



### Introduction

The Children's Policy Council Needs Assessment is an opportunity for local communities to inform state policy-makers of the unmet needs of children throughout the state. The growing demand for evidence-based practice requires using metrics. As policy-makers rely more and more on data to drive decisions, we ask CPCs to provide objective data to support their identified needs.

We appreciate your willingness to dig deeply into what is happening at the local level to inform state leaders and ultimately guide policy and funding decisions.

### About Your CPC

Please provide the requested information regarding your County's Children's Policy Council.

#### County \*

De Kalb

#### Honorable Judge \*

Please provide the name of the Judge who leads the county's Children's Policy Council.

Steven L. Whitmire

#### Name of CPC Coordinator \*

Please provide the name of the contact person who coordinates the CPC activities.

Jimmy Wilbanks, Chief JPO

#### CPC Coordinator Email \*

Enter the email of the contact person who coordinates the CPC activities.

jimmy.wilbanks@alacourt.gov

#### Address \*

Enter the address for mailing information to the CPC.

##### Street Address

300 Grand Avenue, SW

##### Address Line 2

Suite 101

##### City

Fort Payne

##### State / Province / Region

Al

##### Postal / Zip Code

35967

##### Country

DeKalb

#### School System/LEA Representation \*

Are the Local Education Agencies (LEAs) all represented on the CPC?

- Yes, all are represented and active
- Yes, all are represented but not all are active
- Some are represented, but not all
- Only 1 school system is represented

#### Number of School Systems \*

Indicate the number of school systems or Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in your county.

Does your county currently conduct a youth survey? \*

- Yes  
 No

## CPC Members

Use the fields below to list the names of all CPC Members, with each name in a separate field. Use the "Add" link to create more fields as needed.

CPC Member	CPC Member	CPC Member
Jimmy Wilbanks (Chief JPO)	Kayla Magbie (FPSC BOE)	Cate Campbell(Department of Youth Services)
Nathaniel Ledbetter(State Legislative Delegation)	Kerry Qualls (CED Mental Health)	
Betsy Vanzant(DeKalb County Health Dept)	Nick Weldon(DeKalb Dept Sheriff's)	
Denise Rains (Director DHR)	David Davis(Fort Payne Police)	
Stacey Wright (DeKalb BOE)	Steven Whitmire(District Judge)	
Summer Summerford (D.A. Ninth Judicial Circuit)	Erin Cagle(FPSC BOE)	
Sam Griggs (DeKalb BOE MHSC)	Ricky Harcrow(DeKalb County Commission)	

Does your CPC currently have 501(c)3 status? \*

- Yes  
 No

### Needs Identification

The questions below relate to the needs of children ages birth to 19 and their families in your county. The sections represent umbrella categories of needs which have been identified over the past several years through local CPC Needs Assessments. The data requested in each section aims to help identify root causes, risk factors and/or specifics within each category.

Please rank your county's top three needs and provide the requested data regarding those needs.

Links to several data sources and local organizations are listed below as a resource to assist CPCs in completing the needs assessment and locating the requested information.

Kids Count Data:

<https://alavoices.org/2021-alabama-kids-count/>

<https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#AL/2/0/char/0>

CPC Website for AOC County Data: [www.alcpc.org](http://www.alcpc.org)

Local Mental Health Center that serves county

Local County Department of Human Resources (DHR)

### Three Most Urgent Needs \*

Select the three needs below that are the most urgent. These are the ones you will provide more information about.

- Substance Abuse
- Parental Involvement and Family Engagement
- School Success
- Early Care and Education
- Mental Health
- Juvenile Crime and Safety
- Poverty
- Health and Well Being
- Neighborhoods and Housing
- Transportation

### Substance Abuse

Substance abuse affects youth, families and all parts of society and is manifested through underage drinking, prescription drug abuse, as well as illegal substance manufacturing, access, and use.

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### Substance Abuse Rank \*

Rank this need in order of its importance with 1 being the most important, 2 as second most important, and 3 as the least important of your top three urgent needs.

