CPC Needs Assessment Reevaluation



General Information

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.

Submission Date

06/27/2025

County*

Jefferson

Honorable Judge *

Please provide the name of the Judge who leads the county's Children's Policy Council. Janine Hunt-Hilliard

Name of CPC Coordinator*

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

Shelly N. Mize

CPC Coordinator Email*

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

mizes@jccal.org

Address*

Enter the address for mailing information to the CPC.

Street Address

120 2nd Court North

Address Line 2

City State/Province/Region

Birmingham Alabama
Postal/Zip Code Country

35204 United States

School	Syctom/I	\Box \wedge	Representation*	
School	System/L	.EA	Representation *	

- O Yes, all are represented and active
- Yes, all are represented but not all are active

Number of School Systems*		
Indicate the number of school systems or Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in your county.		
10 or more		
Does your county currently conduct a	a youth survey?*	
○ Yes		
No		
CPC Members	of all CDC Mambars with each name in a constr	ata field. Use the "Add" liek to greate move fields as
needed.	or all CPC Members, with each hame in a separa	ate field. Use the "Add" link to create more fields as
CPC Member	CPC Member	CPC Member
Elaine Stephens	Tracie West	Shaneka Prowell
Denise Bryant	Deidre Brown	Alecia Cunningham
Michelle Warren	Sharon Forte	Rebecca Lewis
Piper Doherty	Sabrina Harris	Katlyn Degree
Kendra Johnson	Natasha Shumpert	Brittany Ikner
Lige Shears	Allison Ambler	LaToya Mims
Tina Thornton	LaToria Ranson	Jerome Bell
Emily Herring	Kelly Burke	DeShanna Austin
Shauane Jones	Jo Davis	James Sparks
Jenee Wilson	Kristin Schlenker	Tonya Troncalli
Courtney Blanks	Miesha Knox	Miesha Mullins
Terica Nathan	Zachary Williams	Gwendolyn Brown
Teresa Goad	Jequette Noland	Kristie Pettway
Quashundra Nelson	Shalndra Cheatham	Katlyn Smith
Beth Jones	Georgia Brennan	Sabdi Lopez Jiminez
Yvette Burt	Angela Mosley	Erica Dozier
Ev Gunn	Allison Fuller	Keisha Kennedy
Cathy Nichols	Angelica Melendez	Tashee Brown
Orletta Rush	Catrice Pruitt	Tiffany Armstrong
Joan Wright	Lella Hamiter	Kim Braasch

Some are represented, but not all

Ladye Franklin	Meredith Hicks	Cassandra Copeland
Joanna Taylor	Tom Turnbull	Kryslyn Allyson
Beth Johns	Tina Thornton	John Stone
George Casev	Rvan Parker	Melissa Niven Sherer

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

Yes

No

Back to top

Needs Identification

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:

2024 Alabama Kids Count - VOICES for Alabama's Children

Our Research - Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama

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 *

Substance Use

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

their academic education.
Persontel Investorment Persist
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
○ 3
Trends of Child Abuse*
Mark the answer that best characterizes reports of child abuse in your county.
We are seeing an increase in child abuse reports.
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. financial stresses; poverty; poverty indifference; illiteracy; unemployment; mental health; some people do not take advantage of the Mental
Health resources available for fear of being judged.
Due to the economy, parents are having to work more in order to survive. This causes them to have less capacity for their children and/or
they rely on less trustworthy people for childcare. In terms of domestic violence, many women feel stuck in abuse relationships because of
financial ties to their partnersor they are afraid to leave their abuse partner.
Number of Children in Foster Care*
666
Are there enough available placements for foster children in your county?*
○ Yes
No No
Number of children who aged out of Foster Care
22
Home Visiting Programs Availability*
Does your county have sufficient access to home visiting programs such as HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters), PAT (Parents as Teachers), Nurse Family Partnership (NFP), or other Home Visiting programs?
Yes
No No
Home Visiting Programs*

Family risk and protective factors impact the involvement, or lack thereof, of parents in their children's social-emotional development and

