



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 *

Sumter

Honorable Judge *

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

Judge Tammy J. Montgomery

Name of CPC Coordinator *

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

Vanessa Fitch and Cora Hutchins

CPC Coordinator Email *

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

cotv7@aol.com

Address *

Enter the address for mailing information to the CPC.

Street Address

550 Pine Street NE; Bellamy, AL 36901

Address Line 2

P.O. Box 896

City

Livingston

State / Province / Region

AL

Postal / Zip Code

35470

Country

United States

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.

3

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

Judge Tammy J. Montgomery

Patricia Moore

Ann Sikes

Marketta Burton

Vanessa Fitch

CPC Member

Cora Hutchins

Marcus Campbell

Delinda Lampley

Brian Harris

Tony Hunter

CPC Member

Gregory Griggers

LeeAnn Calvin

Candace Harvey

Gail Fitch

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

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.

92.6

Credit Recovery and Graduation Assistance *

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

Correspondence courses are offered via the internet.

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.

Terrorist threat, physical altercations and social media postings

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.

5.9

Reading Proficiency in 4th Grade *

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

31.6

Math proficiency in 4th grade *

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

31.6

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.

N/A

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 N/A

Teen Safety Challenges *

What are the biggest challenges to teen safety?

Drugs and alcohol

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.

The CJPO initiates interaction with the children in the educational systems: public school, head starts and the charter school. The CJPO is the driving force for external literacy programs, health and dental initiatives. The CJPO has weekly interaction with children and families through the foodbank, literacy and crime intervention projects.

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

Less than 1%

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

13.1%

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? *

3.5%

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

2,634

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

45.3

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

Sumter County has 2 high schools, 1 vocational education facility, and 1 college/university.

List the 3 largest employers in your county. *

The school system, municipal government, industrial plants

Describe the types of jobs available in your county. *

Educational, food service, and agricultural

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?

Our workforce is modestly prepared to be educational service providers and agricultural laborers. The majority of the workforce lives within the county.

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.

COTV collaborated with Black Belt Community Foundation on the Criminal Justice Reform. This project involved 8–17-year-old children via webinars and in person presentations from business, education and social historical awareness.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 1? *

School aged children and sponsors.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 1 *

\$7,000

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 1 *

Black Belt Community Foundation and Children of the Village Network, Inc.

Accomplishment 2 *

Describe this accomplishment.

The Governor's grant provided funds for COTV to purchase age-appropriate books for children in the public school, HeadStart, daycares and charter school systems.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 2? *

School age children in Sumter County

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 2 *

\$20,000

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 2 *

Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education

Accomplishment 3 *

Describe this accomplishment.

COTV collaboration with United Way of West Alabama evolved into our recognition as a Partner Agency.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 3? *

Children and families in Sumter County

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 3 *

\$10,990

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 3 *

United Way of West Alabama

Accomplishment 4

Describe this accomplishment.

COTV delivered 375 school readiness calendars to daycare, head start and pre-k children in Sumter County.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 4?

Children and families in Sumter County.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 4

\$2,000

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 4

United Way of West Alabama, Children of the Village Network, Inc.

Accomplishment 5

Describe this accomplishment.

COTV delivered books to approximately 375 children (Read for the Record Campaign). These students attended daycares, head starts and pre-k centers/schools in Sumter County.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 5?

Children and families in Sumter County

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 5

\$500

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 5

United of West Alabama and Children of the Village Network, Inc.

Accomplishment 6

Describe this accomplishment.

COTV delivered 50 turkeys for Thanksgiving 2022 to approximately 50 senior citizens in Sumter County

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 6?

Senior citizens and families in Sumter County

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 6

\$1,000

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 6

ENVIVA and Children of the Village Network, Inc.

Accomplishment 7

Describe this accomplishment.

November - January 2022

Children of the Village Network, Inc. hosted a Reading for Coats Campaign for school aged children in Sumter County. COTV distributed coats, books, snacks and dental care items to 46 HeadStart children in Sumter County

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 7?

School aged children and families

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 7

\$3,900

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 7

Operation Warm, United Way of West Alabama, Children of the Village Network, Inc. and volunteers

Accomplishment 8

Describe this accomplishment.

COTV distributed hams for Christmas 2022 to approximately 30 families in Sumter County.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 8?

Children and families in Sumter County

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 8

\$700

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 8

West Alabama Food Bank and Children of the Village Network.

Accomplishment 9

Describe this accomplishment.

COTV delivered nine, (9) McDonald's gift cards to foster children in Sumter County for Christmas 2022.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 9?

Foster children and foster parents in Sumter County.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 9

\$150

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 9

Children of the Village Network, Inc.

Accomplishment 10

Describe this accomplishment.

In January 2022 Sumter County was impacted by a tornado. COTV distributed \$300 gift cards and cleaning supply and household items basket to families impacted by the tornado.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 10?

Children and families in Sumter County

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 10

\$1,750

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 10

. United Way of West Alabama and Children of the Village Network, Inc.

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 MEMBER LIST 2023.docx 22.91KB

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.

COTV MINUTES 2023.pdf 38.14KB

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.

COTV SIGN IN SHEET 2023.pdf 28.19KB

Conclusion *

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

How can your agency be more responsive to our funding requests?