



Introduction

The Children's Policy Councils 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-base 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 in the spaces provided regarding your County's Children's Policy Council.

County*

Tuscaloosa

Honorable

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

Elizabeth C. Hamner

Title of Judge

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

Circuit Judge

Address

Please provide the street address for mailing information to the CPC.

Street Address

714 Greensboro Ave.

Address Line 2

City

Tuscaloosa

State / Province / Region

Alabama

Postal / Zip Code

35401

Country

USA

CPC Members

CPC Member

Hon. Elizabeth C. Hamner

Referee, Shelly Standridge

Kevin Besnoy

Marquetta Burton

Jackie Hudgins

Joyce Jelks

Corlina Koranda

Bobby Latham

Susan Miles

CPC Member

Hon. Dennis Steverson, Sr.

Marilou Baker

Brent Blankney

Mary Florian

Melanie Ingle

Chris Jordan

Shelbi Lake

Shannon Lynch

Mary Norwood

CPC Member

Hon. Rob Robertson

Kara Bernal

James Brooke

Cheryl Fondren

Whitney Jamison

April Kendrick

Tangi Landers

Lisa Maddox

Sherri Presley-Dumas

Misty Renfroe

Faye Royal

Trendle Samuel

Nicole Shine

Jennifer Thomas

Kimdeldria Washington

Stephanie Waters

Shakina Wheeler-Cox

Jackie Wuska

Does your CPC currently have 501(c)3 status? *

- Yes
 No

Name of CPC Coordinator

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

Hon. Elizabeth C. Hamner

CPC Coordinator Email

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

Elizabeth.Hamner@alacourt.gov

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. If your CPC would like to rank five or more needs, please feel free to do so. You are welcome to answer as many questions as you would like on this survey, but we ask that you please answer at least all of the questions under your top three ranked 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)

Most Urgent Needs

Please choose your three most urgent needs.

- 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

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.

Number of children in foster care

109

Are there enough available placements for foster children in your county?

- Yes
 No

Urgent Needs

Please rank your top selected needs in the order of importance- 1 being the most important 2, and 3.

- 1
 2
 3

Mental Health

Mental Health is important at every stage of life, from childhood, adolescence to adulthood. Mental Health is an essential component of overall health and well-being for children and their families. Children need to have their mental health conditions identified early so that they can receive proper treatment through outpatient or inpatient serves that meet their needs.

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

56

How many inpatient beds are available in your county for adults?

568

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

9 to 17 years old

Urgent Needs

Please rank your top selected needs in the order of importance- 1 being the most important 2, and 3.

- 1
 2
 3

Juvenile Crime and Safety

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

What is your county Juvenile Violent Crime petition rate?

4.3%

Please provide the rate of teens not attending school or not working in your county.

3.4%

Urgent Needs

Please rank your top selected needs in the order of importance- 1 being the most important 2, and 3.

- 1
 2
 3

Accomplishments

For your existing programs and accomplishments from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, please provide who benefited from the accomplishment, the source and amount of funds used for the accomplishment. Please provide at least three of your county CPC's accomplishments for the past year. You may include up to 10.

Accomplishment 1

Please describe this accomplishment.

Parenting Assistance Line

Alabama's Parenting Assistance Line (PAL) is a statewide free confidential service available to anyone who wants information and support in becoming a more confident parent or caregiver. PAL provides free information, support and tools to parents across the state whose children are ages birth through adolescence.

Who benefited from accomplishment 1

Parents and caregivers statewide. 602 calls/chats were received; there were 102 website contacts with parenting questions; 15,516 PAL brochures and tip sheets were distributed in English and Spanish; and 4807 people were reached through PAL presentations and/or PAL Exhibits across the state. With our new PAL By Text program, 14,368 text messages were sent out across the state informing parents of community resources available in their area which were in addition to child development and parenting information texts.

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 1

\$225,000

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 1

The Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention & Alabama Department of Human Resources

Accomplishment 2

Please describe this accomplishment.

Mobile Food Pantry

Tuscaloosa's One Place, A Family Resource Center (TOP) hosts several Mobile Food Pantries each year across West Alabama in partnership with the local food bank. At each pantry, approximately 150 families receive roughly 70lbs of groceries. Groceries include an assortment fresh produce, meats, dairy products, canned goods, and non-perishable items.

Who benefited from accomplishment 2

From July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, 1,287 families experiencing food insecurity benefitted from mobile food pantries through TOP.