Mark all that are available in your county.	
Parents as Teachers (PAT)	
HIPPY	
Nurse Family Partnership	
☑ Early Head Start	
☐ Family Check Up	
☐ Healthy Families America	
Early Intervention Program for Adolescent Mothers	
☐ Child FIRST	
Cocally developed model	
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 component of overall health and well-being for children and their families. Children need to have any mental early so they can receive proper treatment through outpatient or inpatient services that meet their needs.	
Mental Health Rank*	
Mental Health Rank* Rank this need in order of its importance with 1 being the most important, 2 as second most important, and top three urgent needs.	d 3 as the least important of your
Rank this need in order of its importance with 1 being the most important, 2 as second most important, and	d 3 as the least important of your
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○ Yes
No
Occasionally
If the demand for any mental health service for ADULTS is unmet, what are some actions taken?*
While is sounds like a lot of facilities with beds, the whole state uses these beds. Currently organizations and lobbying for additional beds through legislation. APDH, JCDH, and MCDH just launched a free, online self-help platform at alabama.crediblemind.org Crisis Response Expansion Telehealth Services Community Based Support Programs
How many facilities in your community maintain CHILDREN's inpatient beds for mental health issues?
4
Does this number meet the demand?
○ Yes
No
○ Occasionally
,
If the demand for any mental health service for CHILDREN is unmet, what are some actions taken?*
While is sounds like a lot of facilities with beds, the whole state uses these beds. Children in Jefferson County do not get preferential treatment. JBS launched a mobile crisis response unit this past year to meet the needs of children and adolescents in crisis. Mental health services have increases in local schools. PPEER, an infant and early childhood mental health grant is focused on meeting mental health needs in very young children (0-5) and provides services in Jefferson County. Children's ER has adjusted how they handle behavioral/mental health emergencies.
Please Indicate the population with the greatest mental health service need in your county.
○ Birth to 5 Year Olds
○ 6 Year Olds to 13 Year Olds
■ 14 Year Olds to 18 Year Olds
○ 19 year Olds and Up
What are the top 3 mental health resources available to your county?*
List the top 3 mental health resources in your county.
Children's Hospital of Alabama, UAB, JBS
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
○ 1
○ 2
3
What is the unemployment rate in your county?*
2.50
What is the number of SNAP recipients (all ages) in your county?*
88,749

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

22.60

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

High schools are offering more and more opportunities for students in the areas of career tech and early college enrollment. Both opportunities are extremely accessible and offer a wide variety of educational opportunities, pathways and certifications in multiple fields. There are several colleges and universities in Jefferson County. Students and adults can also complete certifications through the Alabama Workforce Training Center.

List the 3 largest employers in your county.*

UAB, Children's of Alabama, Alabama Power

Describe the types of jobs available in your county.*

research, medical, education,, manual (day labor), retail, government, food industry, healthcare, social assistance (fire, police, etc), private industry

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?

Much of Jefferson County's workforce commutes from surrounding counties. There are training programs in Jefferson County, both on the job and "workforce development" training center. General consensus is the need for more "soft skills" due to concern about work ethic and attitudes of younger employees.

Accomplishments

With regard to your programs in existence from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, 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.

The purpose of the SAFE CARE Program is to address the emerging substance use crisis and its impact on infants and children, ensure plans of safe care are implemented for both prenatally exposed infants and their mothers with SUD. Services include care coordination for recovery, mental health, medical, early intervention, parenting and in-home education. The SAFE CARE Program is designed to help build and retain intact families affected by substance use disorders, to ensure effective safety plans are in place for substance-affected infants and that community resources are utilized to meet the needs of their mothers and families.

Over the past year, SAFE Care was led by the Recovery Organization of Support Specialist (R.O.S.S.), to service substance exposed infants and their parents/caregivers by helping them navigate systems to seek sobriety, safety and stability using plans of safe care. We learned that over 50% of babies were positive for marijuana at delivery, followed by opiates and methamphetamines. Many parents are not aware of the harmful effects of marijuana use, which sparked an increase in education on its harm and smoking cessation to include vaping. More than 70% of parents screened positive for a co-occurring mental health diagnosis, indicating that mental health may be the underlying concern for substance misuse. Just over 30% of infants were diagnosed with Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome. 78 Adults were served yielding 54% of infants remaining in the custody of their parents or relative, 12% in foster care, 72% participation in recovery supports and 85% prepared a plan of safe care to help communicate and track their connections to community partners. Parents reported that as a result of program participation, they learned stress management, goal setting/planning, community resource navigation, coping skills, improved communication and parent-child interaction.

