



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 *

Jefferson

Honorable *

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

Janine Hunt-Hilliard

Title of Judge *

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

Presiding Judge, Family Court of Jefferson County

Address *

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

Street Address

Address Line 2

City

State / Province / Region

Postal / Zip Code

Country

CPC Members

CPC Member

CPC Member

CPC Member

Rachelle Cather	Elaine Stephens	Anna Gaston	×
George Casey	Ev Gunn	Shajuane Jones	×
Julie Pearce	Judy Prince	Joan Wright	×
Krislyn Allison	Kimberly Berry	Amanda Keller	×
Bryn Manzella	Bethany Dowling	Mark Driskill	×
Kelly @ Foster Coalition	Kaylan Martin	Daniel Novoa	×
Helen Glass	Paul Berry	Tankiya Morris	×
Kim Braasch	Beth Jones	Jule Ray	×
Jan Bell	A. Bradley	Erica Dozier	×
Beth Johns	Jo Davis	Dr. Orletta Rush	×
Dr. Morissa Ladinsky	John Stone	Jackie French	×
Ryan Parker	Georgia Brennan		×

[Add](#)

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.

Shelly N. Mize

CPC Coordinator Email *

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

mizes@jccal.org

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/2022-alabama-kids-count/> (<https://alavoices.org/2022-alabama-kids-count/>)

(<https://alavoices.org/2021-alabama-kids-count/>)<https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#AL/2/0/char/0>

(<https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#AL/2/0/char/0>)

CPC Website for AOC County Data

www.alcpc.org (<http://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 *

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? *

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

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



Urgent Needs *

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

- 1
- 2
- 3

Poverty

Poverty has many faces, unemployment, poor living standards and the working poor not having enough money to provide the basic needs for their children.

What is the unemployment rate in your county? *

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

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, 2023 - June 30, 2024, 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.

This past spring, a member of our planning committee at Family Court had the idea of supplying the women's staff restroom with period products. We expanded that program to offer free "period products" (tampons and pads) in all of the women's restrooms at the Jefferson County Family Court. The program started in April 2024. During the month of April, 128 period products were distributed. During the month of May, 80 period products were distributed and during the month of June, 120 period products have been distributed. In the three months since this program has been launched at the Jefferson County Family

Who benefited from accomplishment 1 *

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

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 1 *

in kind

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 1 *

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 volunteer at Bundles of Hope Diaper Bank in order to help offset the cost of the diapers, wipes, and period products that BOH

Accomplishment 2*

Please 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

Who benefited from accomplishment 2*

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.

EXPANSION: We are now focused on expanding to a fourth county in Alabama.

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 2*

650,000

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 2*

ADMH, CPC of Jefferson County

Accomplishment 3*

Please 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) Smithfield Gun Violence Project in conjunction

Who benefited 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

Please describe this accomplishment.

Essentials Closet

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.

Who benefited from accomplishment 4

Children and families in need/crisis who are at Family Court.

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 4

2,000

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 4

Bundles of Hope Diaper Bank, CPC of Jefferson County

Accomplishment 5

Please describe this accomplishment.

Children's Book Vending Machine at Family Court

The Children's Book Vending Machine has been outside of the waiting room of the Jefferson County Family Court for the past year. The purpose of the FREE book vending machine was initially to address and target early literacy by encouraging families to read more children's books. An added bonus is that it added books to home libraries as the children get to keep the book he/she selects from the vending

Who benefited from accomplishment 5

All children who visit a Family Court in Jefferson County.

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 5

\$60,000

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 5

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

Accomplishment 6

Please describe this accomplishment.

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

- Presentation for Jefferson County Family Court Senior Staff Meeting (September 20, 2023) "Strategies that Cultivate a Healthy Work Environment"
- Presentation for The Breakfast Club w/ Beth Johns (February 28, 2024) "Family Court Vending

Who benefited from accomplishment 6

CPC of Jefferson County and the recipient organization

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 6

0

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 6

0

Accomplishment 7

Please describe this accomplishment.

The FOCUS Program "Reaching Your Potential"

In September 2023, 152 high school students, 25 middle school students, and 13 adults from seven schools (Carver High School, Fairfield High Preparatory School, McAdory Middle School, Midfield High School, Ramsey High School, Tarrant High School, and Trussville High School) attended our FOCUS Rally. During the rally the students received training to implement student-led prevention. Action plans

Who benefited from accomplishment 7

177 youth from seven area schools.

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 7

na

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 7

na

Accomplishment 8

Please describe this accomplishment.

The SAFETY Committee partnered with Tarrant City Schools to host Family University, a joint project under the CPC Townsend Project. This project took a year to plan and implement. The event took place on March 12, 2024 at Tarrant Intermediate School. More than 30 vendors were set up outside for families, Alabama Public Television provided hands on activities for little friends inside the lunchroom (They read the book Frankenslime and made slime. Every child got to take home a hardback book and slime.) Parents selected three sessions to attend between (money matters, vaping and drug prevention,

Who benefited from accomplishment 8

Families in the Tarrant Community; Smithfield residents

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 8

2,000

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 8

CPC Technical Assistance Grant

Accomplishment 9

Please describe this accomplishment.

During the month of May 2024, CPC hosted a "Dipes and Wipes" diaper and wipe drive at the Jefferson County Family Court to raise awareness for the Bundle of Hope Diaper Bank and to give back to the diaper bank for supporting our Essentials Closet at both the Jefferson County Family Court and Bessemer Family Court. While we collected diapers, wipes, period and incontinence products all month long, we hosted the "shower" on May 7th. Everyone who brought their donations in on May 7th were rewarded with cupcakes. During the diaper drive, we collected 953 diapers, 2,778 wipes, 40 tampons, 30

Who benefited from accomplishment 9

Bundles of Hope Diaper Bank

Amount of funds dedicated to Accomplishment 9

75

Source(s) of funds for Accomplishment 9

CPC general fund

Accomplishment 10

Please describe this accomplishment.

Who benefited 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 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.

Upload

CPC Contact List.pdf 233.5KB ✕

CPC Meeting Minutes *

Please upload minutes from CPC meetings from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. Please ensure all minutes are scanned together as one document.

Upload

CPC Board Minutes 2023 2024.pdf 281.68KB ✕

CPC Sign-In Sheets *

Please upload all CPC Meeting Sign-In sheets from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. Please ensure all sign-in sheets are scanned together as one document.

Upload

FFF and ECE Meetings 23_24.pdf 3.7MB ✕

Conclusion *

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

Our community survey yielded a tie for third place. The tied "need" receiving 35.05% responses indicating that this was a high need was "Early Care and Education." # of children who participated in First Class PreK in 2022-2023 (according to the 2023 Kids Count) was 2,744 (only 34.7%). According to the Kids Count data, there are currently 310 licensed childcare facilities in Jefferson County and 68 centers that are exempt. While Jefferson County does have a wide variety of resources, especially compared to other counties, this is still a need. Concerns in this area are: availability of affordable



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