



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 *

Escambia

Honorable Judge *

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

Honorable Judge Eric Coale

Name of CPC Coordinator *

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

Donna L. Revel

CPC Coordinator Email *

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

Escambiacocpc@gmail.com

Address *

Enter the address for mailing information to the CPC.

Street Address

318 Belleville Avenue

Address Line 2

City

Brewton

State / Province / Region

Alabama

Postal / Zip Code

36426

Country

USA

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
Honorable Eric Coale	Sheriff Heath Jackson	Meagan White
Donna L. Revel	Marlo Young	Csierra Payne, MSN, RN
Fred Lancaster	Gretchen McPherson	Traci Vickrey
Lynn Barnes	Sonya Hadaway	Mollie Pizzotti
Stephanie Myrick	Marsha Raulerson, MD	Nicole Jones
Commissioner Karean Reynolds	Dr. Charla DeLeo	Catadro North
Gwynne Shell	Dr. Eric Andrews	Jenny Kilpatrick, LICSW, PIP
Kayla Trawick	Brittney Welch	Rhonda Peters
Dr. Kenneth Varner	Cordia Lee	Denise Carlee
Steve Billy, DA	Commissioner Raymond Wiggins	Jennifer Blunt
Martasha Lee	Rep. Alan Baker	Probate Judge Doug Agerton
Senator Greg Albritton		

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

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.

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. *

19

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? *

So far in FY2023 from October 1, 2022-May 31, 2023 we have had 23 children enter FC with 11 (48%) of those cases were related to parental drug abuse. In FY2022 we had 37 children enter FC with 28 (76%) of those related to parental drug abuse.

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

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.

N/A

Additional information About Substance Abuse *

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

The Escambia COunty Department of Human Resources reports the average number of reports per month in FY 2022 was 22; for FY 2023 it is 27. Child abuse and neglect is fueled by both domestic violence and substance abuse.

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.

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 rise in substance abuse seems to fuel both domestic violence and child abuse/neglect. There is also a notable and significant rise in mental health issues among children, which creates stressors in the home that parents are unwilling or unable to adequately deal with. Lack of mental health resources, especially those that are available after-hours and in crisis situations, exacerbates the issues.

Number of Children in Foster Care *

57

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? *

0

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? *

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.

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

Describe how the unmet needs are currently addressed.

Escambia County uses out of county facilities... Beacon, Laurel Oaks and Bay Point for juvenile mental health placements. Mental Health places the youth and coordinates the services for those in need.

Describe the greatest mental health needs in your county. *

Youth between the ages of 9 to 17 years old experience oppositional defiance, bi-polar, depression and schizophrenia. The greatest mental health needs in our county is youth with multiple diagnosis.

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.

Southwest Alabama Mental Health

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.

Escambia County High School, W. S. Neal High School and T. R. Miller High School are 3 of 4 in our county that actively participated in the Peer Helper Drug Free Program during the 2022-23 school year. Escambia County Middle School, W. S. Neal Middle School, Brewton Middle School and Pollard-McCall Jr. High School are 4 of the 5 middle schools in the county that actively participated in the Peer Helper Drug Free Program during the 2022-23 school year.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 1? *

Student enrolled in seven schools in Escambia County worked to educate their peers on the danger of drug and alcohol use.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 1 *

\$7,500

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 1 *

Private Foundation donations, the Escambia County Commission and the general operating fund of the Escambia County Children's Policy Council provided funding for this program. Additionally, several individuals volunteered their time in this worthy program.

Accomplishment 2 *

Describe this accomplishment.

Escambia County Children's Policy Council partners with the Escambia County Sheriff's Department and continues to provide Drugs Erase Dreams Initiative within each high school and middle school. Mollie Pozzotti, with Mobile Area Drug Council coordinates these events.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 2? *

All students in the middle and high schools located in Escambia County.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 2 *

\$5,000

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 2 *

Private Foundation donations, the Escambia County Commission and the general operating fund of the Escambia County Children's Policy Council provided funding for this program. Additionally, several individuals volunteered their time in this worthy program.

Accomplishment 3 *

Describe this accomplishment.

Project Cloud, a drug free curriculum is presented to students in the Escambia County Alternative School during the school year and for students in Project Turn Around.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 3? *

Students enrolled in the Escambia County Alternative School and students that participate in Project Turn Around.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 3 *

\$1,000

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 3 *

Project Turn Around funding from the Department of Youth Services.

Accomplishment 4

Describe this accomplishment.

The I.M.P.A.C.T (Influence, Motivate, Purpose, Action, Commitment, Trust) Mentoring program is a program designed to build the character of youth ages 11-17 in the Atmore area. This program provides mentors and resources that enable participants to reach their maximum potential within their schools and communities. Some of the resources are: the After-School Youth Drop Off Center, After-School Tutoring Program, and the Mentoring Program. This program mission is to expose youth within the Atmore area to positive experiences to enhance our youth chances to succeed in their schools and community.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 4?

The IMPACT Program provided a Youth Drop-In Center that was open Monday-Thursday from 3:30pm-6:00pm. This center provided a safe location for youth to engage in health alternatives to high risk behaviors. Approximately, 50 students were served during the school year.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 4

\$33,000

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 4

Title II funding from the Alabama Department of Community Affairs, Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division competitive grant.

Accomplishment 5

Describe this accomplishment.

Project Turn Around Diversion Program is a program that provides community level resources to help rehabilitate juvenile offenders who would have otherwise be sent to the Department of Youth Services. Each participant has an individualized service plan crafted to their unique needs. Through community partnerships the program was able to keep 28 youth at home with their families, in their school and in the community. Services included supervision, counseling services and educational support to enhance school success. Additional, resources were available to both the student and his/her families as needed.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 5?

Medium to high-risk youth and their families in Escambia County.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 5

\$80,000

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 5

The Department of Youth Services

Accomplishment 6

Describe this accomplishment.

The Escambia County Children's Policy Council provided family resources at the November 2022, Family Resource Fair held at the park in Atmore, Alabama. ECCPC volunteers were there during the duration of the event to meet, speak and discuss with parents, families and community members issues and resources in our county to help families.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 6?

Approximately, 250 parents, families and community members in the Atmore Area attended the event.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 6

N/A

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 6

Volunteers participated in the family resource fair.

Accomplishment 7

Describe this accomplishment.

The Atmore Community Alliance partner with the ECCPC to provide organized recreation for youth in the Atmore area students between the ages of 9 to 12 years of age were able to participate in supervised basketball, football and cheerleading during the school year. Additionally, these students received one on one interaction with mentors and counselors.

Academic assistance was available before practice each week by certified teacher, counselor and volunteers.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 7?

100 students and their families benefited from the organized and supervised recreation opportunities. The community also benefited from the events the children participated in.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 7

\$25,000

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 7

Children's Trust Fund Grant

Accomplishment 8

Describe this accomplishment.

Parent Project available to parents in Escambia County.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 8?

Parents and students in Escambia County

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 8

\$3,500

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 8

The Department of Youth Services Diversion Grant

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.

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

Annual Report Documentation

CPC Members List

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

ECCPC Membership2022-23.pdf 175.55KB

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.

CPC Minutes May 22, 2022 - June 23, 2023.pdf 171.94KB

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 2022-23.pdf 1.3MB

Conclusion *

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

N/A