

# 2014 Needs Assessment for Montgomery

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Honorable Anita Kelly	Brandi Alexander	Teresa Green	Henry Parker
Honorable Calvin Williams	Margaret Allen	Eric Guttensohn	Cynthia Price
Honorable Robert T. R. Bailey	Lisa Bachant	Deveeta Hines	Nate Roberson
Honorable Ellen Brooks	Melanie Beasley	Bruce Howell	Steve Searcy
Honorable Elton Dean	Tarlilton Benton	Dennis Johnson	Jeanne Sellers
Sheriff D.T. Marshall	Lynn Beshear	Melody Jones	Karen Sellers
Senator Dick Brewbaker	Janet Brealy	Carlos Kimbrough	James Opp Smith
Senator Quinton Ross	Laura Culberson	Mary Jo Logan	Henry Stough
Representative Alvin Holmes	Angela Daniel	Keisha McMillian	Tim Tyler
Representative Joe Hubbard	Peggy Davis	James Martin	Walter White
Representative John Knight	Owen Duke	Natalie Mason	Timberly Williams
Representative Thad McClammy	Sandra Edwards	Letha Maxton	Beverly Riddle Wise
Representative Dimitri Polizos	Sharon Franklin	Katherine Molnar	
Representative Greg Wren	Phyllis Gilchrist	Rebecca Morris	

## Accomplishments

1. Alabama Partnership for Children distributed 1,975 Parenting Kits to new mothers at Montgomery's three hospitals and 440 Don't Be In The Dark About Child Care brochures to Montgomery County libraries.
2. Alabama Partnership for Children has been assisting the CPC by providing Books, Balls and Blocks across the state in an effort to promote early screening. Eight counties, including Montgomery, have been involved.
3. Alabama Partnership for Children has continued the implementation of Community Cafes across the state as a part of National Strengthening Families, a research-based, cost-effective strategy to increase family stability, enhance child development and reduce child abuse and neglect. Five counties have participated and there are plans to include more Montgomery County parents.
4. Children's Rehabilitation Service served over 900 children within the Montgomery County. These children range in age from birth to 21 years old, as well as the adult Hemophilia population. The CRS staff also continues to attend various trainings and participates in Health Fairs and other activities throughout the community to help better serve children with special health care needs and their families.
5. Children's Rehabilitation Service partnered with Alabama State University to facilitate 'Camp G.I.F.T.E.D.' again last July. This is a 6 day camp for children with special needs. GIFTED stands for "Giving Individuals Freedom to Express Diversity." Several disciplined workers from CRS, along with ASU professors and students, staffed the camp each day. The Camp culminated with a drama/musical performance on the last day by the children, ages 13 to 21.
6. CRS provided direct assistance to Montgomery parents of children with special health care needs in school advocacy for IEP development and 504 plans with staff member serving on Montgomery Public School's Special Education Parent Advisory Committee.
7. HMFI's mission is to identify students considered at risk and to serve as a bridge to link children and families to intervention/prevention services through a coordinated community effort.
8. There were over 625 linkages/referrals made on the behalf of students and families to service within the community and MPS during the 2013/2014 school term.
9. The suspension data for 2013-2014 term showed a 14% decrease in the number of suspensions with a 16% decrease in the serious infractions from the previous school term.
10. With the Truancy Intervention Program (TIP), HMFI assisted MPS with direct oversight and monitoring of attendance related activities throughout the term. The goal for attendance was to reduce the number of unexcused absences by 5%, and data showed an 11% decrease.
11. MPS/District Resource Officers (DROs) served approximately 1,317 guardians/parents with the notification of Alabama Mandatory Compulsory School Attendance Law Letters, which represented a 24% increase from the 2012-2013 school term. There were 398 truancy petitions filed, which represented a 97% increase from the

previous term.

12. One Place FJC assisted and served 377 new clients; 341 were identified as domestic abuse victims; 39 were identified as sexual assault victims; 12 were identified as stalking victims and 12 were elder abuse. Others included dating violence and non-victims seeking service.

13. One FJC received the help of 15 volunteers totaling more than 1,128 volunteer hours. They also had 366 hours of service provided by interns.

14. One Place has brought a therapeutic dog on board to assist with children who have witnessed domestic violence.

15. During the Fiscal Year 2012-2013, the Family Sunshine Center, which serves victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, handled 2,045 crisis calls, provided a total of 8,395 shelter days, provided non-residential counseling to 344 walk-ins and provided non-residential counseling services to 582 clients.

16. Family Sunshine Center served 75 clients in their C.A.R.E.S. Trauma focused cognitive therapy, performed 494 presentations, made 972 community contacts and provided 762 information packets.

17. Family Sunshine Center, as One Place victims' advocates, served 817 clients for Intake. S.A.I.L. referrals numbered 301 with 104 new S.A.I.L. clients served. The Exodus Community served 41 clients.

