

2014 Needs Assessment for Lawrence

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Accomplishments

The Children's Policy Council

- 1) conducted a successful fund-raising effort to support CPC projects,
- 2) sponsored "Have a Fit" health fair for 5th graders for second year,
- 3) presented a program on "Human Trafficking" for CPC membership,
- 4) presented a program on "Current Trends in Illegal Drugs" for CPC membership,
- 5) provided Christmas gifts and dinner for the children and families of Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

The Lawrence County School system

- 1) increased to five Pre-K programs,
- 2) participated in "Have a Fit,"
- 3) took part in Special Olympics,
- 4) sponsored AG Day,
- 5) expanded AP programs,
- 6) was involved in Attendance and Truancy Collaboration with local Juvenile Court,
- 7) developed the Lawrence Extended Art Program Students (LEAPS)

The Juvenile Probation Office

- 1) worked with the school system on combating truancy,
- 2) started a drug prevention program.

The Department of Human Resources

- 1) continued its Independent Living Program for foster children

The North Central Alabama Mental Health Center served over 300 children/youth from Lawrence County.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension Service

- 1) conducted 34 programs totaling 800 kids regarding healthy eating and nutrition,
- 2) participated in "Have a Fit."
- 3) presented workshop on "Poison Prevention."
- 4) promoted "Farmers Market Big Adventure" encouraging fresh fruits and vegetables
- 5) assisted local Head Start centers with healthy eating education.

The Lawrence County Health Department

- 1) provided free Tdap vaccinations for 6th graders throughout the county,
- 2) offered immunization, WIC, family planning, pregnancy tests, flu vaccines, screenings for breast cancer, etc. to the county's families,
- 3) conducted a workshop on sexually transmitted diseases,
- 4) spoke with numerous groups and in most of the county's schools about the danger of smoking and second-hand smoke,

5) assisted children in need of health insurance to enroll in Medicaid or Allkids.

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First Priority

Need related to children of this county

Healthy Living

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
Lawrence County Health Department Lawrence County School System Alabama Cooperative Extension Service Local physicians Local dentists Lawrence Medical Center KidCheck Plus	Additional funding for "Have a Fit" Additional volunteers for "Have a Fit"

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

Continue "Have a Fit" health fair for 5th grade students

Develop additional volunteers and financial partners for "Have a Fit"

Discuss feasibility of expanding "Have a Fit" to additional grade levels

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Second Priority

Need related to children of this county

Teen Pregnancy Prevention

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
Lawrence County Health Department Alabama Department of Public Health Lawrence County Department of Human Resources Save-A-Life	Accessible transportation to existing programs Additional educational and prevention programs

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

Develop innovative and low-cost means of transporting clients to existing programs

Increase awareness of the programs that are available

Meet with current programs about expanding their services

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Third Priority

Need related to children of this county

School Success

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
Lawrence County School System Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce Local colleges and universities Lawrence County Industrial Development Board Local industries "ParentCare" event sponsored by the CPC	Additional funding for schools Additional jobs in the County Additional training opportunities

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

Begin discussions with Industrial Development Board and Chamber of Commerce about collaborative efforts concerning this issue.

Encourage local employers and industrial leaders to mentor at local schools.

Talk with local colleges/universities about ways to ensure our students are ready for college level work.

Provide materials at "ParentCare" event relative to jobs, college, training, scholarships, etc.