- 1
- 2
- 3

### Number of juvenile delinquency cases filed for drug and substance violations. \*

36

### Have substance abuse violations and delinquency cases increased or decreased over the past year? \*

- Increased significantly
- Increased somewhat
- About the same
- Decreased slightly
- Decreased significantly

### How many children have been removed from their home due to parent drug use in your county? \*

62

### Characterize the trend of children removed from homes due to parent drug use year over year. \*

- Each year, significantly more children are being removed from their homes due to parent drug use.
- We are seeing a leveling off of this trend.
- We have seen a significant decline in children being removed from their homes due to parent drug use.

### Is there a Juvenile Drug Court in your county? \*

- Yes
- No

### How many juveniles went through the court last year? \*

159

## Substance Abuse Characteristics

Please select all that describe characteristics of substance abuse in your county.

- Youth Substance Abuse
- Underage Alcohol Sales
- Family Prescription Abuse
- Family Illegal Substance Abuse
- Drugs in Schools
- Lack of space to refer individuals with addiction issues

## Recidivism Rate \*

Provide the recidivism rate and any additional relevant information such as length of time drug court has been in existence and contributing factors to recidivism.

The recidivism for DeKalb County is 5%. DeKalb County does not have a drug court for youth, which contributes to recidivism for youth.

## Additional information About Substance Abuse \*

Provide additional information and data regarding why you believe substance abuse is a significant problem in your county.

The Bridge Program is the primary provider that provides treatment services to DeKalb County youth. They provide onsite services two days weekly, including evaluations, substance abuse treatment, and inpatient services if needed.

## Parental Involvement and Family Engagement

Family risk and protective factors impact the involvement, or lack thereof, of parents in their children's social-emotional development and their academic education.

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## Parental Involvement Rank \*

Rank this need in order of its importance with 1 being the most important, 2 as second most important, and 3 as the least important of your top three urgent needs.

- 1
- 2
- 3

## Trends of Child Abuse \*

Mark the answer that best characterizes reports of child abuse in your county.

- Over the past few years, we have seen an increase in the number of reports of child abuse.
- We are seeing a leveling off of child abuse reports.
- Our county has seen a decline in the reports of child abuse.

## Domestic Violence \*

Select the item that best characterizes the domestic violence trends in your county.

- Increasing
- Remaining about the same
- Declining

## Community Factors Impacting Trends \*

Describe community factors which may impact the trends in domestic violence and child abuse, including but not limited to, access to family counseling and mental health support.

The factors that impact the trends in domestic violence and child abuse are directly related to mental health, substance abuse, and a poverty rate in Dekalb County. As of 2020, 46.50% of people in poverty have presented barriers and challenges for parents to access health care, substance abuse, and mental health treatment. This directly correlates to the increase in domestic violence and child abuse reports.

## Number of Children in Foster Care \*

**Are there enough available placements for foster children in your county? \***

- Yes
- No

**Which components of parental involvement and family engagement apply to your county? \***

- Single parent families
- Support for teaching children at home
- Increased foster care placements
- Increased child abuse and domestic violence rates
- Increased adoption needs

### **Mental Health**

Mental Health is important at every stage of life from childhood, through adolescence, to adulthood. Mental Health is an essential component of overall health and well-being for children and their families. Children need to have any mental health conditions identified early so they can receive proper treatment through outpatient or inpatient services that meet their needs.

**Mental Health Rank \***

Rank this need in order of its importance with 1 being the most important, 2 as second most important, and 3 as the least important of your top three urgent needs.

- 1
- 2
- 3

**Needs Related to Mental Health \***

Select all statements that apply to your county.

- We have a dire need for inpatient mental health facilities.
- We have a dire need for outpatient mental health facilities and care.
- Our need and the demand for mental health services match pretty well.
- We do not have enough counselors to fill the needs in our county.
- Children with mental health issues is a growing problem in our county.
- We do not have a need for mental health services and care in our county.
- Services are only available for those with ability to pay.

