



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 *

Lowndes

Honorable Judge *

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

Hon. Adrian D. Johnson

Name of CPC Coordinator *

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

Hon. Adrian D. Johnson

CPC Coordinator Email *

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

adrian.johnson@alacourt.gov

Address *

Enter the address for mailing information to the CPC.

Street Address

1 Washington Street

Address Line 2

P O Box 455

City

Hayneville

State / Province / Region

Alabama

Postal / Zip Code

36040

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.

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
Adrian D. Johnson	John Lyon,	Tanya Graves
Charlotte Tesmer	Leon Bennett	Lakesha Hicks
Christopher West	Keisha Lee	LaTrenda Nicholson
Kristin Moore	Jason Burroughs	Paulette Miller
Samita Jeter	Brianna Shuford	Tana Shealey
Michelle Rudolph	Mary Ann Martin	Jessica Douglas
Felicia Thomas	Jacqueline Lee	Kelvin Lawrence
Robert Stewart	Jessica Fails	Tara Green
Gladys Johnson	Amy Perry	

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. *

1

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? *

0

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.

-0-

Additional information About Substance Abuse *

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

Each child on supervised probation for various delinquency charges over the past year has tested positive for marijuana or other substances. This indicates widespread substance use among the youth population in the county.

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.

Poverty, substance abuse and limited conflict resolution resources combine to create an atmosphere in many families conducive to domestic violence. We utilize an anger management counselling program through our local Family Guidance Center to educate parties charged with domestic violence about conflict resolution and emotional control techniques.

Number of Children in Foster Care *

8

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.

83%

Credit Recovery and Graduation Assistance *

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

Lowndes County Public Schools provides the Over Age Academy, credit recovery and summer school programs to prevent students from dropping out of school and encourage re-enrollment. The courses are offered through Edgenuity program.

Truancy Cases *

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

5

Discipline problems in schools *

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

Fighting and defiance of authority are the primary discipline issues that disrupts and interfere with students' performance. The district had 569 suspensions and 1 expulsion.

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.

5.4%

Reading Proficiency in 4th Grade *

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

15.48%

Math proficiency in 4th grade *

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

1.20%

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.

In March of 2023, the CPC along with the Juvenile court sponsored the Fatal Vision Day program at all three high schools in Lowndes County. Students were educated on the dangers of drugs and alcohol. The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, Alabama Beverage Control, Black Belt Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking, District Attorney's Office, Counsel on Substance Abuse, Department of Human Resources and the Lowndes and Butler County Sheriff's Office all participated in the program.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 1? *

Lowndes County Students.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 1 *

\$1,500

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 1 *

Lowndes CPC and Lowndes County Juvenile Trust Fund

Accomplishment 2 *

Describe this accomplishment.

The Lowndes CPC participated in the annual Back to School Rally for the Lowndes County Public Schools. The CPC donated back packs and school supplies to Lowndes County students.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 2? *

Lowndes County students.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 2 *

\$1,500

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 2 *

Lowndes County Partnership for Children

Accomplishment 3 *

Describe this accomplishment.

The Lowndes County CPC provided Christmas gifts to the children in foster care in Lowndes County.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 3? *

Lowndes County foster children.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 3 *

All gifts were donated by the CPC and community.

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 3 *

Donations

Accomplishment 4

Describe this accomplishment.

The CPC continues to support the Character in Action program, highlighting the positive accomplishments of Lowndes County Students each month.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 4?

Lowndes County Students

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 4

\$600

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 4

Lowndes County CPC

Accomplishment 5

Describe this accomplishment.

the Lowndes CPC partnered with River Region United Way to bring the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to Lowndes County. the program provides a book to every child in Lowndes County ages 0 to 5.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 5?

All children in Lowndes ages 0 to 5.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 5

Funding provided by River Region United Way.

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 5

Funding provided by River Region United Way.

Accomplishment 6

Describe this accomplishment.

The third annual Sheriff John Williams Memorial Scholarships were awarded to three graduating seniors, one from each High School in the County. To date, we have awarded \$18,000.00 in scholarships.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 6?

Lowndes County students

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 6

\$6,000.00

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 6

The funds are raised through two main events, a charity golf tournament and motorcycle ride, as well as community donations.

Accomplishment 7

Describe this accomplishment.

The CPC made a donation to the Lowndes County Distinguished Young Woman Program.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 7?

Lowndes County students

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 7

\$250.00

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 7

Lowndes County Partnership for Children

Accomplishment 8

Describe this accomplishment.

Donated two bicycles for school health screenings.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 8?

Lowndes County Students

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 8

\$300.00

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 8

Lowndes County Partnership for Children

Accomplishment 9

Describe this accomplishment.

Donated to various church programs

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 9?

Lowndes County churches and citizens

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 9

\$500.00

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 9

Lowndes County Partnership for Children

Accomplishment 10

Describe this accomplishment.

As a part of the campaign for grade level reading, the CPC received a \$20,000.00 grant from the Department of Early Childhood Education which was used to refurbish and outfit a school bus to be used as a mobile library, mobile internet hot spot, and reading location.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 10?

Lowndes County students

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 10

\$20,000.00

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 10

Grant from ADECE.

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.

LOWNDES CPC MEMBERS (2023).doc 35.5KB

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.

Minutes 22.pdf 1.78MB

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.

Sign in Sheets 2022.pdf 4.42MB

Conclusion *

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

The Lowndes County Children's Policy Council strives to improve the lives of children and families in Lowndes County. The best aspect of our CPC is the collaborative efforts of our CPC members to support programs or organizations working to improve the lives of children in Lowndes County.