

Centering Our Community on Children and their Families



A Guide to the Charlottesville/Albemarle
Commission on Children and Families



Welcome!

Welcome to the Charlottesville/Albemarle Commission on Children and Families (CCF), a City/County planning body composed of citizens and local community agency, educational and governmental representatives. CCF has been working toward building a healthy community for local children and their families since our founding in 1998.

Charlottesville/Albemarle is a beautiful area, and a wonderful place to raise a family. Although most residents enjoy a high standard of living, many of Charlottesville/Albemarle children and families are struggling to meet their economic, medical, housing, and educational needs. What can we do about it? First, we need to become aware of the problems facing local children and their families, and secondly, we need to work together to create ways to address these unmet needs.

Inside this publication you will find information about the Commission, as well as information on how residents can be a part of the planning and implementation of policies that affect children and families in our area.

Take a moment to learn about:

- ❖ **CCF's role in community planning**
- ❖ **A vision of a healthy local community**
- ❖ **Work Groups**
- ❖ **Resources you can use at CCF**
- ❖ **How individuals can get involved**

CCF... Advisor, Coordinator, Information Source, and Catalyst

CCF is composed of citizen, community agency, local government, education, and university leaders working to improve outcomes for local children and families. CCF serves as an advisor to local government, a coordinator of services, an information source for data, and a catalyst for initiatives that respond to identified needs. CCF members, staff and over 180 work group members work together to:

**Identify
community needs,
resources, and trends
related to children and
families**

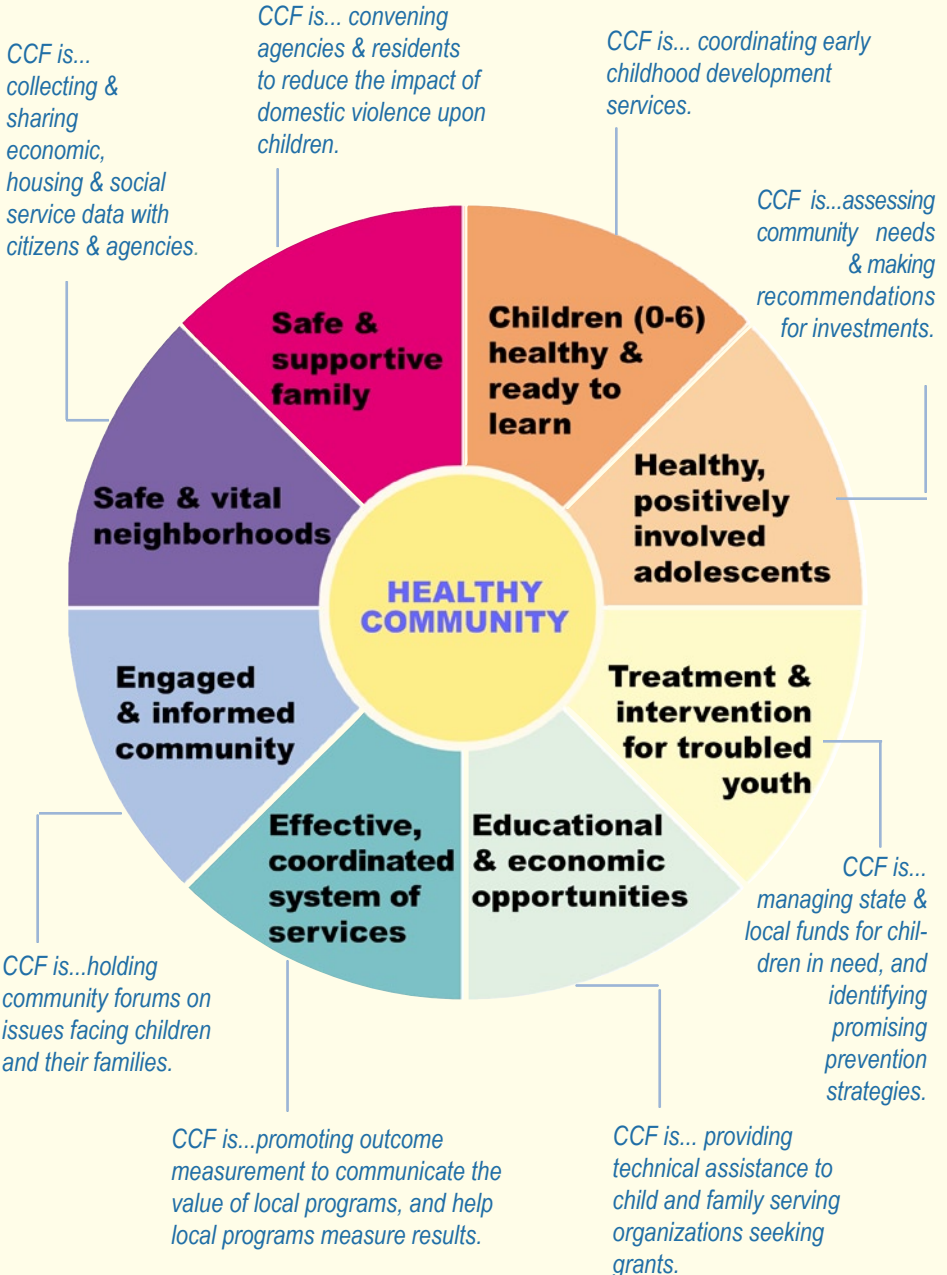
**Plan and
facilitate community
strategies for improving
child and family
outcomes**

**Implement
coordinated initiatives
to address identified
needs in targeted
areas**

**Increase
access to information on
local conditions/services
pertaining to children
and families**



Building a Healthy Community Vital to the Well Being of Children and their Families



What is a Work Group...

