



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 *

Choctaw

Honorable Judge *

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

Joe H. Thompson

Name of CPC Coordinator *

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

Joe H. Thompson

CPC Coordinator Email *

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

joe.thompson@alacourt.gov

Address *

Enter the address for mailing information to the CPC.

Street Address

117 South Mulberry Avenue

Address Line 2

STE 15

City

Butler

State / Province / Region

AL

Postal / Zip Code

36904

Country

USA

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

Joe H. Thompson

Candace Jenkins

Jennifer Bucurel

CPC Member

Joy Aldridge

Jordan Mosley

Angela Hayes

CPC Member

Jimmy Huckeba

April Norwood

Alicia Richardson

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. *

5%

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? *

90%

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. Underlying factor in the crimes juveniles commit.

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.

West AL Mental Health needs more staff.

Describe the greatest mental health needs in your county. *

Counseling and Diagnosis.

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

18 to 54 years old

Top 3 Mental Health Resources *

List the top 3 mental health resources in your county.

West AL Mental Health.
Emergency Room.
Clergy.

Juvenile Crime and Safety

The future growth and success of a county depends on the productivity and well-being of youth. Juvenile violent crime and a population of teens not working or going to school can defer dreams and can place limits on access to opportunities.

Juvenile Crime and Safety 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

Mark the answer that best fits juvenile property crime that includes burglary, theft, or arson. *

- Has risen significantly over the past year
- Seems to have stabilized and remains virtually the same
- Has seen a decline over the past year

Mark the answer that best fits related to juvenile violent crime that includes murder, non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, or aggravated assault. *

- Has risen significantly over the past year
- Seems to have stabilized and remains virtually unchanged
- Has seen a decline

Reasons for Juvenile Crime Trends *

Describe factors that have influenced trends in juvenile crime.

Social Media.

Causes of Teen Accidents or Deaths *

Mark the top 2.

- Distracted driving
- Inexperienced drivers
- Violent crime
- Poor health/obesity
- Suicide
- Accidental discharge of firearm
- Drowning
- Overdose of drugs or alcohol
- Other

Teen Safety Challenges *

What are the biggest challenges to teen safety?

Texting while driving.

Alcohol.

Drugs.

Gang Activity *

Are gangs a significant and/or growing threat in your county?

- Yes
- No

Describe how any gang problem is being addressed. *

N/A

Describe the role of Juvenile Probation Officers in schools. *

Describe successes, challenges, initiatives, and other relevant information related to the partnership between JPO's and the school system(s) in your county.

Social Worker for Truancy.

Police Department.

What is your county's Juvenile Violent Crime petition rate? *

5%

Provide the rate of teens not attending school or not working in your county. *

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.

Truancy Program.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 1? *

Kids, Parents, and the School System.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 1 *

N/A

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 1 *

N/A

Accomplishment 2 *

Describe this accomplishment.

Child Advocacy.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 2? *

Abused Children.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 2 *

N/A

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 2 *

N/A

Accomplishment 3 *

Describe this accomplishment.

Multi Needs.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 3? *

Choctaw County.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 3 *

N/A

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 3 *

N/A

Accomplishment 4

Describe this accomplishment.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 4?

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 4

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 4

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.

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.

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.

Min.docx 12.68KB

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.docx 12.66KB

Conclusion *

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

N/A