

For Immediate Release: Alternatives Federal Credit Union celebrates the 25th Anniversary of the Living Wage Study — Ithaca, NY.

Contact

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[Alternatives Federal Credit Union](#) will release the results of its biennial Living Wage Study on Friday, May 3, 2019 at The Space at GreenStar, 700 W. Buffalo St., Ithaca, NY. Join us from 10:00am -12:00pm for a press conference, panel discussion and to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Living Wage Study.

Eric Levine, CEO and Karl Graham, Director of Community Programs and Outreach at Alternatives will announce the updated figures that represent a Living Wage for the Tompkins County area. Graham will moderate a diverse panel of speakers who will answer questions and speak to the Living Wage Study from a variety of perspectives.

Panelists include:

[Alternatives Federal Credit Union](#)

- Eric Levine, Chief Executive Officer
- Karl Graham, Director of Community Programs and Outreach
- Nazelle Davis, Living Wage employee

Community

- Svante L. Myrick, Mayor of Ithaca
- Leni Hochman, Former Chief Operations Officer and founder of the Living Wage Study in Tompkins County in 1994
- Ashley Cake, Co-owner of [The Watershed](#), Certified Living Wage Employer and Alternatives Federal Credit Union Board, Director
- Ian Greer, Senior Research Associate in the [ILR School of Cornell University](#)

[The Workers' Center](#)

- Pete Meyers, Coordinator and one of the founders of the Tompkins County Workers' Center
- Rob Brown, Operations Manager and Alternatives Federal Credit Union Board, Director

25 years ago, Alternatives released the first Living Wage Study and has updated the study biennially. The study was originally intended for internal use by Alternatives, but its release to the public was encouraged by Alternatives' Board of Directors. Since 1994, the Living Wage Study has stimulated important discussions about the meaning of earning a Living Wage and provided a benchmark for others in the county to use.

The Tompkins County Workers Center has a process for businesses to become certified Living Wage employers and encourages the community to support those organizations and businesses. Their website tcworkerscenter.org lists 118 Certified Living Wage Employers (CLWE)—up from 106 in 2017. These 118 CLWE, employ 3,061 people (roughly the

equivalent of 6% of adults participating in the workforce in Tompkins County who work for CLWE. Following the 2017 Alternatives Living Wage Study, 26 enterprises raised wages to meet the updated living wage. These businesses employ 1,617 people (roughly the equivalent of 3.2% of adults participating in the workforce in Tompkins County who work at an enterprise where at least some people received raises because of the study + certification.) Nine enterprises applied for and achieved certification for the first time since the 2017 Living Wage Study.