



Introduction

The Children's Policy Councils 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-base 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 in the spaces provided regarding your County's Children's Policy Council.

County*

Fayette

Honorable

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

Merrell Nolen

Title of Judge

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

Juvenile Judge

Address

Please provide the street address for mailing information to the CPC.

Street Address

P.O. Box 252

Address Line 2

City

Fayette

State / Province / Region

AL

Postal / Zip Code

35555

Country

Fayette

CPC Members

CPC Member

Merrell Nolen/Juvenile Judge

CPC Member

Jason Cowart/Department of Human Resources

CPC Member

Jim Burkhalter/Superintendent of Education

Debbie Sizemore/Juvenile Probation Officer

Mike Freeman/Fayette County Commission Chairman

Byron Yerby/Sheriff

Liletta Jenkins/Field Director

Andy Hamlin/District Attorney

Tammy Ross/Kids and Kin

Denese Marion /Northwest Alabama Mental Health, Ret.

Courtney Shivetts/Early Childhood Development

Joan Watkins/At Large Member

Cynthia Moore/At Large Member

Natasha Spearman/Fayette County Head Start

Paul Young/West Alabama Children's Advocacy Center

Ronni Rena Brasher/At Large Member

Sherry Grey/ At Large Member

Toni Morgan/At Large Member

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

- Yes
 No

Name of CPC Coordinator

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

Kacie Stanley

CPC Coordinator Email

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

kacie.stanley@alacourt.gov

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. If your CPC would like to rank five or more needs, please feel free to do so. You are welcome to answer as many questions as you would like on this survey, but we ask that you please answer at least all of the questions under your top three ranked 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)

Most Urgent Needs

Please choose your three most urgent needs.

- 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 manifest through underage drinking, prescription drug abuse, as well as illegal substance manufacturing, access and use. If this issue is one of the top three needs in your county, please rank it first, second or third.

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

6 However, many of our Child In Need Of Supervision (CHINS) cases involve substance abuse in the family, and would not be reflected in this number.

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

28

Urgent Needs

Please rank your top selected needs in the order of importance- 1 being the most important 2, and 3.

- 1
- 2
- 3

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.

Number of children in foster care

15

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

- Yes
- No

Urgent Needs

Please rank your top selected needs in the order of importance- 1 being the most important 2, and 3.

- 1
- 2
- 3

Transportation

A lack of adequate and accessible public transportation services creates barriers to employment, doctor visits, buying groceries and meeting other basic needs of life.

Availability of public transportation

There is not public transportation

Transportation Infrastructure

The road and bridge infrastructure in our county is in desperate need of funding and repair

Which choice most impacts access to services in your county?

Public transportation

Urgent Needs

Please rank your top selected needs in the order of importance- 1 being the most important 2, and 3.

- 1
- 2
- 3

Accomplishments

For your existing programs and accomplishments from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, please provide who benefited from the accomplishment, the source and amount of funds used for the accomplishment. Please provide at least three of your county CPC's accomplishments for the past year. You may include up to 10.

Accomplishment 1

Please describe this accomplishment.

Imagination Library through the Dollywood foundation.

Who benefited from accomplishment 1

All Fayette County children birth to 5 years of age whose parents or guardians make applications.

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 1

6000.00

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 1

Annual Grant from the Fayette Community Foundation.

Accomplishment 2

Please describe this accomplishment.

Local caregiver packets with contact information for resources.

Who benefited from accomplishment 2

Children and caregivers especially children not in the home of their parents.

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 2

2,500.00

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 2

There was an initial small cost of printing these made several years ago, and funds continue to be supplied when needed to duplicate and update materials.

Accomplishment 3

Please describe this accomplishment.

Kids and Kin program is now in Fayette County. This is a Statewide program through the Family Guidance Center of Alabama. A program free to participants to provide support and assistance to those providing care to their relative's children.

Who benefited from accomplishment 3

Grandparents, aunts, uncles, and older siblings who provide childcare.

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 3

2,500.00

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 3

No local funds used.

Accomplishment 4

Please describe this accomplishment.

Who benefited from accomplishment 4

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 4

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 4

Accomplishment 5

Please describe this accomplishment.

Who benefited from accomplishment 5

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 5

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 5

Accomplishment 6

Please describe this accomplishment.

Who benefited from accomplishment 6

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 6

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 6

Accomplishment 7

Please describe this accomplishment.

Who benefited from accomplishment 7

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 7

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 7

Accomplishment 8

Please describe this accomplishment.

Who benefited from accomplishment 8

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 8

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 8

Accomplishment 9

Please describe this accomplishment.

Who benefited from accomplishment 9

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 9

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 9

Accomplishment 10

Please describe this accomplishment.

Who benefited 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 complete the questions below and indicate your CPC's level of development.

Level I CPC

Please select all that apply.

- Mandate 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
- CPS 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

Please 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

Please select all committees which have been established.

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

Level III CPC

Please 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

Please upload a CPC membership list with contact information.

Copy of CPC-Membership-Template2022.xlsx

24.87KB

CPC Meeting Minutes

Please upload minutes from CPC meetings from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. Please ensure all minutes are scanned together as one document.

CPC Sign-In Sheets

Please upload all CPC Meeting Sign-In sheets from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. Please ensure all sign-in sheets are scanned together as one document.

Conclusion *

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

We are excited about two other programs which we have recently implemented to improve the lives of children in our County. One is the establishment of a Family Treatment Court which will begin operation on October 1, 2022. The Court is designed to provide intense oversight for families receiving substance abuse, mental health, and other services, with the goal of reuniting broken families. The other program is a partnership with the Continuum of Care Program (COCP), through the Youth Services Institute (YSI) of the University of Alabama. This program is designed to provide treatment services for families of juveniles charged with sexual offenses. With the substantial increase in juvenile sexual offenses in our county, the COCP provides professional mental health services for offenders and their families, similar to the services provided juvenile victims through the West Alabama Children's Advocacy Center.