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 2

\$2,450

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 2

Mobile Food Pantries are funded through general donations from TOP supporters.

Accomplishment 3

Please describe this accomplishment.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring Programs

This is one-to-one mentoring for youth where adult mentors help develop potential in each child during weekly scheduled meetings together (filled with a variety of experiences) and providing parental education by supplying each family with easy-to-read literature. They also receive professional staff support to create safe, strong and enduring relationships to help ensure everyone's success. There is educational success as children do better in school, they develop higher aspirations, gain confidence to overcome challenges, and avoids risky behaviors (drugs, delinquency and juvenile justice system).

Who benefited from accomplishment 3

Child being mentored, family and community

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 3

\$348,468

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 3

Local city and state funding

Accomplishment 4

Please describe this accomplishment.

Doing What Matters Conference

The Doing What Matters Conference was held on January 25, 2022. The conference is an annual event focused on the well-being of our children. In 2022, the conference highlighted topics including the effects of COVID-19, mental health concerns, suicide prevention, the Alabama Literacy Act, food insecurity and working in partnership to support and strengthen families. We use the Five Promises of America's Promise and the Annie E. Casey Kids Count data to direct the content of the conference and track our progress in meeting the needs of Alabama's children. These promises insure that children have access to a caring adults, safe places, a healthy start, an effective education and opportunities to help others.

Who benefited from accomplishment 4

People who benefited from the conference include social services agency staff, social workers, University of Alabama faculty, staff and students, parents, law enforcement, nurses, teachers, counselors, attorneys, court staff and medical professionals.

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 4

\$10,000

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 4

Funding was provided by the University of Alabama College of Continuing Studies, United Way of West Alabama, individual and business sponsors, and through attendance fees.

Accomplishment 5

Please describe this accomplishment.

Head Start Programs.

Community Service Programs of West Alabama, Inc. Head Start & Early Head Start provides comprehensive services to children, ages birth - 5, and their families. Services are currently offered in Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, and Tuscaloosa County. The program focuses on school readiness including development in the areas of social-emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, mathematics, science & technology, social studies, and arts.

Who benefited from accomplishment 5

Children and families enrolled in the program directly benefit from services provided. The local community also indirectly benefits from program services.

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 5

\$7.3 Million in base funding plus additional one time funding listed below

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 5

The program's base funding of \$7.3 million is awarded through a federal grant under the Administration of Children and Families (ACF).

Additional one time funding from:

COVID (\$158,000) and ARP (American Rescue Plan) (\$629,000) which are also funded the Administration of Children and Families (ACF);

QRIS (Quality Rating and Improvement System) (\$76,000) and TASC (Temporary Assistance for Stabilizing Child Care)(\$458,000) which are funded by the Alabama Department of Human Resources.

The amounts listed fund all counties served.

Accomplishment 6

Please describe this accomplishment.

Getting Ready for Kindergarten Calendar

The Getting Ready for Kindergarten Calendar is in its 17th year of publication. The Getting Ready for Kindergarten calendar is designed to help families in preparing their children to successfully enter school. It includes low cost or free activities to engage children and families in learning.

Who benefited from accomplishment 6

Since its inception over 191,000 children and families have benefitted from the calendar. In 2021 over 6000 copies were distributed to four-year old children in childcare centers, schools, and Head Start Centers throughout West Alabama and more than 16,000 statewide.

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 6

\$500 (costs)

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 6

Funding was provided by the United Way of West Alabama's Alexis de Tocqueville Society, The Hewson Family Foundation, The Mike & Gillian Goodrich Foundation, The Daniel Foundation, and the generous gifts of individual donors and businesses to the work of UWWA's Success By 6 Program.

Accomplishment 7

Please describe this accomplishment.

Read for the Record

Read for the Record is an international event created to mobilize a record number volunteers each year to read the same book to children. The Read for the Record event is designed to bring awareness of the importance of early literacy.

Who benefited from accomplishment 7

For the 12th year, Success By 6 coordinated efforts at schools, childcare centers, and Head Start programs across West Alabama. On October 28, 2021 a total of 19,465 children and volunteers read the children's book, Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon by Kat Zhang, achieving our highest participation to date.

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 7

\$2500 (Cost of Books distributed and Mileage to Deliver to all 9 Counties in West Alabama).

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 7

Funding for the Read for the Record event was provided by the United Way of West Alabama's Alexis de Tocqueville Society, The Hewson Family Foundation, The Mike & Gillian Goodrich Foundation, The Daniel Foundation, and the generous gifts of individual donors and businesses to the work of UWWA's Success By 6 Program.