**How many facilities in your community maintain inpatient beds for mental health issues? \***

1

**How many inpatient beds are available in your county for children? \***

0

**Does this number meet the demand? \***

- Yes, demand is almost always met.
- Demand is mostly met. Occasionally, there are not enough beds.
- Demand almost always exceeds the supply of available beds.

**How many inpatient beds are available in your county for adults? \***

18

**Does this number meet the demand? \***

- Yes, demand is almost always met.
- Demand is mostly met. Occasionally, there are not enough beds.
- Demand almost always exceeds the supply of available beds.



**If the demand for services is unmet, what are some actions taken? \***

Describe how the unmet needs are currently addressed.

Youth in DeKalb County needing inpatient beds due to a mental health crisis must be hospitalized in a local hospital and wait on an inpatient bed out of the county. The DeKalb Youth Service Center partners with The University of Alabama Betty Shirley Clinic to provide psychiatric evaluations for youths. DYSC also partners with Dr. Samuel Fleming to provide psychological assessments to youth.

**Describe the greatest mental health needs in your county. \***

Our county's most significant mental health need is inpatient services for youth ages 9 to 18.

**Which population has the greatest mental health need in your county? \***

9 to 17 years old

**Top 3 Mental Health Resources \***

List the top 3 mental health resources in your county.

CED Mental Health  
Limestone Behavioral Health Care  
DeKalb Youth Service Center

**Accomplishments**

With regard to your programs in existence from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, consider accomplishments in those areas. Provide information about who benefited from the accomplishment and the source and amount of funds used for the accomplishment. Describe at least three of your county CPC's accomplishments for the past year. You may include up to 10.

**Accomplishment 1 \***

Describe this accomplishment.

Problem (1-) Mental Health Problem-Mental Health Resources-The DeKalb County Children Advocacy Center hired new Master Level Social Workers to provide at-risk support and counseling services for both Fort Payne Board of Education students and the DeKalb County Board of Education. The positions are direct service positions and provide need-based counseling/support, related interventions, and referrals as needed.

**Who benefitted from Accomplishment 1? \***

Students and their respective parents/guardians. Secondary benefits include the individual school systems and agencies working with children and youth.

**Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 1 \***

.None from CPC. Funding covered by the respective BOE, grants and fund raising done by the Children Advocacy Center.

**Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 1 \***

The funding is covered by the respective BOE, grants, and fundraising done by the Children Advocacy Center.

**Accomplishment 2 \***

Describe this accomplishment.

Problem (2)Parental Involvement and Family Engagement -The Dekalb County Department of Human Resources has maintained one of the highest percentages in the State regarding children achieving permanency. DeKalb County Adoption percentages and the number of children reunited with their parents or placed with other family members through the Kinshare Program are higher than the state average.

**Who benefitted from Accomplishment 2? \***

Children and their families. The State of Alabama benefitted due to the decreased financial obligation needed to provide for youth in the care of The Department of Human Resources.

**Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 2 \***

None from CPC. This effort was covered by the State funds allocated to DeKalb County DHR

**Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 2 \***

State of Alabama.

**Accomplishment 3 \***

Describe this accomplishment.

Problem (2) Parental Involvement and Family Engagement-The DeKalb County Board of Education received a grant for a Licensed Masters Social Worker to provide counseling, support, and parenting services to teachers and parents who are single in DeKalb County. This position is a direct service position and provides need-based counseling/support, related interventions, and referrals as needed.

**Who benefitted from Accomplishment 3? \***

Children and their families of Dekalb County.

**Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 3 \***

None from CPC.

**Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 3 \***

DeKalb County Board of Education and State Grant funding.

**Accomplishment 4**

Describe this accomplishment.

Problem(3) Substance Abuse: The DCBOE has approved having vape sensors installed in the youth restrooms at the DeKalb County Board of Education. This installation is scheduled to start in the Summer of 2023 and be completed before the students return for the 2023-2024 school year. This will further serve as a security and front-line intervention in substance abuse prevention and intervention. DeKalb Youth Service Center Administrative Staff are alerted if a vape device or other smoking product is used.