# 2014 Needs Assessment for Montgomery

## First 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:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Infrastructure within the County District Attorney's office</li> <li>2. Resources expanded the Truancy Intervention Program to the entire district.</li> <li>3. Partnership with Montgomery Public Schools (MPS)</li> <li>4. HMFI Executive Director</li> <li>5. Multi-Disciplinary Team comprised of representatives from 10 community agencies to include public and not-for profit</li> <li>6. Partnerships with over 50 community organizations that serve as referral sources</li> <li>7. Juvenile Risks and Resources Evaluation Committee to monitor progress of efforts between MPS and HMFI</li> <li>8. Juvenile Assistant District Attorney hired to handle truancy cases</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Permanent funding to sustain HFMI</li> </ol>

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

1. Secure permanent funding for the Helping Montgomery Families Initiative (HMFI) through a community shared approach by seeking resources from Montgomery Public Schools and various levels of government to include city, county, state, private sector
2. Support HMFI's Truancy Intervention Program in all schools within the district with a focus on early intervention in the truancy cycle
3. Implement processes/procedures contained in the Truancy Intervention Logic Model within all schools that focus on attendance/data collection to include accuracy and adhering to current policies. Utilize existing brochures for the program with parents/guardians at PTA meetings; place in schools and within the community. Utilize various media outlets to include news articles, radio and PSA's
4. District-wide training for Montgomery Public Schools to insure consistent record keeping
5. Hold press releases to picture parent's arrest to increase public awareness

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## Second Priority

### Need related to children of this county

#### Early Learning

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<p>1. Existing program to distribute information to new mothers giving birth in any of the 3 Montgomery hospitals will continue. (Parenting Kit program operated by ALABAMA PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN and GIFT OF LIFE Maternal Care Program.)</p> <p>2. Increase exposure of available community resources by utilizing no-cost, non-traditional media outlets in addition to social media networks and local magazines available, i.e. FaceBook, Twitter, blogs, Montgomery Parent Magazine, etc.</p> <p>3. Use previously purchased brochure display racks in the county branch libraries (11) to display new social media networking information.</p> <p>4. Brochures Don't be in the DARK ABOUT CHILD CARE (produced by Voices for Alabama's Children and Alabama Partnership for Children) placed in library display racks.</p> <p>5. Family Guidance Center of Alabama manages the child care subsidy program where people can apply for financial aid to assist with day care needs.</p>	<p>1. There are no acute care beds within the 4 county area served by Montgomery Area Mental Health Authority for either children or adolescents experiencing mental health crises. Children requiring these services must travel to Opelika, Luverne, Dothan or Birmingham for inpatient mental health services.</p> <p>2. Recruit additional child psychiatrists to Montgomery to address needs of area.</p> <p>3. Locate or develop resources to provide after-school care and full-time summer care for children with developmental disabilities.</p> <p>4. Locate or develop respite services for families who have children with disabilities.</p>

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

1. NO COST/LOW COST IDEA: Broaden the scope of information being made available to parents at the library display racks by adding information related to social media sites.
2. NO COST/LOW COST IDEA: Have parents discover more about their rights and responsibilities through several state-wide programs being initiated in the Montgomery area in 2014-2015.
3. NO COST/LOW COST IDEA: Establish an archive of brochures and social networking sites that can be made available to 2-1-1 CONNECT for use as referral source.
4. NO COST/LOW COST IDEA: Connect with current parent-led pages, blogs and The Montgomery Parent Magazine to market resources to the community. Create a page where parents and service providers can locate services in the area.

# 2014 Needs Assessment for Montgomery

## Third Priority

### Need related to children of this county

Family Justice Center

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Building</li> <li>2. Twenty-one partnering agencies</li> <li>3. Board of directors</li> <li>4. Executive Director</li> <li>5. Local government support</li> <li>6. Staff</li> <li>7. Operations Coordinator and PFA Investigator</li> <li>Victim's Advocate</li> <li>8. Shared funding by City and County government</li> <li>9. A web page and Face Book account to educate community on services provided by the agency</li> <li>10. Sunshine Center</li> <li>11. Child Protect</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sustained funding</li> <li>2. Continue to grow and expand staffing, partners and volunteers</li> <li>3. Utilize and organize volunteers to help develop a strategic plan</li> <li>4. Continue to look for larger building to increase growth of partner agencies.</li> </ol>

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

1. Meet with City and County before annual budget meetings and continue to apply for grant opportunities.
2. Bring on new partners with additional staff and continue to pursue federal, state and local grants with staff positions.
3. Work with local churches and civic groups such as the Junior League to recruit volunteers. Solicit the Montgomery Police Departments for volunteers from the Volunteers in Police Service Program.
4. Meet with stake holders, community partners and the principals that will govern to establish a strategic financial sustainability plan. Plan a strategy to meet with City and County officials before their annual budget meetings.
5. Use volunteers resource to develop strategic plan.