In March 2025, SAFECare was one of the programs that abruptly lost federal funding. SAFECare services ended in Jefferson and Calhoun counties at the end of March. However, we were able to maintain an Opioid Settlement Fund grant, which provides funding for Baldwin (and now Mobile) through the end of September. Therefore, we are able to continue our partnership with Lifelines Counseling services in Mobile.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 1?*

CASE MANAGEMENT: Benefiting are Pregnant and Postpartum Substance Involved Women and their Infants age birth to 3 years of age in the areas we serve.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 1*

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 1*

ADMH, CPC of Jefferson County

Accomplishment 2*

Describe this accomplishment.

Since April of 2024, we have offered free "period products" in all of the women's restrooms (guest and staff) at the Jefferson County Family Court. This is a collaborative effort between the Programs Division at Family Court, CPC, and Bundles of Hope Diaper Bank. The Programs department at Family Court and CPC feel that this is a great example of showing our community that we care on the most basic/essential level. From July 1, 2024 through the end of June 2025, 1,068 period products have been made available to visitors and staff through this basic essential program.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 2?*

Describe this accomplishment.

Females who need period products while at JCFC (visiting or working).

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 2*

\$0.00

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 2*

The Children's Policy Cooperative of Jefferson County partners with Bundles of Hope Diaper Bank which generously donates diapers, wipes, and period products to Jefferson County Family Court. These items are distributed as needed through our "essentials closet". While there is no "out of pocket" expense for the diapers, wipes, and period products, there is the expectation that we give back in volunteer time, diaper drives, exposure/connections. CPC Executive Director and Board Members donate diapers and wipes and write grants to help offset the cost of the diapers, wipes and period products donated by Bundles of Hope Diaper Bank.

Accomplishment 3*

Describe this accomplishment.

Community Engagement and Building Partnerships:

- · First Friday Forums on issues affecting children
- Early Care and Education WorkGroup: monthly convening, programming and advocacy; initiatives focused on early care and education providers and professionals
- CPC Safety Committee: (Townsend Safety Project) the Family University at Tarrant City Schools
- Information Sharing: CPC List-Serve & FB Go-to-Source for information about child-serving organizations and community services, Newsletter

Early Care Education Monthly WorkGroup Meetings:

- September 4, 2024 (29participants) (Lou Lacey, Self Care)
- October 2, 2024 (33 participants) (Deveney Johnson-Cooper, Autism Diagnostic Clinic, through PW&G)
- November 6, 2024 (15 participants) (Tracie West, All Babies & All Kids)
- February 5, 2025 (22 participants) (Joan Wright, Tax Credits for Childcare Centers)
- March 5, 2025 (13 participants) (Loretta Keller, PreSchool Partners, PATHS Promoting Alt Thinking Strategies)
- April 3, 2025 (60 participants) (JOINT ACTIVITY WITH FIRST FRIDAY POVERTY SIMULATION)
- May 7, 2025 (16 participants) (Joanna Taylor, Auburn Univ, Early HeadStart)

First Friday Forums:

- August 9, 2024 (43 participants) Hybrid (2024 State of the Child in Jefferson County)
- September 6, 2024 (44 participants) Hybrid (Partner Spotlights: Kelly Burke, CASA & Tina Thornton, Helping Families Initiative (HFI)
- October 4, 2024 (42 participants) Hybrid (Beth Jones, ADMH PPEER Mental Health Resources; Tracie West, ALL Kids & ALL Babies)
- November 1, 2024 (53 participants) Hybrid (Tom Turnbull, Family Guidance Center, Coping With Stress)
- February 7, 2025 (58 participants) Hybrid (Partner Spotlight: Emily Herring Bryan, School Mental Health Coordinator, What School Mental Health Looks like. Gen Info for partnering with Schools)
- March 7, 2025 (34 participants) Hybrid (Manisha Mishra, Alabama Possible, Barriers to Prosperity)
- April 3, 2025 (60 participants) (JOINT ACTIVITY WITH FIRST FRIDAY POVERTY SIMULATION) IN PERSON ONLY
- May 2, 2025 (35 participants) Hybrid (Advocacy, Voices for Alabama Children)

Through the Early Care Education (ECE) Monthly Workgroups and First Friday Forums, CPC of Jefferson County trained/networked with 497 individuals in our area, an increase from 423 the previous year.

