

# A.L.I.C.E.

## ASSET LIMITED, INCOME CONSTRAINED, EMPLOYED HOUSEHOLD SURVIVAL GAME INSTRUCTIONS

### Who is ALICE?

- ALICE stands for Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed. These are individuals and families in our community who work hard but still struggle to cover basic needs. Living paycheck to paycheck, one unexpected crisis can push them into financial hardship.
- The ALICE Survival Game illustrates the daily challenges faced by 26% of Kansans. While the activity is eye-opening during a United Way campaign, for many of our friends, neighbors, and co-workers, these choices are a harsh reality.
- United Way programs—like the 2-1-1 Resource Center—provide vital assistance when emergencies happen. By giving to United Way, you help strengthen the four pillars that support ALICE families across Kansas: Youth Opportunity, Financial Security, Healthy Community, and Community Resiliency.

### Supplies

- 1 roll of Smarties (or 12–15 small tokens) per player = monthly budget
- ALICE board (one per player)
- Unforeseen Emergency Cards

### How to Play

1. Give each player tokens and an ALICE board.
2. Players represent a family of four (two working parents, two kids ages 7 & 12).
3. Build a budget: place 1–3 tokens per column (minimum one each).
4. Discuss choices: why did they prioritize certain expenses?
5. Draw an Unforeseen Emergency Card and remove tokens as instructed.
6. Reorganize the budget—must still keep at least one token per column.
7. Discuss: How did the crisis change their priorities?
8. Continue drawing cards as needed.

👉 Remember: You can't "win" this game. But by donating to United Way, you help ALICE families survive and thrive.

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## Household Survival Game






















You are a family of four with two children ages 7 & 2. Both parents work full time. You must have at least **ONE** token in each column.

How will you spend your money?

Asset.  
Limited.

Income.  
Constrained.

Employed.

						
 You walk or boke everywhere because there is no public transportation available.	 You leave your children alone at home with the older sibling in charge.	 You have 1 unbalanced meal per-day with foods found at convenience stores or fast food locations.	 You stay in a long-term hotel rental with 1 bathroom. There is no patio, year, parking or cooking amenities	 You do not have health insurance so you pay for all medical expenses yourself.	 Any savings is spent on necessities leaving nothing for a rainy day.	 You have a convenience store within walking distance, but no major shopping within 20 miles.
 You walk, bike, or take public transportation when you need to go anywhere.	 You place your children in an unlicensed child-care facility in person's home.	 You have 2 unbalanced meal per-day made up of prepackaged or ready-to-eat options	 You lease a 2 bedroom apartment with 1 bathroom, covered patio, covered parking and full kitchen.	 You have limited health insurance for yourself through your employer, but no coverage for your family.	 You manage to save \$20 each week after the 5 <sup>th</sup> other survival items are covered	 You have a grocery store 10 blocks away and a mini-mall within a mile.
 You finance your own automobile so you can travel anywhere you choose when you need.	 You enroll your children in a licensed child care facility with early learning opportunities for your children.	 You have 3 home cooked or well prepared & balanced meals per-day with snacks	 You own a 2 bedroom, 1 ½ bath home with a fenced yard, 2 car garage, full kitchen and laundry room.	 You have full medical, dental, and vision coverage for your entire family through your employer.	 You manage to save \$50 a week after the 5 <sup>th</sup> other survival items are covered.	 You have convenient access to 2 grocery stores and a large mall within walking distance.

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## Unforeseen Emergencies



Your closest store is closing and you have to travel farther for household items.

**LOSE** 



Your current Transportation is no longer reliable and you must change it.

**LOSE** 



Pay your utilities, phone and cable bills that came due all at the same time.

**LOSE** 



You have to buy new school uniforms and professional work attire.

**LOSE** 



Elderly parents need your attention and you must take time off to care for them.

**LOSE** 



A night in the emergency room with a sick child has set you back.

**LOSE**  



Your Childcare situation has changed and you must make adjustments.

**LOSE**  



The price of food increases and your budget gets tight.

**LOSE**  



Your roof started to leak after a bad storm and ruined some of your belongings.

**LOSE**   



Long term unemployment has taken its toll on your family.

**LOSE** 