



BY ALEXANDRIA CITY HIGH SCHOOL



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TOPIC

Providing rent/utility aid to lower class individuals.

TOPIC DESCRIPTION

We are planning on helping lower class individuals who tend to live paycheck to paycheck or worse. We will do this by collaborating with non-profits and advocating for discounts/reductions of rent when requested and shown proof.

RESULT

Instead of people having to worry about whether or not they'll be able to afford rent every month, we will be able to relieve that stress from off their shoulders and ensure they live comfortably.

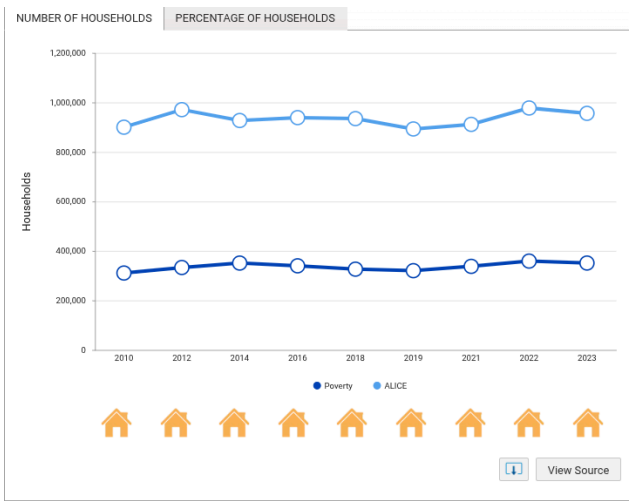


CYCP GOAL AND STRATEGIC AREA

Which of the Children and Youth Master Plan Goals Does this Align With? Which strategic area?

SIGNIFICANCE

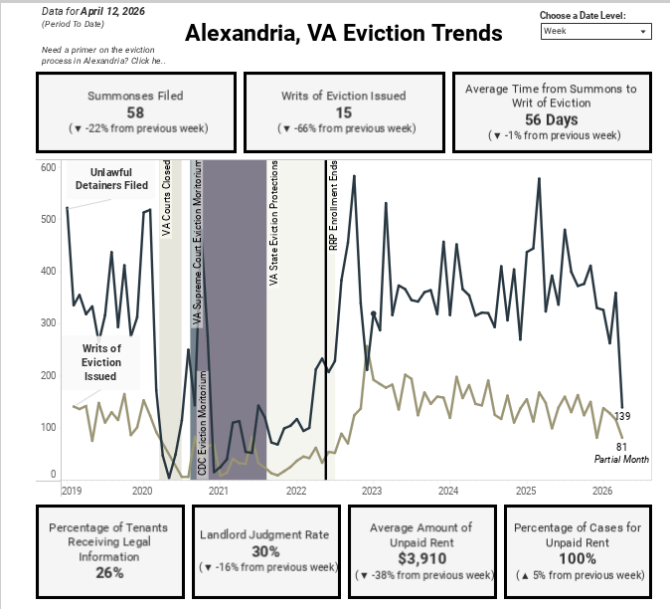
The reason this result should matter is because around 57% of individuals in the U.S are living paycheck-to-paycheck. According to United for Alice's most recent statistic on Virginia, there is roughly around 351,398 people living in poverty and 956,236 living on ALICE. Those individuals who are on ALICE are just above the poverty line yet still struggle on deciding what bills they should pay and which can wait. This affects mental health and adds significant stress. Our goal is to provide help to those who are in the midst of receiving an eviction notice.



ALICE GRAPH SHOWING ALICE AND POVERTY TRENDS

HOW ARE WE DOING?

According to Alexandria Eviction Trends in the year of 2026 there has been 462 Writs of Evictions Issued. From the year 2022 Evictions noticed spiked due to the bill HB 7001 being removed. The HB 7001 provided homes the ability to apply for rental assistance by informing the owner or landlord 14 days before receiving an eviction notice. This bill greatly decreased the number of eviction notices for people but was later removed because there was no national emergency anymore (COVID-19)



IMPLEMENTATION

The actions that me and my group can take are advocating for HB 7001 to be brought back. We could also collaborate with non-profits and churches to gain the resources to help people with rental assistance. The main struggle individuals tend to come across is the application process for rental assistance. We have discovered that many of the rental assistance programs are short staffed and do not have enough funds to allocate. To fix this we can reach out and promote the careers to people, go to career fests and spread the word, and we can collaborate with charities or the government to ensure we receive enough state funding.

PARTNERSHIPS

- United for Alice
- City of Alexandria
- Lazarus Ministry
- St. Vincent de paul at Basilica of St. Mary



PERFORMANCE EFFORT

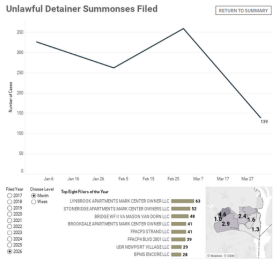
Our goal is to spread awareness on where to get financial aid for rent/utilities. We want to make efforts into helping people on ALICE, People on ALICE are our main focus due to people in poverty receiving more aid compared to those in ALICE. Though people in poverty are in more need, people in ALICE are overlooked. To prevent this we will voice where to get aid and also collaborate with the state government for funds as well as non-profits to help us achieve our goal. We want to ensure the process for receiving help is easy but still maintains the people’s integrity when requesting aid.

PERFORMANCE EFFECT

Some barrier we could possibly come across is a wall in funding. Funding plays are the most important in allocating resources for many families. We can also come across a hurdle of people not knowing about the financial assistance being provided. Our goal is to spread awareness of what financial aid to get and where to get it. We also need to advocate for careers in the cost of living industry. We are lacking workers which makes the process too lengthy to reaching out in career fairs would increase workers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Our policy recommendations are that individuals will not have to go through a lengthy process to receive minimum financial assistance. Are goal is to ensure families will be able to receive fair treatment while providing the required sources of demonstration of financial need. We want to prevent families from receiving eviction notices and through our policy we will lower the rate of eviction notices in Virginia. To meet our policy recommendations we want to push HB 7001 back into a legislation because when Virginia had the legislation eviction notices were the lowest they have been for years.



ONLINE

- One source that helped me extremely was the City of Alexandria Eviction Trends. It gave me a lot of information on the amount of families that have received evictions and the trends of the evictions n the past few years.
- Another source that was super useful was Legiscan. I was able to view new legislation and old ones that applied to my topic. I was able to see which legislations worked best and which ones didn't

IN PERSON

- Being able to speak with people who worked in the rental assistance industry helped a lot. I was able to receive good tips on where to find things and what to look for when searching for programs.
- Another good in person source would be the City of Alexandria workers. These individuals helped answer questions on how the process for federal rental assistance looks like,

CITATIONS

References

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