

Updated Community Assessment 2008-2009

The Children's Policy Council comprised of approximately fifty community representatives completed a *Community Assessment Update* survey. The survey prompted them to determine the needs of families in the community as perceived by them in the agency they are associated with and/or the service they provide.

Significant issues

Many issues remain on the list as perceived needs in the community:

- **Needs for children:** mental health issues indicating a need for increased services; affordable, quality child care/after school care, obesity/health and fitness, parent involvement, Pre-K, early screenings, affordable health care for every child, and social skills training.
- **Needs for adults:** public transportation, health insurance for adults, assistance with financial needs, budgeting, employment, substance abuse treatment/programs, parenting skills, affordable, quality child care/after school care, and adult education.

Also noteworthy was the perceived need to provide opportunity for illegal immigrants to receive their driver's license. This could probably be attributed to the increased influx of Hispanic families into Lauderdale County.

- **Needs for families:** community involvement, knowledge of local recreational activities, support groups for different issues, knowledge of community resources, family coverage insurance, funding for child care/after school care, increase Head Start slots for more children.

Description of Proposed Changes from Previous Decisions

- **Location of Centers:**

It was proposed that Lauderdale County "Handy" Head Start - Florence City Schools would extend services into the northern part of the city and into the county as resources became available.

There is now a classroom that serves 4-year old children in Harlan Elementary school. We will apply for Pre-K grants for this site as opportunities arise. We also initiated and obtained a partnership with Love and Learn Pre-K preschool in Lexington that serves 4-year old children in the county.