



### 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 \*

Etowah

#### Honorable Judge \*

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

Joe Nabors

#### Name of CPC Coordinator \*

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

Tiffany Smith

#### CPC Coordinator Email \*

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

tiffany.daffron-smith@dhr.alabama.gov

#### Address \*

Enter the address for mailing information to the CPC.

##### Street Address

821 E. Broad Street

##### Address Line 2

##### City

Gadsden

##### State / Province / Region

AL

##### Postal / Zip Code

35903

##### Country

United States

#### 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.

3

**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
Hon. Joe Nabors	Hector Baeza	Cindy Kirkland
Hannah Gray	Barbara Roberts	Emma Clapp
Bart Clapp	Eve Hamrick	Francesca Hall
Holly Edwards	Hope Whitaker	Lottie Hawkins
Hon. Will Clay	Kevin Blackwell	Tiffany Smith
Darlene Harcrow	Emma Nessler	Amy McQueen
Baisha Woody	Patricia Falcon	Christi Norton
Debra Guyton	Dr. Alan Cosby	Jamie Duncan
Larinda Garrett	LeRoy Falcon	Teresa Sauls
Ty Dillon	Willie King	Lori Shaw
Emma Hereford	Craig Scott	Deana Thacker
Debra Guyton	Jody Willoughby	

**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

### 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.

Lack of access to mental health support, substance abuse help, counseling, etc. and the increasing use of telehealth.

### Number of Children in Foster Care \*

221

### 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

## School Success

School Success takes many forms. It begins in the early years as often measured through subject proficiencies, and in later years can be measured by graduation rates. The questions in this section are to help drill down into the root causes and specific factors contributing to the needs surrounding school success.

### School Success 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

### Graduation Rate \*

Enter the estimated percentage of students who successfully graduate from high school in your county.

87.9

### Credit Recovery and Graduation Assistance \*

Describe programs in your county designed specifically to prevent dropping out of high school or to encourage reenrollment.

the SPAN program

### Truancy Cases \*

Enter the number of truancy cases referred to early warning court.

386

### Discipline problems in schools \*

Describe the types of discipline issues in schools which disrupt or interfere with student performance, including suspensions and expulsions.

Vaping, sexting, oppositional and/or aggressive behavior towards staff and peers.

### School Success Factors \*

Mark the items that apply to your county's needs related to school success.

- Graduation rates  
 Child literacy rates  
 Unsafe school culture  
 Truancy and absenteeism  
 Need for alternative school placements  
 Services for children with special needs  
 Lack of tutoring and specialized teachers outside school hours  
 Discipline issues  
 Suspensions and Expulsions

### Chronic Absenteeism \*

Enter the percentage of students who are chronically absent, defined as missing 10-17 days of school, in your county.

26.2

### Reading Proficiency in 4th Grade \*

Enter the percentage of children who meet or exceed benchmarks for reading in 4th grade.

37.8

### Math proficiency in 4th grade \*

Enter the percentage of children who meet or exceed benchmarks in math in the 4th grade.

52.1

## Health and Well-Being

Ensuring health and well-being for all ages is important to building strong communities. By improving infant mortality rates, access to healthy food, healthcare, places to exercise, and organized sports opportunities we can establish

### Health and Well-Being 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

### What is your county's infant mortality rate? \*

5.7

### What is the leading cause of death in your county? \*

- Stroke
- Heart disease
- Accidents
- Diabetes
- Influenza/Pneumonia/COVID
- Kidney Disease
- Suicide
- Crime
- Drug Overdose

### Select the 3 areas of concern that most impact your county. \*

- Access to healthy food
- Food insecurity
- Access to healthcare
- Obesity
- Access to parks and places to exercise
- Prevalence of sedentary lifestyle
- Few organized sports opportunities for children and youth

### 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.

KIDS (Kids in Dangerous Situations) Workshop

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

Social workers, law enforcement, counselors, nurses, and other professionals who work with children.

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

\$800

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

CPC funds

#### Accomplishment 2 \*

Describe this accomplishment.

CPC T Shirts - fundraiser

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

CPC

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

250.00 (design and printing)

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

CPC; t-shirt fundraiser

**Accomplishment 3 \***

Describe this accomplishment.

Sensory Friendly Movie

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

Special needs children and their families

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

250.00

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

CPC

**Accomplishment 4**

Describe this accomplishment.

Special Needs Prom

**Who benefitted from Accomplishment 4?**

Special needs children, adults, and their families

**Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 4**

\$10,000

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

CPC, sponsorships

**Accomplishment 5**

Describe this accomplishment.

Tickets to Imagination Place

**Who benefitted from Accomplishment 5?**

Foster children and their foster families

**Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 5**

0.00

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

Donation

**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.

---

#### **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.

CPC Contact List.pdf 99.55KB

### 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.

2023 Needs Assessment Exec and Full Board Minutes.docx 18.09KB



**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.

2023 Needs Assessment Sign in sheets.pdf

1.07MB

**Conclusion \***

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

N/A