



### 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 \*

Wilcox

#### Honorable Judge \*

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

Judge Briana Westry

#### Name of CPC Coordinator \*

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

Samantha Gomez

#### CPC Coordinator Email \*

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

samantha.gomez@alacourt.gov

#### Address \*

Enter the address for mailing information to the CPC.

##### Street Address

12 Water Street

##### Address Line 2

##### City

Camden

##### State / Province / Region

Alabama

##### Postal / Zip Code

36726

##### Country

Wilcox

#### 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
Judge Briana Westry Wilcox District Judge	Jim Emerson Wilcox Works	Rose Garner Lily Baptist Youth Outreach
Samantha Gomez JA – Wilcox County District Court	Eugene McIntosh Council on Substance Abuse	Shajuane Jones Montgomery Children's Specialty
Jacqueline Denson Fatherhood Initiative	Timothy Strong, Wilcox County Public School System	Sheriff Larry Colston Wilcox County Sheriff's Dept.
Yolanda Nichelson School Counselor – WCBOE	Lauri Cothran Child Advocacy Center	Jessilyn Townsend-Blair Department of Youth Services
Sylvia Williams Partnership for Success	Tamika Dial Wilcox Extension Office	Benjamin M. Lightner Wilcox Works
Jasmine Kennedy	Carolyn Rothchild Wilcox Extensions	April Moton Wilcox County JPO
Cindy Merrill Dept. of Early Childhood Education	Amy Abrams Wilcox County Health Department	LaKrisa Hunt ABC Board
Deborah Leigh Dixon Wilcox County Health Department	Shirley Salter	Rose Wilkins
Brenda Autry PFS Coalition Coordinator	Gwendolyn Washington SRBWI Wilcox County, AL	Jim Emerson Wilcox Works
Eugene McIntosh Council on Substance Abuse	Michael Blackburn Wilcox County Board of Education	Michael Blackburn Wilcox County Board of Education
Rose Garner Lily Baptist Youth Outreach	Liletta Jenkins Alabama Department of ECE	

**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

### 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.

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### 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. \*

45

### 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? \*

6

### 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.

N/A

## Additional information About Substance Abuse \*

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

Repeat offenders regarding drug use is an issue within our District Court system.

## 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? \*

0

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

0

## 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? \*

0

**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.

N/A

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

Poverty impacts mental health greatly in our community. Youth are also greatly suffering from unmet mental health needs with social media being a top contributor to their mental health challenges.

**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.

Cahaba Center Mental Health, School Counselors, and Social Workers.

**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? \***

6.7 %

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

3,636

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

15.7%

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

Access to High Education is available to graduating high school seniors in surrounding counties which are Selma, AI, and Thomasville, AL. School counselors guide students through the process of taking the ACT and SAT tests. The high school also has a job training vocational department that aids students with training in various hands-on fields. There is access to agriculture training, ServSafe training, Microsoft, and Powerpoint training.

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

International Paper, Wilcox County Public School System, Alabama Tom Bigbee

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

Clerical, Education, Lumber Workers, Health Field, Food service

**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, the workforce is not always adequately prepared for the available jobs.

## 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.

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### Accomplishment 1 \*

Describe this accomplishment.

The Wilcox County Children's Policy Council held its Annual Children's Sabbath Program on October 16, 2022, at Bessie Munden Park at 3:00 p.m. The Theme was "Raising Democracy by Resurrecting Hope." We encourage our community-at-large to do its part to bring an end to child poverty. We ask that the community raise awareness of problems facing children and families in our nation such as poverty, gun violence, and lack of health care. We explore the texts and teachings in religious traditions that call us to nurture and protect children with love and justice, and engage people of faith in immediate and long-term action to nurture, protect, and seek justice for children by participating in this multi-faith, nationwide celebration, people of faith gain the inspiration of participating in a larger movement for children and help amplify the voice of our faith communities calling for justice.

### Who benefitted from Accomplishment 1? \*

Children throughout the community, faith leaders, and the community at large.

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

\$184.86

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

Wilcox County Children's Policy Council Fund.

### Accomplishment 2 \*

Describe this accomplishment.

The Wilcox County Children's Policy Council held its 14th Annual Family Summit on Monday, April 10, 2023 1:00 pm at J. E. Hobbs Elementary School. We invited parents, local agencies, and teachers and students were in attendance. We encouraged parents, caregivers, and communities members and agencies to develop a Nurturing and caring relationship with their children. When parents and caregivers do this in early life it is associated with better grades, healthier behaviors, stronger friendships, and an increased ability to cope with stress later in life.

### Who benefitted from Accomplishment 2? \*

Children, parents, agencies, teachers and school staff, and community leaders.

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

\$0

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

N/A

### Accomplishment 3 \*

Describe this accomplishment.

Read to Me Literacy Program - Campaign for Grade-Level Grant. We are working with Dr. Tonya Chestnut, State School Board Member to work with participating parents of children ages birth to 5. The instructor will teach parents how to engage with their child(ren) on specific level as it pertains to literacy. Parents will have 3 weeks of training. After parents have completed the training they will be provided books, games, and other tools to accomplish their literacy goal. Parents will be given specific guidelines following the completion of their training to highlight milestones in their child's literacy growth throughout the various age levels.

The Wilcox County Children's Policy Council will focus on three key factors that we believe are top priority in our community to help build stronger families. Those top priorities and focus areas are Family engagement, Health and Well-being, and Learning Outside of the Classroom. We will use these three areas as our pillars to drive our Literacy Plan. At the conclusion of the program, we will provide parents with additional resources, books, and information for local agencies for further assistance. We will also have a closing program and celebrate gains and reward our parents.

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

Children ages birth - 3rd grade, parents, and community leaders.

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

\$20,000.00

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

Wilcox County Children's Policy Council Fund.

**Accomplishment 4**

Describe this accomplishment.

The Wilcox County Children's Policy Council has partnered with Black Belt Treasures in Camden, AL working to get books for children ages Birth - 5 years old with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. The Dollywood Foundation is committed to guiding and assisting community-based Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL) programs to provide the best experience for all participants. The Foundation will support both beginning and existing community-based DPIL programs by providing resources to help organizations...

**Who benefitted from Accomplishment 4?**

Children in Wilcox County ages birth - 5 years old.

**Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 4**

N/A

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

Black Belt Treasures

**Accomplishment 5**

Describe this accomplishment.

**Who benefitted from Accomplishment 5?**

**Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 5**

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

**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.

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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

## Annual Report Documentation

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### CPC Members List

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

CPC Member List.docx

26.64KB

### **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 JANUARY AGENDA 2023.docx	12.55KB
CPC Minutes January 2023.docx	14.18KB
CPC AGENDA MARCH 2023.docx	12.45KB
CPC Minutes March 2023.docx	16.06KB
CPC Agenda May 2023.docx	12.49KB
CPC Minutes May 2023.docx	17.43KB

### **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.

CPC Sign in Sheet January 2023.docx	12.71KB
CPC Sign Sheet March 2023.docx	13.65KB
CPC Sign in Sheet May 20230004.pdf	18.62KB

### **Conclusion \***

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

Thank you for all of the support you provide to the Children's Policy Councils!