



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 *

Monroe

Honorable Judge *

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

Donna Silcox

Name of CPC Coordinator *

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

Misty Kelly

CPC Coordinator Email *

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

misty.kelly@alacourt.gov

Address *

Enter the address for mailing information to the CPC.

Street Address

65 North Alabama Avenue

Address Line 2

City

Monroeville

State / Province / Region

Alabama

Postal / Zip Code

36460

Country

United States of America

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.

2

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
Donna Silcox (District Judge)	Misty Kelly (CPO)	Samantha Kyles (Judicial Assistant)
Brad Wood (Director of Admissions, Pathway Inc.)	Greg Shehan (Superintendent)	Teresa Bullard (Special Ed Coordinator)
Jane Agee (Director, Dept. of Human Resources)	Todd Watson (District Attorney)	Laura Grantham (Public Defender)
Sonya Stinson (Probate Judge)	Tom Boatwright (Sherrif)	Mandee Armstrong (Chief of Police)
Candice Hardin (Director, Southwest Alabama Behavioral Healthcare)	Stephanie Myrick (Director, Child Advocacy Center)	April Jones (ABC)
Brittany Henderson (Vocational Rehab)	Amelia Boles (Help Me Grow Alabama)	Penelope Hines (Director, Chamber of Commerce)
Julia Summers (Dept. of Youth Services)	Ann Fox (Dept. of Public Health)	Angie Snyder (Director, Public Library)
Deborah Allen (Director, YAHWEH Ministries)	Liletta Jenkins (State CPC)	Brenda Dean (Community Advocate)
Jade Colquett (Victims Advocate)	Ywell Cunningham (Community Advocate)	Chris Ziebach (Camille Place)
Valerie Schroeder (Executive Director, Camille Place)	LaWana Kennedy (Dept. of Mental Health)	

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

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. *

10

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? *

8

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.

Our county does not have a drug court.

Additional information About Substance Abuse *

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

The possible contributing factors to continual drug use in juveniles and adults are the lack of outpatient substance abuse services offered and the lack of after care services for people returning from inpatient treatment facilities.

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.

Factors that contribute to these trends are single parent households, poverty, lack of employment, and lack of community resources such as parenting and/r substance abuse treatment.

Number of Children in Foster Care *

2

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.

94%

Credit Recovery and Graduation Assistance *

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

The Monroe County School System provides intervention classes, credit recovery, online access classes, and after school tutoring. These classes provide assistance to students struggling in core subjects and offer an alternative to failing. The school system also offers a virtual learning program, Second Chance Academy, for students to be expelled from school. This offers students the opportunity to continue their education without having to repeat the grade level.

Truancy Cases *

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

0

Discipline problems in schools *

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

The major factors that contribute to discipline issues in schools are drugs and behavioral issues that result in suspensions and expulsions. Another issue is the lack of attendance which prohibits students from learning.

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.

13.50%

Reading Proficiency in 4th Grade*

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

36.20%

Math proficiency in 4th grade*

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

20.80%

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.

Our Children's Policy Council's Reading Initiative has continued to provide books to children throughout the community. Books have been provided to children at local parades and community events. 20 library boxes were filled with books and placed throughout rural areas in the county. A donation was made to the Monroe County Public Library for the summer reading program. This year 50 kids per day attended this program.

In the last year, the number of 4th graders reading proficiently has increased 5.6% county-wide. The increase of these numbers can be directly attributed to the efforts made by the CPC and the Monroe County School System.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 1?*

Children ages 5-8 years old

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 1*

\$20,000

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 1*

State Children's Policy Council grant

Accomplishment 2*

Describe this accomplishment.

The youth art class, Painting with a Purpose, was created in 2020 and serves at risk youth in our community. This program has proven to have a positive impact on children by teaching them healthy ways to deal with life stressors, increased positive social skills, decreased behavioral issues, and has allowed them to have a positive impact on their community. In addition, this program has taught them different ways to create art that has led to their financial gain and entrepreneurship. These children had an opportunity to bake, make, or grow their own products or pieces of art to display and sell at a local festival. All of the children participated and each learned ways to engage their customers, learned entrepreneur skills and sold their products.

This program is a partnership between the Children's Policy Council and the Monroe County Public Library. All funds for this program are provided through a local business, Studio 205 Inc.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 2?*

Since 2020, approximately 270 youth have been served throughout Monroe County.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 2*

\$3,000

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 2*

Studio 205 Inc.

Accomplishment 3 *

Describe this accomplishment.

Pathway, Inc. has continued its partnership with the Monroe County Juvenile Court System to provide community prevention services for children and families in our community. This program helps prevent children from going into residential placement and for children who are returning from placement. The therapeutic services help monitor and guide youth at home, school and community, and provides parents with family support services. This program serves four counties in our region.

This is a free service to our community. Pathway, Inc is the grantee and provider of all services.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 3? *

15 children and families are served throughout Monroe County.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 3 *

\$234,836

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 3 *

Dept. of Youth Services

Accomplishment 4

Describe this accomplishment.

The "Cuddles for Kids" program provides stuffed animals for children in dependency cases. Oftentimes children are nervous, and the court process can be overwhelming for children so each child is given a free stuffed animal while in court to help sooth and supply comfort.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 4?

25-30 children throughout Monroe County.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 4

\$0.00

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 4

The Monroe County Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Program donates stuffed animals as their service project. Other donations come from members of the community and local churches.

Accomplishment 5

Describe this accomplishment.

In March 2023, a Juvenile Conference Committee was created as a prevention program to help keep youth out of the Juvenile Court. The JCC is comprised of five community leader volunteers that meet once a month with a child and parent in an attempt to keep the child from entering the Juvenile Court and provides parents with support and alternatives to help meet the needs of their child. This program is designed to serve low level offenders in our community.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 5?

2 children and families throughout Monroe County.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 5

\$0.00

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 5

All members of the panel are volunteers and all services provided are free.

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

CPC Members List

Use the upload button below to provide a CPC membership list with contact information.

CPC Membership Template.xlsx 20.91KB

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.

July 2022 June 2023 CPC Minutes.pdf 923.12KB

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.

July 2022 June 2023 CPC Sign in Sheets.pdf 1.12MB

Conclusion *

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

I would like to know if there is an agency in the surrounding area that would be willing to provide parenting services for our county.