...& how does it make a difference in the lives of local children and families? Work groups help CCF to address pressing issues, plan and coordinate an improved system of services for children and their families, and advise local government. These groups - encompassing over 180 individuals - bring together a diverse cross-section of the community.

- **Agency Budget Review Team**

Reviews local community agency applications submitted to the City and County government and makes funding recommendations to City and County leaders.

- **Children Needing Extensive Services Work Group**

Studies the factors leading to children in our community entering foster care and requiring specialized services due to severe behavioral or emotional problems, and explores the best ways to serve them.

- **Community Needs Assessment Work Group**

Identifies the best means of regularly assessing community needs and resources, and presents a profile of what residents feel they need to raise healthy families.

- **Community Relations and Outreach Task Force**

Publishes a print and on-line [Guide to Youth Services](#) with information on over 300 agencies that provide social, health, or other community services to area children. Plans ways for residents to provide direct input on local child and family strategies, such as forums and roundtable discussions.

- **Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) Committee**

Administers the State Comprehensive Services Act for At-Risk Youth and Families.

The Act mandates family-focused, community-based services to high-risk youth and their families. The CSA Committee monitors and approves CSA expenditures, and makes recommendations to the Commission.





- **Data Management Work Group**

Publishes an annual community “report card”, Stepping Stones, on the condition of children and families in the Charlottesville/Albemarle area. The report, published since 2000, tracks a variety of indicators-- everything from the number of children’s books checked out at local libraries to the number of children in poverty.

- **Family Violence Work Group**

Addresses the impact of adult domestic violence on children and develops a comprehensive approach to address child abuse & neglect.

- **Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee**

Implements a strategic plan to improve juvenile justice services for children and families, and links the major components of the juvenile justice system including: the court, the schools, the police, social services, and adult criminal justice services.

- **Outcome Measurement Work Group**

Implements a community agency funding application process that helps funders and agencies understand and measure the impact of their investments in the community.

- **Partnership for Children**

A community-wide initiative focused on children, ages 0-6, and their families. The goal is to build a supportive community where children are born into healthy families and arrive at school ready to learn.

- **Teen Pregnancy/Sexually Transmitted Diseases Prevention Work Group**

Guides a community Strategic Plan for preventing teen pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. Engages families, schools, health care services, and community organizations to reduce teen pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.

- **Upcoming Work Groups**

Youth Productive Activities Work Group; Community Service Learning Work Group.

Contact CCF today if:

- You have an interest in affecting child and family policy and would like to join a work group (fill out the application on next page)

- You have a perspective you would like to share with Commission members or local government



- You are writing a grant and want to understand local needs and coordinate your approach with available resources

- You would like to receive a Guide to Youth Services or other CCF publication (all publications are also available online at www.ccfinfo.org)

- Your agency is moving towards an outcome-focused approach and seek technical assistance

- Your group seeks to be part of a community-wide strategy to improve child and family conditions, and seeks help connecting with area agencies and resources

CCF encourages individuals to be engaged in designing, planning and implementing improvements. The Commission seeks the input of community members through forums, surveys, public comment at meetings, roundtable discussions, and through the participation of its citizen and youth members.

Call CCF at 434-970-3550, or stop by our office on the 3rd floor of City Hall. Office hours are Mon-Fri from 9:00 am- 5:00 pm.

Citizen involvement is critical to our success...

Volunteer!



If you are interested in joining a CCF Work Group or volunteering in any other capacity, simply fill out the form below and fax or mail it to the Commission.

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Volunteer Position (if known) or Interests: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Business Phone: _____

Home E-mail: _____

Business E-mail: _____

Place of Employment: _____

Job Title: _____

(Continued on back)

...and vital to our Community's well being!

Choose One: City Resident, since _____

County Resident, since _____

Days and Hours Available to Volunteer:

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Hours Available					

References:

Name: Address: Phone:
Name: Address: Phone:

Current or Recent Affiliations (Memberships in fraternal, business, church, social groups, and/or public, civic, charitable activities, etc.)

Why are you interested in volunteering with CCF?

Additional Resources

www.ccfinfo.org



Our website contains an archive of all Commission reports, a list of Commissioners, collection of valuable links of State, federal and local agencies, child and family indicators and statistics, model programs, funding sources, and issues related to children and families.

www.ccfinfo.org

Charlottesville-Albemarle Youth & Family Listserv

The Charlottesville-Albemarle Youth and Family Listserv is for residents involved with or interested in local youth and family services in our community. This listserv provides a connection to others with similar interests, and information on educational and grant opportunities, information resources, legislative issues, local and national resources, local events and news, publications, and more.

Anyone can join! Join now at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/c-ayouthfamserv/>

Publications and Technical Assistance

CCF maintains a library of reports and articles related to maintaining and improving the well-being of children and families. CCF provides statistical data and grant coordination information to individuals and organizations needing assistance. CCF also provides assistance to individuals or groups seeking to coordinate and/or collaborate with others on joint projects and special events.





The Charlottesville/Albemarle Commission on Children and Families is located at 605 E. Main Street, on the third floor of Charlottesville City Hall, Room 340-A. Office hours are Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

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