



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 *

Franklin

Honorable Judge *

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

Paula B McDowell

Name of CPC Coordinator *

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

Paula B McDowell

CPC Coordinator Email *

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

paula.mcdowell@alacourt.gov

Address *

Enter the address for mailing information to the CPC.

Street Address

P O Box 180

Address Line 2

City

Russellville

Postal / Zip Code

35653

State / Province / Region

Al

Country

Franklin

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
Paula B McDowell	Dr. Susan Hargett	Jacob Green
Jeff Barksdale	Amber Steward	Nancy Davis
Amy Oliver	Katernia Cole	State Rep Jamie Kiel
State Senator Larry Stutts	Sheriff Shannon Oliver	Liz James
Adria Galloway	Africa Patterson	Melanie Dickens
Liletta Jenkins	Debbie Williams	Shirley Jimenez
Darlene Minniefield	Beatrice Hardin	Denise Wilson
Sallye Longshore	Shelia Weaver	Marquita Wilson
Kim Wooten	Kay Hargett	Kim Smith
Samantha Bain	Treca Springer	Katie McWilliams
Karen Trussell	Sherry Smith	Ashley Motes
Brandie Mitchell	Candace Strait	Stephanie Miller
Gina Mashburn		

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. *

16

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? *

91

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.

For the year of 2022 we have a 20% recidivism rate. We deal with our juveniles with drug issues on an individual bases as opposed to grouping them in a drug court setting. Health Connect provides most of the drug counseling services for Franklin County. We do have an adult drug court. Any in-patient drug treatment has to be done by service providers outside of Franklin County. We are even using some in-patient facilities in Mississippi.

Additional information About Substance Abuse *

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

In Franklin County we are seeing a significant increase in ancillary issues caused by drug use such as more babies testing positive for illegal substances at birth, inability of parents to safely parent their children, and drug induced psychosis.

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.

Due to increased awareness of support services we have had an increase in the number of domestic violence and child abuse cases reported to DHR and law enforcement. Drug use in the home is often found to be a significant factor leading to abuse.

Number of Children in Foster Care *

89

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

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.

Due to the lack of in-patient beds in our county we have to use beds in other counties. The wait time for the bed space can be lengthy. Based on limited in-patient resources we are using more out-patient counseling services.

Describe the greatest mental health needs in your county.*

The greatest mental health issue at present is the significant increase in drug induced psychosis. We are seeing this more and more in young adults. They are often homeless and are being arrested for various criminal offenses. The Franklin County Jail has approximately 10% of the inmate population that need mental health service.

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.

Riverbend Center for Mental Health
Health Connect America

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 Extension Office is providing a First Teacher Program. This is presented in classes to parents of young children to teach and encourage parents to begin teaching their children in their home. Free materials are provided along with instructions on how to provide a better learning environment in the home setting. The instructors go into the home to assist parents and ensure that the materials and instructions are being implemented properly.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 1?*

Children, families, and the community

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 1*

0 additional funds

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 1*

State of Alabama Extension Office

Accomplishment 2*

Describe this accomplishment.

We have a Special Programing Achievement Network (SPAN) Program. This program provides educational and counseling services to at-risk youth. These students are educated outside of the normal classroom setting with more one on one educational instruction and daily access to counselors. These students work on two educational tracts. Tract one provides credit recovery with a focus of returning the student to the regular classroom on their appropriate grade level. Tract two prepares the students for their GED certificate. A total of 24 students successfully completed the program in 2022.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 2?*

Students, families, school systems, and community

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 2*

\$325,000.00

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 2*

Department of Youth Services

Accomplishment 3*

Describe this accomplishment.

Health Connect America provided a Resource Fair with eight local resource providers. They shared information regarding their resources with each other and with families from the community.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 3? *

Children, families, and the community

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 3 *

0 additional funds

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 3 *

Health Connect America

Accomplishment 4

Describe this accomplishment.

The Russellville Public Library provided a 2022 summer reading program for families with children. All children must be accompanied by a parent. The families were provided with books and encouraged to read by awarding prizes for the children that met their reading goals. Community stakeholders were invited to read to the children during story time.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 4?

children, families, and the community

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 4

0 additional funds

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 4

City of Russellville maintains the Russellville Public Library

Accomplishment 5

Describe this accomplishment.

The Franklin County Extension Office provided many different programs that focused on nutrition. These programs included Teen Cuisine, Today's Mom, Eating Smart and Moving More. Teen Cuisine was taught to all 176 5th grade students. Today's Mom focused on healthy eating habits for pregnant women and new mothers. Eating Smart and Moving More encouraged children to make better food choices and get more exercise. Each program consisted of six classes. While serving families the instructors would go into homes and cook with families. During the year fifty families graduated from the program.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 5?

176 fifth grade students, fifty families with children

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 5

0- additional funds

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 5

State of Alabama Extension Office

Accomplishment 6

Describe this accomplishment.

Additional funds were provided to four Franklin County Schools to increase exposure to the arts through music. These schools were Phil Campbell High School, Tharptown High School, Tharptown Elementary School, and Belgreen High School. The funds provided music materials, musical instruments, additional music education, and visual arts.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 6?

Elementary and high school students

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 6

\$57,500.00

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 6

Alabama Department of Education and Community Development Grant

Accomplishment 7

Describe this accomplishment.

We also provided new and improved technology in each of our county schools through a High Hopes grant. With this grant we were able to provide upgrades to existing systems and provide additional technology support.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 7?

Franklin County students

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 7

\$77,000.00

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 7

Alabama Department of Education

Accomplishment 8

Describe this accomplishment.

The Franklin County School System was awarded 21st Century Community Learning Center grants for Belgreen High School and Tharptown Elementary School. These children spend after school time in a safe and enriching environment while completing homework assignments, developing creativity through the arts, studying nutrition, engaging in fitness, and experimenting with hands-on STEM activities.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 8?

Children, parents, families and community stakeholders.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 8

\$200,000.00

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 8

21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant

Accomplishment 9

Describe this accomplishment.

Franklin County School System has added three Pre-K units. These units are located at Phil Campbell School, Belgreen School, and Tharptown School.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 9?

children, parents, and families

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 9

\$270,000.00

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 9

Alabama Office of School Readiness

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.

Children's Policy Council (Addresses).docx 18.86KB

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 (11-22).pdf 31.97KB

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 SHEET (11-22).pdf 267.84KB

Conclusion *

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

None