



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*

Macon

Honorable

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

Judge Deborah H. Biggers

Title of Judge

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

Macon County Juvenile Court Judge

Address

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

Street Address

101 East Rosa Parks Avenue, Suite 208

Address Line 2

City

Tuskegee

State / Province / Region

Alabama

Postal / Zip Code

36083

Country

USA

CPC Members

CPC Member

Juvenile Judge Deborah Biggers

Sheriff Andre Brunson

Derrick Bolling, DYS

Febreu Holston, Tuskegee Univ

Dr Jacqueline Brooks

Angela Harris, Family Guidance

Jan Fountain, Tuskegee Library

CPC Member

Joshua Anthony ,JPO

Sup. Melissa Williams

Delores Calhoun, ADPH

Dr. Trellis Smith Calloway

Dominquez Hurry, County Extension

David Harris, ABC Bd

Terri Holcey, Bd of Education

CPC Member

Rep. Pebblin Warren

Asst D.A. Michael Weldon

Michael Johnson, Secretary

Mary Florian, Help Me Grow Ala

Jamie N. DeLee, Children's Rehab

Jason Flowers, Child Care Resource

Mary Hooks, Bd of Ed President

Ruby Granberry, Tuskegee Library	Coty Madden-Huguley, Head Start	Roberta Taylor-Jones, ECMH
Tanika Jones, Bd of Education	Tracy Larkins, DHR Interim Dir	Annie Lee, Ministers' Council
Louis Maxwell, Co Commission	Tia Pierrot, BABI	Savitria Reed, Tusk. Univ
Letisha Strickland, Head Start	Lashunda Richardson, Head Start	Julie Smith, State DHR
Angelia Walton, TEARS	Lamarcus King, ECMH	Kimberly Waugh ,Rehab Services
Chariah, Rehab Services	Jonathan Davis,	Ann Brown,,Guzman Foundation
Karen King Cale, READ TO Me		

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.

Judge Deborah H. Biggers

CPC Coordinator Email

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

deborah.biggers@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

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

13

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

School Success

School Success take 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.

Graduation Rate

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

89.9% in 2019-2020

Chronic Absenteeism

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

17.1% absent 10-17 days; 7.6% absent 18 days or more in 2019-2020

Reading Proficiency in 4th Grade

Please provide the percent of children who meet or exceed benchmarks for reading in 4th grade.

19.8% in 2020-2021

Math proficiency in 4th grade

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

0.0% in 2020-2021.

Urgent Needs

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

- 1
- 2
- 3

Mental Health

Mental Health is important at every stage of life, from childhood, adolescence to adulthood. Mental Health is an essential component of overall health and well-being for children and their families. Children need to have their mental health conditions identified early so that they can receive proper treatment through outpatient or inpatient serves that meet their needs.

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

0

How many inpatient beds are available in your county for adults?

0

Which population has the greatest mental health need in your county?

18 to 54 years old

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.

The CPC obtained 3 school buses donated from Macon County School System to convert to book mobiles. The materials to convert the buses came from \$20,000 grant from the State's Reach Out and Read Program, as announced in press conference on July 1, 2021. Books have been donated to our CPC Literacy Program from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc, (500 Books); Tuskegee Public Library(90 plus books); Alabama Partnership for Children(50 books) and Mary Florian from former St Joseph School(75 books). Monetary donations totaling \$1700.00 from local stakeholders have also been received for the purchase of books.

Who benefited from accomplishment 1

Children from birth to 12 years of age have benefitted from receiving free books from the CPC's bookmobile, at Bookmobile Day held in the Tuskegee Square on April 6, 2022. The bookmobile also participated in and gave away books at the Wellness Health Fair and American Idol "Lady K" performance on Tuskegee Square on June 11, 2022. Not only were more than 200 books given away but the CPC partnered with the Center of Global Health Innovative to raffle off two bikes to those children who came by bookmobile to get a book, which was a qualifier to enter raffle for bikes.

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 1

\$436.00 to pay bus drivers to drive bookmobile to events and to pay for the recording of the bookmobile jingle.

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 1

Source of funds came from the \$20,000 Reach Out and Read Program grant.

Accomplishment 2

Please describe this accomplishment.