CPC Newsletters, Emails/LIST-SERVE, Web-Site

CPC Facebook has 1,752 followers. During the past year, CPC had to switch back from Mailchimp to Outlook due to Jefferson County security reasons. It outlook, we can only send a maximum of 500 emails at one time. Therefore, we are constantly watching the email list for emails that are kicked back.

CPC built a new Website during spring 2022 that offers community resource access, connection with CPC programs and services as well as community agencies. We work hard to keep the website updated.

Newsletters – We switched to SMORE to create CPC newsletters after mailchimp quit working. A great feature with this electronic newsletter is that I can see the number of times the newsletter has been opened. (While it doesn't indicate the number of people who viewed it, I can tell the number of times the newsletter has been viewed.) Six newsletters were sent out to our email list and posted on the website this year. The newsletters were viewed 2,780 times, an average of 463 times each newsletter.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 3?*

Child serving professionals/agencies including educators; mental health/ health care; law enforcement; OHR, juvenile justice; social service, ECE, and ultimately children and families served by and through our CPC partnerships and collaborations.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 3*

\$85,000.00

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 3*

Jefferson County Commission, individual donations.

Accomplishment 4

Describe this accomplishment.

The CPC maintains an Essentials Closet at Family Court of Jefferson County with essential items such as feminine products, personal hygiene products, diapers, wipes, pacifiers, socks, underwear, backpacks, shoes, laundry detergent, toothbrush/toothpaste, snacks, juice boxes to have available for families and children coming through the doors of Family Court who are in crisis, without and needing basic necessities. This past year we also expanded the essentials closet to include the Bessemer Family Court annex.

The Jefferson County Family Court served 42 families, with basic essentials (beyond diapers and wipes) from August 2024 through May 2025. The Bessemer annex served 18 families with diapers, wipes and essential items. Over the past two years, we increased our diaper distribution by 33% (from 9,500 to 12,600).

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 4?

Describe this accomplishment.

Families / individuals in need of basic essential items. Signs are posted at both the Birmingham and Bessemer family court locations with directions for who to contact if in need of essential items.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 4

\$500.00

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 4

Small grants and individual donations; diaper, wipe, and period product donations are from Bundles of Hope Diaper Bank.

Accomplishment 5

Describe this accomplishment.

Children's Book Vending Machine at Birmingham and Bessemer Family Courts

The Children's Book Vending Machine has been outside of the waiting room of the Jefferson County Family Court since May 2023 and a second children's book vending machine was installed at the Bessemer Family Court annex in May of 2024. The purpose of the FREE book vending machines was initially to address and target early literacy by encouraging families to read more children's books. An added bonus is that they add books to home libraries as the children get to keep the book he/she selects from the vending machine. While 2/3 of the books have been

distributed into the hands of little friends under the age of five, youth as old as 15 have been interested in books. This has caused us to broaden our focus. The machine is still filled with books that primarily support younger readers. However, we also have a nice selection of graphic novels and chapter books for older readers as well. During 2023, we distributed 1,356 books to children. During 2024, we distributed 4,441 books to children (4,125 through Jefferson County Family Court and 316 books through the Bessemer Annex).

In addition, resources are posted on the sides of the machine for caregivers. The resources include valuable information on the importance of early literacy, links to resources, information about GED classes, how to sign up for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, and links to YouTube "Story Time" videos.

The success of this vending machine also prompted the planning and purchase of a second children's book vending machine, which was placed at the Bessemer Family Court annex. The ribbon cutting was May 9th.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 5?

