



### 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 \*

Jefferson

#### Honorable Judge \*

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

Janine Hunt-Hilliard

#### Name of CPC Coordinator \*

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

Shelly N. Mize

#### CPC Coordinator Email \*

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

mizes@jccal.org

#### Address \*

Enter the address for mailing information to the CPC.

##### Street Address

120 2nd Court North

##### Address Line 2

##### City

Birmingham

##### State / Province / Region

AL

##### Postal / Zip Code

35204

##### 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.

10 or more

**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
Jean Hernandez	Joan Wright	Elaine Stephens
Helen Smith	Marcus Carson	George Casey
Cathy Nichols	Gayle Watts	Barbara Fowler
Tina Thornton	Danny Carr	Tiffany Armstrong
Deb Schnieder	Becky Greenway Mitchell	Julie Pearce
Angelica Melendez	Natasha Shumpert	Carrie Buntain
Judge Janine Hunt-Hilliard	Adrienne Marshall	Amanda Keller
Nadia Richardson	Greg Townsend	Andrew Smith
Kimberly Berry	Dr. Morissa Ladinsky	Kim Braasch
Ladye Franklin	Terri Harvill	Meesha Emmett
A Babcock	Andrea Miller	Ana Arvelo
Beth Johns	Gwendolyn Brown	John Stone
Catrice Pruitt	Dr. Cora Causey	Shalanda Cheatham
Dr. Cindy Shackelford	Delyne Hicks	Willie Glass
Ev Gunn	Jan Bell	Jane Duer
Tynesha Miller	Jo Davis	Shajuane Jones
Krislyn Allison	Kelly Klehm	Lella Hamiter
L'Tanya Green	Dr. LaRhonda Magras	Dr. Martha Barber
Melissa Murrell	Mary Florain	Meredith Poe
Ryan Parker	Kristin Schlenker	Valerie Delgado
Georgia Brennan	Lindsay Gray	Dr. Orletta Rush
Melissa Niven Sherer		

**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.

- Housing: lack of affordable housing (harder for victims to leave). Low income housing often in high crime areas.
- Generational: many families do not know what a "healthy family" looks like
- Mental Health: Counseling/support for mental health (if aware of issue) is difficult to find (waiting lists)
- Resources: Many families not aware of resources available or difficulty accessing resources
- Poverty: impacts transportation (lack of) and where families live
- lack of a supportive network

**Number of Children in Foster Care \***

652

**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? \***

7

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

177

**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? \***

324

**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.

-adolescents - Adolescents are having to be dealt with on "out patient" basis - even suicidal due to the lack of beds. One example - last week an adolescent from IMPACT was taken to the emergency room due to suicidal concerns. He sat in the ER for 18 hrs and was told that he could be in the ER for 1-3 days until a bed was open. He left the ER. IMPACT helped create a safety plan for youth until a bed was available.

-adults - JBS recently opened the Craig Crisis Care Center which has 48 beds. This enables police to take persons dealing with a mental health crisis to the emergency mental health center instead of jail. 16 of the 48 beds are also 1-3 day extended observation beds.

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

Jefferson County needs a crisis center for kids like we have for adults (Craig Crisis Care Center). PIRC at Children's is great, but for the most part, it is a consultation which diverts adolescents away from the ER. This is great but there are still too many kids who need to be hospitalized but can't due to the limited number of in-patient mental health beds.

**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.

PIRC  
Craig Center  
JBS

**Poverty**

Poverty has many faces: unemployment, poor living standards, and the working poor not having enough money to provide for the basic needs of their children.

**Poverty 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 the unemployment rate in your county? \***

3.60%

**What is the number of SNAP recipients (all ages) in your county? \***

91,181

**What is the rate of "children in poverty" in your county? \***

22.10%

**Describe access to higher education and job training in your county. \***

Jefferson County Family Resource Center  
AIDT Alabama Workforce Training Center  
Birmingham Career Center  
Jefferson County Workforce Investment Area (WIA)

**List the 3 largest employers in your county. \***

The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)  
Regions Financial Corporation  
Ascension Health System  
Children's of Alabama

**Describe the types of jobs available in your county.\***

Health Care Services  
Financial Services  
Education  
Manufacturing  
Food Service & Hospitality  
Retail

**Describe the workforce in your county.\***

Is the workforce adequately prepared for the available jobs? Does the workforce commute into the county from another location?

No. There are many jobs available that are unfilled either due to lack of skillset or pay. Yes, a % of the workforce in Jefferson County commutes to Jefferson County from surrounding counties due to vast employment opportunities.

**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.

The purpose of the SAFE CARE Program is to address the emerging substance use crisis and its impact on infants and children, ensure plans of safe care are implemented for both prenatally exposed infants and their mothers with SUD. Services include care coordination for recovery, mental health, medical, early intervention, parenting and in-home education. The SAFE CARE Program is designed to help build and retain intact families affected by substance use disorders, to ensure effective safety plans are in place for substance-affected infants and that community resources are utilized to meet the needs of their mothers and families.