Accomplishment 8

Please describe this accomplishment.

Second Step and Protecting Our Children Programs

Child Abuse Prevention Services (CAPS) provided 2 programs in our schools. Second Step provided students with socioemotional strategies. We worked with K-2nd graders and 6th -8th graders in Tuscaloosa City School System. We also worked in K-2nd Graders and 6th graders in Tuscaloosa County schools. In Hale County, we provided services to K-5th grade and 6th-8th grade in some of their schools. The program taught anger management, empathy, emotional management, bully prevention, and problem solving skills. The other program Protecting Our Children dealt with sexual abuse prevention and addressed topics such as rights and responsibilities, healthy and unhealthy relationships and seeking assistance when needed, good touch, bad touch, grooming and human trafficking.

Who benefited from accomplishment 8

Pre K- 12th Grade Students in the Tuscaloosa City, County and Hale County School systems were provided the Protecting Our Children Program. K-2nd graders and 6th -8th graders in Tuscaloosa City School System, K-2nd Graders and 6th graders in Tuscaloosa County schools, and in Hale County, K-5th grade and 6th-8th grade in some of their schools received Second Step.

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 8

\$137,000 for Second Step and \$105,000 for Protecting Our Children

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 8

Funding from Children's Trust Fund, Tuscaloosa City School System, Tuscaloosa City Council and County Commission"

Accomplishment 9

Please describe this accomplishment.

Tuscaloosa Backpack Connections

Backpack Connections is a collaborative effort to enhance student and families lives by providing backpacks and school supplies to those in need in our Tuscaloosa City and County schools.

Who benefited from accomplishment 9

Students and teachers in the Tuscaloosa City and County Schools

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 9

Information requested but not provided

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 9

Information requested but not provided

Accomplishment 10

Please describe this accomplishment.

Shelton State Honor Dorm at Juvenile Court

The Juvenile Court Shelton State Honor Dorm is a collaboration between the Tuscaloosa County Juvenile Detention Center, the Tuscaloosa County Juvenile District Attorney's Office, and Shelton State Community College Adult Education to assist youth with an alternate pathway to success. Students are selected for the Shelton State Honor Dorm based on behavior, determination, and eligibility. All students must apply themselves daily to meet the requirements of their college classes and hold each other accountable. The Honor Dorm is a privilege and not a guarantee. Education is both celebrated and taken seriously in the Honor Dorm. Class is taught by a Shelton State instructor twice a week, and students study online virtually through laptops on individualized study plans designed based on their career paths determined at their intake meeting. Upon exit from the JU Detention facility, the student has a schedule to enter Shelton State Community College and transition to their college and/or work-based learning plan. All students attend SSCC 8:00-4:00 Monday-Thursday for a minimum of 3 months, immediately transitioning from the Honor Dorm to establish resources needed for success into adulthood.

Who benefited from accomplishment 10

18 students have been served through the Juvenile Shelton State Honor Dorm

3 students earned their GED credential

5 students passed parts of their GED and are on their way to earning their credential

5 co-enrolled in college classes

2 earned National Career Readiness Certificates

Tuscaloosa County residents as a whole by helping these juveniles establish resources needed for success into adulthood.

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 10

NA

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 10

The funding to support this collaboration's instructor, computers, and education curriculum is funded through the Shelton State Community College Adult Education Grant. Shelton State Community College supports co-enrollment students of the Honor Dorm by covering tuition and training costs through the Alabama Committee on Credentialing and Career Pathway Funding until Federal Pell Grant status is established.

CPC Self-Assessment

Self-assessment is an integral part of the County CPC development. Please complete the questions below and indicate your CPC's level of development.

Level I CPC

Please select all that apply.

- Mandate 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
- CPS 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

Please 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

Please select all committees which have been established.

- Early Care and Education
- Economic Security
- Education
- Health
- Parent Involvement and Skills
- Safety

Level III CPC

Please 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

Please upload a CPC membership list with contact information.

MembersNeedsAssess22.xlsx

16.62KB

CPC Meeting Minutes

Please upload minutes from CPC meetings from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. Please ensure all minutes are scanned together as one document.

Minutes2022.pdf

382.63KB

CPC Sign-In Sheets

Please upload all CPC Meeting Sign-In sheets from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. Please ensure all sign-in sheets are scanned together as one document.

SignIn2022.pdf

79.72KB

Conclusion*

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

NA