All children who visit either Family Court in Jefferson County, Birmingham or Bessemer location.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 5

\$20,000.00

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 5

Jefferson County Commission, CPC of Jefferson County, Alabama Public Television, Individual Donations, UAB School of Education (in kind), Alabama Power Foundation, CPC Technical Assistance Grant, Barnes and Noble Booksellers, Superior Text

Accomplishment 6

Describe this accomplishment.

Presentations and Big Projects:

CPC of Jefferson County has been asked to present on a variety of topics at different events this past year.

- Presentation for Alabama Literacy Alliance (August 9, 2024) "Book Vending Machine Project"
- Created a multipage annual IMPACT report Fall 2024 to showcase Jefferson County CPC's accomplishments.
- Organized and sponsored a Poverty Simulation (partnered with Alabama Possible) for child-serving organizations in Jefferson County (April 3, 2025)
- Led CPC Committee in the Strategic Planning process (January April, 2025)
- Presented for Family Court Programs (May 21, 2025) "Children's Policy Cooperative of Jefferson County overview"

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 6?

CPC partners and child-serving organizations in Jefferson County

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 6

\$0.00

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 6

Time:

Accomplishment 7

Describe this accomplishment.

This past year, CPC and the Family Court Programs Division partnered on the Court Cuddles project. This project provides small squishmallows for judges to give away to children in crisis. The project has been a huge success. 42 cuddles have already been distributed to the judges to give out at their discretion. (Judges have plastic tubs under their bench with court cuddles in the tubs. We are notified when their tubs need to be refilled. The judges are asked to keep up with the date cuddles are distributed as well as the age and gender of the child.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 7?

Young children in crisis.

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 7

\$1,000.00

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 7

Walmart grant, individual donations

Accomplishment 8

Describe this accomplishment.

During Christmas, CPC and the Programs Division created Christmas gift bags for 28 children. The gifts varied from Mr. Potato Heads to barbie dolls to activity books. Each gift bag included a variety of prizes. The purpose of the Christmas gifts was to provide a little extra cheer while waiting at Family Court during the Christmas season. All gifts were donated.

Who benefitted from Accomplishment 8?

young children visiting Family Court during Christmas

Amount of Funds Dedicated to Accomplishment 8

\$0.00

Source(s) of Funds for Accomplishment 8

private donation

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

Back to top

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	st quarterly
Membership list	t was kept current
✓ Needs assessm	nent was turned in on time and in correct format
Annual Danart	submitted with needs seconoment
Level II CPC	
Select all that app	lly.
At least 10 of th	e 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	pers attended the CPC conference last year
New Member O	rientation Manual was developed
Committees me	at least quarterly in addition to regularly scheduled CPC meetings
Committees pre	esented reports at CPC meetings
Committees too	k action toward identified issues
CPC has a miss	sion statement
CPC has an ele	cted Vice-Chair
CPC has an ele	ected Secretary
Level II - Commit	
	rees which have been established.
Early Care and	
Economic Secu	rity
Education	
Health	
Parent Involven	nent and Skills
✓ Safety	
Level III CPC	
Select all that app	oly.
Council has dev	veloped strong leadership
Fiscal agent has	s been identified or a 501(c)3 has been established
	een written and approved
Members have	attended CPC Leadership Training
Council is active	e in child advocacy efforts
	rs community efforts for children's issues
	e active and performing specific actions
	bers attended the CPC Conference last year
	line has been developed with legislators
	with the media occurs
CPC has a strat	
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	
	Back to top
Annual Report Documentation	
CPC Members List	
Use the upload button below to provide a CPC membership list with contact information.	
CPC Email list June 2025.docx	53.38KB
CPC Meeting Minutes*	
Upload minutes from CPC meetings from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Please ensure all minutes are scanned together as one doc	cument.
CPC Board Minutes 2024 2025.pdf	649.13KB
CPC Sign-In Sheets*	
Upload all CPC Meeting sign-in sheets from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Please ensure all sign-in sheets are scanned together as	one document.
FFF and ECE sign ins 2024 2025.pdf	4.23MB
	Back to top
Conclusion	
Conclusion* What have we not asked you about that you feel is important?	
Thank you for your support! I cannot think of anything that you have not asked.	