



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 10, 2021

Aloha United Way and the Hawai'i Community Foundation Launch New Partnership, Investing \$4.5M to Improve the Lives of ALICE Households

The new three-year partnership reinforces the collective impact of the CHANGE Framework and aim of both organizations to create a more equitable Hawai'i. The funding partnership is the only in the state focused on the ALICE population.

HONOLULU – Aloha United Way (AUW) and the Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) are committed to finding solutions that lead to a more equitable Hawai'i. Joining together in a new partnership, the organizations will administer the 2022 - 2024 ALICE Collective Impact Initiative and each contribute \$750,000 per year over the next three years to the ALICE Fund.

The goal of the initiative is to support the upward economic mobility of Hawai'i's ALICE population. [ALICE](#) is an acronym for: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. According to recent estimates, by the end of 2020 the percentage of ALICE Households in Hawai'i had grown from 42% to 59%.

The initiative offers support over three years to nonprofit organizations based on O'ahu that are engaged in the ALICE impact areas of Financial Stability and Savings and/or Safe and Affordable Housing. To maximize the reach and impact of the ALICE initiative and the people who will benefit, AUW and HCF will partner on program strategy and jointly review proposals by nonprofits.

The ALICE Fund aims to support nonprofits who are working to resolve the issues that are causing financial instability for ALICE households. Beginning on Tues., January 11, O'ahu nonprofits can respond to a joint RFP on the [AUW website](#). AUW and HCF are seeking nonprofits whose programs are providing ALICE households with the financial tools and resources to build savings, reduce debt and secure stable housing. Once selected, the cohort of grantees will work as a collective to develop shared goals, strategies, and indicators of progress. The cohort will adopt and implement the shared strategies over the three-year period.

In 2021, over a six-month period, AUW hosted strategic planning and community conversation sessions that gathered feedback on pushing for collective systems change for ALICE. The current ALICE grantee cohort also shared the challenges and barriers faced by ALICE households in midst of the pandemic. The 2022 - 2024 ALICE Collective Impact Initiative seeks to build on the momentum on the previous cohort, community conversations and planning sessions to create measurable impact to improve the economic conditions for ALICE.

“In our strategic planning sessions, community participants, stakeholders, and service providers were frank and open about their capacity, expertise, and commitment to collaborate on solutions for ALICE households,” says Lisa Kimura, Vice President of Community Impact at AUW. “We are asking nonprofits to develop programs and solutions that can be scaled and to use their innovative, problem solving skills to help Hawai‘i achieve greater equity for years to come.”

HCF committed to the partnership due to the ALICE initiative’s alignment with the [CHANGE Framework](#). Each of the six letters of the HCF CHANGE Framework represents a sector that affects the community and its ability to thrive. Under the Community & Economy sector, housing affordability and the cost of living in Hawai‘i are included as indicators that affect the well-being of Hawai‘i’s people.

“The ongoing pandemic continues to highlight the vulnerability of financially unstable households,” says Michelle Kauhane, Senior Vice President of Community Grants and Initiatives at HCF. “The initiative will focus on growing household assets to weather current and future uncertainty. The initiative will also identify public policy priorities to engage ALICE households in an advocacy agenda to implement systemic change.”

HCF brings decades of experience in grant management and program evaluation for impact. AUW provides key data on ALICE through their ALICE report, along with a team of staff to manage the grants through their grants system.

“The goal has always been to bring about the most change. With our two organizations, and with nonprofits across the state, we can improve the lives of ALICE households through potential ground-breaking programs. We know this is going to be an incubator for change,” says AUW CEO, John Fink.

Information for nonprofits interested in applying:

The RFP will be posted on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 on AUW.org. Proposals are due on Tuesday, February 15, 2022. AUW and HCF will announce grantees in late March 2022. Interested applicants can join a virtual information session, held on Friday, Jan 21, 2022 at 9am by registering at this [link](#).

About Aloha United Way

Founded in 1919, Aloha United Way brings resources, organizations and businesses together to advance the health, education and financial stability of every person in our community. AUW has evolved over the years and adapted to meet our community’s greatest needs focusing on amplifying non-profit agencies and their work as well as the 211 statewide helpline, ALICE Initiative and Safety Net Fund. A member of United Way Worldwide, AUW supports nonprofits and communities on Oahu. For more information, visit AUW.org.

About the Hawai‘i Community Foundation

The vision of the Hawai‘i Community Foundation is to create an equitable and vibrant Hawai‘i where all of our island communities thrive. With over 105 years in community service, HCF is recognized as one of the leading philanthropic institutions in the state. HCF is a steward of more than 1,000 funds, including more than 300

scholarship funds, created by donors who desire to transform lives and improve communities. In 2020, HCF distributed \$142.4 million in grants and contracts statewide, including \$9.2 million in scholarships. HCF also serves as a resource on community issues and trends in the nonprofit sector.

For more information contact:

Sheila Sarhangi
Hawai'i Community Foundation
808.772.0718 (Mobile)
ssarhangi@hcf-hawaii.org

Carolyn Hyman
Aloha United Way
253.606.8696 (Mobile)
chyman@auw.org

###