In November 2021, ADMH partnered with Jefferson County CPC (SAFE Care) to expand the Jefferson County SAFE Care model into additional counties in Alabama over a four year period of time (a 2 million dollar expansion grant). We are now winding down our second year under this grant.

CPC of Jefferson County partnered with the Jefferson County Family Resource Center the summer of 2022. By April 2023, case management for SAFE Care in Jefferson County was fully transitioned to Jefferson County Family Resource Center. CPC of Calhoun County requested ASAP to oversee (fiscal agent) the SAFE Care Calhoun County program. SAFE Care Calhoun County began creating/organizing their SAFE Care program in October 2023 and officially began accepting clients in February 2023.

CPC of Jefferson County is now focused on expanding into a third county.

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

CASE MANAGEMENT: Benefiting are Pregnant and Postpartum Substance Involved Women and their Infants age birth to 3 years of age In Jefferson County and Calhoun County.

EXPANSION: We are now focused on expanding to a third county in Alabama.

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

500,000

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

ADMH, CPC of Jefferson County

## **Accomplishment 2\***

### **Describe this accomplishment.**

During the fall of 2021, the Jefferson County Children's Policy Cooperative implemented a new literacy project to re-launch of the Campaign for Grade Level Reading in Jefferson County (CGLR). This project was aimed at improving access to services for English Language Learners and their parents. Even though, Jefferson County boasts many community partners who come alongside our 12 school systems to offer early childhood education, child care, afterschool care, and summer programs to support reading, 80% of ELL students are not reading on grade level. Our assessment and prioritization tool revealed that most agencies do not have a language access plan nor consistently reach out to and enroll ELL students. So, the students most in need of support from birth to age eight are missing out on opportunities. Therefore, we have designed a literacy project to improve the capacity of existing agencies.

From June 2021 to December 2022, CPC partnered with AshaKiran to lead a new effort of our local CGLR to support the great work begun by existing agencies to improve literacy. The CPC conducted outreach to providers identified during the assessment phase and then raised awareness in the community at-large during fall 2021 First Friday Forums. CPC hosted a webinar on the importance of a language access plan and the connection to grade level reading for ELL students. During this event, a technical assistance grant opportunity will be announced. Interested applicants were required to submitted a brief technical assistance request. Eight partner organizations requested technical assistance. The organizations were narrowed down to four based on their ability to impact children and families in our community. One organization has been slow beginning the process but three have made progress.

Our consultant is working with three of the four selected community organizations that serve children: City of Homewood, YWCA of Central Alabama, and United Way of Central Alabama. The fourth organization to receive the technical assistance grant did not complete the requirements so it was replaced with Jefferson County Family Court.

As of June 2023, City of Homewood, YWCA of Central Alabama, and United Way of Central Alabama have all completed their Language Access Plan and are phasing in implementation. Jefferson County Family Court began working with the consultant in January and have completed the overview meeting, self assessment, focus group and are now focused on drafting the Family Court language access plan.

Funds were reserved to purchase age-appropriate books and materials in the needed languages for agencies who complete the program. Materials/book purchases are occurring this summer.

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

ELL students up to 8 years of age who are reading below grade level in Jefferson County. Schools/agencies serving ELL through TA with language access plans. Organizations targeted for LAP development are: the City of Homewood, United Way of Central Alabama, YWCA, and Children's Aid Society.

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

20,000

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

Campaign for 3rd Grade Reading, AL Dept of Early Care and Education

### **Accomplishment 3 \***

Describe this accomplishment.

Community Engagement and Building Partnerships:

- First Friday Forums on issues affecting children
- Early Care and Education Work Group: monthly convening, programming and advocacy initiatives focused upon early care and education providers and professionals
- Training and Education: Mental Health First Aid; Advocacy 101; Child Trafficking
- Information Sharing: CPC List-serve & FB Go-to source for information about child-serving organizations and community services

Early Care Education Monthly WorkGroup Meetings:

- August 10, 2022 (20 participants) (Having Difficult Conversations w/ Parents)
- September 7, 2022 (20 participants) (Tips & Strategies for Stress Management)
- October 5, 2022 (13 participants) (Reach Out and Read Alabama)
- November 2, 2022 (20 participants) (Navigating Positive Discipline & Guidance)
- February 8, 2022 (19 participants) (Early Numeracy)
- March 1, 2023 (15 participants) (Kindergarten Readiness Assessment)
- April 5, 2023 (15 participants) (Child Abuse & Neglect Awareness)
- May 3, 2023 (55 participants) (Staff Retention Strategies)

First Friday Forums:

- August 5, 2022 (16 participants) In Person Only at YWCA (Crucial Conversations)
- September, 2, 2022 (43 participants) Hybrid (Suicide Prevention)
- October 7, 2022 (49 participants) Hybrid (De-escalation Skills/Strategies)
- November 4, 2022 (40 participants) Hybrid (Needs Assessment Roll Out)
- January 5, 2023 (57 participants) Hybrid (Digital Safety)
- February 3, 2023 (57 participants) Hybrid (Titusville Library)
- March 3, 2023 (46 participants) Hybrid (Jefferson County Family Resource Center)
- April 14, 2023 (42 participants) Hybrid (CHIPS Center)
- May 5, 2023 (43 participants) Hybrid (Unconscious Bias)

Through the Early Care Education (ECE) Monthly Workgroups and First Friday Forums, CPC of Jefferson County trained/networked with 564 individuals in our area.

CPC FACEBOOK, LIST-SERVE, Web-Site

CPC FB has 1,736 followers. CPC List-Serve has 512 emails representing wide spectrum of child-serving professionals. CPC has continued to work diligently to delete multiple email accounts as well as culled defunct email accounts. CPC built a new Website during spring 2022 that offers community resource access, connection with CPC programs and services as well as community agencies.

Essentials Closet

The CPC maintains an Essentials Closet at Family Court of Jefferson County with essential items such as feminine products, personal hygiene products, diapers, wipes, formula, baby food, pacifiers, socks, underwear, backpacks, shoes, laundry detergent, toothbrush/toothpaste, snacks, juice boxes to have available for families and children coming through the doors of Family Court who are in crisis, without and needing basic necessities.

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

Child serving professionals/agencies including educators; mental health/ health care; law enforcement; OHR, juvenile justice; social service, ECE, and ultimately children and families served by and through our CPC partnerships and collaborations.

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

80,000

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

Jefferson County Commission



#### **Accomplishment 4**

Describe this accomplishment.

Installation of a Children's Book Vending Machine at Family Court

Beginning in the Fall of 2022, CPC of Jefferson County has been working toward the purchase of a Children's Book Vending Machine for the Jefferson County Family Court waiting room. The purpose is to address and target early literacy by encouraging families to read more children's books. This program also adds to home libraries as the children get to keep the book he/she selects from the vending machine. Due to the cost of the machine and cost to sustain this program long term, CPC has partnered with several organizations: Jefferson County Family Court, Jefferson County Commission, UAB School of Education, Alabama Public Television, and Bundles of Hope.

This is a free opportunity for little friends who come to family court. Any child toddler to third grade can get a token during each visit to Family Court in order to select a book of his/her choice from the vending machine. In addition, resources are posted on the sides of the machine for caregivers. The resources include valuable information on the importance of early literacy, links to resources, links to YouTube "Story Time" videos.

#### **Who benefitted from Accomplishment 4?**

All children (ages toddler through third grade) who visit Jefferson County Family Court.

#### **Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 4**

30,000

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

Jefferson County Commission, CPC of Jefferson County, Alabama Public Television, Bundles of Hope Diaper Bank, Individual Donations, UAB School of Education (in kind)

#### **Accomplishment 5**

Describe this accomplishment.

Presentations:

CPC of Jefferson County has been asked to present on a variety of topics at different events this past year. In September, the Executive Director was asked to present on Chronic Absenteeism/Truancy at the Annual Helping Families Initiative Conference. In April, the Executive Director was asked to present on Building Strong Boards at the Just Serve Leadership Summit and in June the Executive Director was asked to speak to the Optimist Club of West Birmingham on the new Book Vending Machine at Family Court.

#### **Who benefitted from Accomplishment 5?**

Helping Families Initiative staff (statewide), Non-profit leaders throughout the Jefferson County area, and Optimist Club members

#### **Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 5**

0

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

0

#### **Accomplishment 6**

Describe this accomplishment.

Searchable Resource Directory

During the 2022-2023 year, CPC of Jefferson County has been actively updating the resource list for Jefferson County. In order to make it a user friendly tool, the list was molded into a searchable format for the CPC website. The searchable resource list can be accessed at <https://www.jeffersoncountychildren.org/items-1> This is a fluid list and changes frequently. Organizations can also add a resource to the list if theirs is not represented. These additions are saved in a separate area until they are vetted and added to the searchable list.

#### **Who benefitted from Accomplishment 6?**

Jefferson County: families and organizations

**Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 6**

0

**Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 6**

0

**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.

CPC Jeff Co Partner list.pdf	193.87KB
2023 CPC Board of Directors.docx	22.51KB

**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 Bd Minutes and Sign in Sheets.pdf	1.75MB
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**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.

ECE and FFF dates and numbers july 2022 through june 2023.pdf	2.55MB
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**Conclusion \***

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

NA