How many households are struggling?

ALICE is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed – households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county (the ALICE Threshold, or AT). Combined, the number of poverty and ALICE households equals the total population struggling to afford basic needs. The number of households below the ALICE Threshold changes over time; households move in and out of poverty and ALICE as circumstances improve or worsen. The Great Recession, from 2007 to 2010, caused hardship for many families. Conditions started to improve in 2010 and 2012 for some, but not for all.

What does it cost to afford the basic necessities?

The bare-minimum Household Survival Budget does not include any savings, leaving a household vulnerable to unexpected expenses. ALICE households typically earn above the Federal Poverty Level of $11,770 for a single adult and $24,250 for a family of four, but less than the Household Survival Budget.
How many families with children are struggling?

Children add significant expense to a family budget, so it is not surprising that many Oceana County families with children live below the ALICE Threshold. Though more Oceana County families are headed by married parents, those families with a single parent are more likely to have income below the ALICE Threshold.

Families with Children by Income, 2015

What assets do households have?

Ownership of assets can contribute to stability of households. Yet few families in Oceana County own liquid assets, such as a savings account, 401(k) plan, or rental income, that are readily available to cover emergency expenses. Vehicles, the most common asset, depreciate over time. Homeownership, the next most common asset, can build wealth, but is not a liquid asset.

Assets, All Households, 2015