The CPC partnered with a community group, "Read To Me" formed by the Tuskegee Institute Class of 1974. This partnership recruits adults to read in person, or during the height of COVID, via zoom, to children in day cares, Head Start and pre-k grades in public schools. Books are donated to head Start children by Read To Me. The goal is to encourage a parent, sibling, grandparent, neighbor, or relative to read to our 3-5 year olds at least 15 minutes per day. Community leaders are recruited to read monthly. Judge Deborah Biggers read to a pre-kindergarten class at George Washington Carver Elementary School in April, 2022.

Who benefited from accomplishment 2

The children ages 3-5 years of age in Macon County, benefited from this accomplishment.

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 2

\$0

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 2

Not applicable

Accomplishment 3

Please describe this accomplishment.

On October 14, 2021, Judge Deborah H. Biggers, on behalf of the Macon County Children's Policy Council signed a Letter of Commitment with the River Region Bold Goal Coalition, an initiative of the River Region United Way, to increase the reading proficiency of students in Macon County. Other participating counties are Autauga, Elmore, Lowndes, and Montgomery. The Alabama Department of Early Childhood has allocated \$650,000 to fund the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program to gift a free book to children from birth until they begin school. Our CPC is recruiting children from Head Start, local day cares, and local pediatrician offices, to register through the River Region United Way, to receive free books from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

Who benefited from accomplishment 3

Macon County Children, from birth until 5 years of age or when they begin school.

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 3

\$0 from the CPC.

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 3

Not applicable

Accomplishment 4

Please describe this accomplishment.

The CPC gave a monetary donation of \$500.00 for the purchase of food by the Macon County Board of Education to feed needy families for the 2021 Christmas meal give away.

Who benefited from accomplishment 4

Needy families in Macon County for Christmas, 2021.

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 4

\$500.00

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 4

Macon County Juvenile Administrative Fund

Accomplishment 5

Please describe this accomplishment.

To address the juvenile mental health issue, the Juvenile Court Liaison with East Central Mental Health, is required to appear at all Juvenile Court dockets, to provide the court with the mental history, diagnoses, and treatment, of any juvenile appearing before the court pursuant to a juvenile delinquency petition, or a child in need of supervision petition. The mental health history component assists the court in getting a full picture of the needs of the child, in order to formulate the appropriate disposition.

Who benefited from accomplishment 5

Juveniles with mental health issues appearing in Macon County Juvenile Court in delinquency or children in need of supervision cases.

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 5

\$0

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 5

Not applicable

Accomplishment 6

Please describe this accomplishment.

The Macon County CPC partnered with The Gift of Life Foundation, to reduce the infant mortality rate in Macon County, along with other identified counties. The Gift of Life received a grant in 2019, to address these problems in Alabama: 7 infant deaths per 1,000 live births; 12.5% of infant deaths with low birthweights; 62% of infants died before 28 days of life(Neonatal); 38% of infants died between the age of 28 days and one year(Post-neonatal); 249 infants who weighed less than 2500 grams (5.5pounds) at birth died before their first birthday. In Alabama, the preterm birth rate among black women is 50% higher than the rate among all other women. The contributing factors in addition to low birthrate, are congenital anomalies, SIDS, and lack of access to adequate healthcare. Since the launching of this initiative in 2019, our CPC hosted public forums to educate the public, with representative from Gift of Life, making the presentation; circulated information to the community on how infant should be placed for sleep to avoid SIDS; and provided information along with State DHR on infant bed boxes to distribute to low income families in need. In 2021, 36 women were served in Macon County, and we celebrated the graduation of 7 women from the program. Of these women, 22 have given birth, out of which, there were 0 low birth weights, 3 preterm births, and 0 infant deaths. We are proud to report that 86% of Macon County mothers in program breastfed their babies at least once; over 200 referrals to services have been made and 90% of Macon County mothers report practicing safe sleep. And finally, 100% of Macon County mothers in program report that their infants/toddlers have health insurance. Our CPC also made recommendations to Gift of Life of local nurses whom could be hired to participate in the program.

Who benefited from accomplishment 6

36 women were served in Macon County

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 6

0

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 6

program expenses were covered by a state grant awarded to Gift of Life

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.

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.

Addendum to 2022 Needs Assessment.pdf

932.74KB

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?

Because this report was completed after hours, the membership list, minutes, and sign-in sheet will be sent by the Judicial Assistant on September 30, 2022, under separate cover.