

# Support Living Wages in Virginia



"There is nothing but a lack of social vision to prevent us from paying an adequate wage to every American whether he [or she] is a hospital worker, laundry worker, maid, or day laborer." – Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr

"Woe to him who builds his palace by unrighteousness, his upper rooms by injustice, making his own people work for nothing, not paying them for their labor."

– Jeremiah 22:13

People of faith and goodwill across the commonwealth are joining together to support and honor employers that pay living wages and encouraging others to raise wages to lift families out of poverty. Join the Virginia living wage movement. You can:

**Pray.** Pray for workers who struggle to earn wages that can lift them out of poverty. Give thanks for employers who share their businesses' prosperity with their workers and pray that a spirit of fairness will touch the hearts of those who can afford to pay living wages but do not.

**Study.** Learn more about how low wages keep families in poverty. Download the 2020 ALICE in Virginia, a Financial Hardship Study, an excellent report prepared by the United Ways of Virginia that tells the story of families that are ALICE – asset limited, income constrained, employed. These are families that have working parents, but their incomes are low, and they have limited assets. Find the report at: [tinyurl.com/livingwagealice](https://tinyurl.com/livingwagealice)

**Act.** Support businesses in your community that pay living wages. Alexandria, Charlottesville, Harrisonburg, and Richmond have local living wage certification programs. A statewide program was launched in fall of 2021. Find the list of certified businesses at [www.livingwagevirginia.org](http://www.livingwagevirginia.org). You can also help grow the program and awareness of living wages by encouraging businesses to get certified. The simple and free certification process can be done online at [www.livingwagevirginia.org](http://www.livingwagevirginia.org). The state living wage standard is \$17.50. The local living wage standards range from \$15 to \$17.

**To learn more about the program, volunteer to help with a certification committee, or engage your social action group in canvassing businesses in your community, contact Jase Hatcher: [Jase@virginiainterfaithcenter.org](mailto:Jase@virginiainterfaithcenter.org)**