest at 208-664-1139 or attorneysnw.com.

- **CHILDCARE & SCHOOL**

- If your child attends SD271 and your family is experiencing transition or instability with housing they may qualify to receive help with transportation to their current school, meals and learning resources. Contact the Hope on the Homefront program through the McKinney-Vento Program 1400 N. Northwood Center Ct. Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814 Phone: 208.664.8241 x1061
- Early Head Start – ALICE population below 130% of Federal Poverty Line can free receive weekly home visits from a family consultant for help with parenting skills, early education and development, screenings and assessments and connection to community resources. Centers in CDA, Rathdrum, Sandpoint and Shoshone County provide playgroups, classes and seminars. Those who share housing could be automatically eligible. Apply online at msehs.org.
- Kindergarten Preparedness: the Ready! For Kindergarten program offers free workshops, learning targets, and take-home activities and tools equip parents and caregivers to help toddlers and young children develop early literacy, math and social-emotional skills for success in school. Three workshops per year are offered to Parents/grandparents/caregivers of children 2-5 (before kindergarten) who will attend school in Coeur d'Alene, Post Falls, or Lakeland school district. Learn more at readyforkindergarten.org/unitedwaynorthidaho

- **FINANCES**

- Tax Services - 1 and 5 people who qualify for earned income tax credit and \$2-3000 refund don't apply for it. AARP Tax Aide is a program sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service and the AARP Foundation that assists low to moderate income taxpayers with the preparation and submittal of their income tax returns each year. This assistance is provided to the taxpayer at no cost. Volunteer counselors assist over 5000 of your neighbors with the preparation and submittal of their tax returns each year. You can be a part of the growing program, enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow volunteers and participate in the "fun" of providing assistance to our neighbors. Contact Warren Fisher at 1-208-765-6589 or warrenfisher@prodigy.net

- **HOUSING**

- Available rental properties currently are less than 1/2% of community inventory, with rents increasing and often requiring high application fees. This is forcing more in ALICE population to get trailers or live in unsafe housing and neighborhoods. Some are hearing reports of a possible predatory practice of receiving a rental application and assessing an application fee even if landlord/manager knows there are no available units. This is illegal. Report to Better Business Bureau Idaho at bbb.org/northwest