**Who benefitted from Accomplishment 4?**

Students, Administrators, DeKalb Board of Education, and the school system as a whole

**Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 4**

None from CPC. Funding was through LEA's and AL Dept of Education

**Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 4**

DCBOE and AL Dept of Education.

**Accomplishment 5**

Describe this accomplishment.

Overall Progress: The DCBOE has contracted with a retired Special Education Certified Teacher to provide extra academic support to at-risk, special education students assigned to the Off-Campus Intervention Program and DeKalb Youth Service Program.

**Who benefitted from Accomplishment 5?**

DeKalb County Special Education Students

**Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 5**

None from CPC. \$30,000 funded by DCBOE

**Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 5**

Funding was through the DeKalb County Board of Education

**Accomplishment 6**

Describe this accomplishment.

**Who benefitted from Accomplishment 6?****Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 6****Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 6**

**Accomplishment 7**

Describe this accomplishment.

**Who benefitted from Accomplishment 7?**

**Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 7**

**Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 7**

**Accomplishment 8**

Describe this accomplishment.

**Who benefitted from Accomplishment 8?**

**Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 8**

**Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 8**

**Accomplishment 9**

Describe this accomplishment.

**Who benefitted from Accomplishment 9?**

**Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 9**

**Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 9**

**Accomplishment 10**

Describe this accomplishment.

**Who benefitted from Accomplishment 10?**

**Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 10**

**Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 10**

**CPC Self-Assessment**

Self-assessment is an integral part of the County CPC development. Please provide the information below and indicate your CPC's level of development.

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### Level I CPC

Select all that apply.

- Mandated Members (at least 8 of 15) attended at least two meetings last year
- At Large Members (at least 5 of 7) attended at least two meetings last year
- Minutes and sign in sheets were kept for all meetings
- CPC met at least quarterly
- Membership list was kept current
- Needs assessment was turned in on time and in correct format
- Annual Report submitted with needs assessment

### Level II CPC

Select all that apply.

- At least 10 of the 15 mandated members attended 2 or more meetings last year
- At least 6 of the 7 At Large members attended 2 or more meetings last year
- At least 3 members attended the CPC conference last year
- New Member Orientation Manual was developed
- Committees met at least quarterly in addition to regularly scheduled CPC meetings
- Committees presented reports at CPC meetings
- Committees took action toward identified issues
- CPC has a mission statement
- CPC has an elected Vice-Chair
- CPC has an elected Secretary

### Level II - Committees

Select all committees which have been established.

- Early Care and Education
- Economic Security
- Education
- Health
- Parent Involvement and Skills
- Safety

### Level III CPC

Select all that apply.

- Council has developed strong leadership
- Fiscal agent has been identified or a 501(c)3 has been established
- Bylaws have been written and approved
- Members have attended CPC Leadership Training
- Council is active in child advocacy efforts
- Council sponsors community efforts for children's issues
- Committees are active and performing specific actions
- 5 or more members attended the CPC Conference last year
- Communication line has been developed with legislators
- Communication with the media occurs
- CPC has a strategic plan in place

### Self-Rating \*

Based on the answers above, how would you characterize your current level?

- Striving for Level I
- Level I moving toward Level II
- Level II moving toward Level III
- Level III

**CPC Members List**

Use the upload button below to provide a CPC membership list with contact information.

DeKalb County CPC Member List.docx

13.45KB

**CPC Meeting Minutes \***

Upload minutes from CPC meetings from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Please ensure all minutes are scanned together as one document.

Member Notes.pdf

433.5KB

**CPC Sign-In Sheets \***

Upload all CPC Meeting sign-in sheets from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Please ensure all sign-in sheets are scanned together as one document.

CPC Sign in Sheets.pdf

408.02KB

**Conclusion \***

What have we not asked you about that you feel is important?

N/A