

CITY OF SAN MARCOS
CORONAVIRUS RELIEF - GENERAL FUND GRANT
2021 APPLICATION



Due Date: June 6, 2021 at midnight

I. **APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION**

Applicant Organization: CASA of Central Texas , Inc. (Court Appointed Special Advocates)

Contact Name: Norma Castilla-Blackwell, Executive Director Telephone: 512-392-3578 x100

Mailing Address: 2725 Hunter Road, San Marcos, TX 78666

Physical Address, if different from mailing address: _____

Contact E-Mail Address: nblackwell@casacentex.org Web Address: www.casacentex.org

Who is authorized to execute program documents? Norma Castilla-Blackwell, Executive Director

II. **APPLICATION SUMMARY INFORMATION**

Program Name: Addressing Backlog of Child Protection Cases

Amount of Funds Requested: \$40,000

Program Location: 2725 Hunter Road, San Marcos, TX 78666

By approximately what date will funds be expended? 6/30/2022

III.

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

1. What is your organization's mission?

We envision a world where every child thrives in a safe, stable, and loving home. CASACenTex provides high quality, best interest advocacy for children and youth who have experienced abuse and neglect and are currently in the care of Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

2. How many volunteers does your agency/organization have and how many hours will they spend on the program requesting funding?

250+ volunteers (4-county service area), screened and highly trained, are empowered as voices in the courts, schools, and child welfare system to ensure needs are met for medical, education, mental health, housing, and long-term permanency care. Est 60 hrs/child/yr; 900 hrs this project.

3. How many direct clients did your organization serve in the last full program year?

127 children/youth, City of San Marcos PY 2019-20

Org Total: 600 children from Caldwell, Comal, Guadalupe, Hays Counties (FYE 6/30/20)

Hays County: 286 children (57% of total need)

4. Provide information regarding your Board of Directors, including how they are selected and how often they meet. Please also include attendance figures.

Currently, 9 community leaders meet monthly; last year: 10 mtgs, 83% attendance, 100% financial participation. Recruited through community referrals; application form, resume, background checks. Voted upon by current Board; advisory role 6-12 months before consideration as full Board Member.

5. Please list all funding received from the City for the current program year, by source and amount.

City of San Marcos CDBG: \$60,000

City of San Marcos CDBG-CV: \$55,600

IV.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

1. Provide a brief description of the proposed program.

Children and youth in State foster/substitute care will receive casework advocacy services to achieve safe, permanent homes: the focus will be on cases which have been delayed due to COVID-19 court extensions, ensuring new deadlines are met and children are not "lost" in the overburdened court/child welfare system.

2. In what ways does this program serve people who have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic or related economic shutdowns?

Court deadlines were extended, resulting in longer periods of uncertainty and delays in case resolution. CASA has frequent visits with children to ensure physical safety and mental well-being. Educational delays are a great concern; as are older youth about to exit foster care, lacking resources. Many families could not complete required service plans; Court backlogs resulted in fewer family reunifications.

3. Is this a new program or the expansion of an existing one?

Existing services will address the growing backlog. TX Supreme Court Emergency Order (5/26/21) COVID19 State of Disaster: impact is backlogged cases will lead to influx of court dates and hearings. Case resolutions will no longer delay, but add concern about courts missing deadlines, losing legal authority and jurisdiction.

4. Is there a fee to clients to participate in the program? If yes, please provide fee structure.

CASA services are provided at no cost to the courts or citizens of San Marcos.

5. Describe the proposed days and hours of operation of the program.

Our offices are currently open by appointment, M-F, 8AM - 5PM; however, CASA volunteers work 24/7 in order to meet the needs of children/youth/families they serve.

6. What are the goals of the program for which you are requesting funding?

CASA will provide essential advocacy services for 15-20 San Marcos children/youth whose cases have been extended during this past year+. Experienced staff Supervisors will guide trained volunteers through case management, and oversee case progress to ensure appropriate permanency outcomes for the children.

7. How will you know you met these goals?

These goals will be met when children are safely reunified with parents, placed with relatives, adopted by new families, or prepared for independent living as young adults. Cases will be closed/dismissed by Courts.

8. If requesting funding for salary, describe the activities of this position? (Please breakdown each funded position and hours worked per week.)

Case Supervisors (FT 40 hrs/wk, PT 20-30 hrs/wk) will attend hearings, mediations and trials; support CASA volunteers, testify and provide written reports including concerns and recommendations; attend case-related meetings (CPS, schools); review case records, progress notes, motions and correspondence.

9. Discuss how you will measure program success.

Case Supervisors will monitor monthly according to quality standards and best practices. Child demographics and case data is maintained in a database; tracking/reports generated monthly. Written reports to Court and closed case narratives anecdotally report impacts.

10. What additional funding is your agency requesting for this program? Please provide Funding Source, Amount Requested, Amount Granted, and whether funding is Pending.

VOCA (Victims of Crime Act): \$20,000 received/allocated to this program

V.

PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES

1. How many persons are proposed to be assisted if funding is received? 15-20 children and youth (direct/unique)
2. What percentage of persons proposed to be assisted are expected to have low to moderate incomes? 100%
3. Will this program have income limitations? ☐ If so, how do you propose to document the income of the beneficiaries? (check all that apply)
- ☐ Evidence that the child is approved for free or reduced lunch
- ☐ Evidence that the family lives in housing sponsored by the Housing Authority
- ☐ Evidence that the family is WIC approved
- ☐ Income documentation using one of the 3 HUD approved methods
- ☐ Self-certification, with income verification required of 20% of certifications
- ☐ Other, describe: There are no income limitations with this program.
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VI.**LINE ITEM BUDGET**

Please use the following format to present your proposed line item budget. Secured funds are funds on-hand, pledged, or awarded. Supporting documentation may be attached as an Appendix. Programs will be considered for which funds have already been spent.

Expense Category	Total Program Budget	CDBG Portion	Other Funding Source	Other Funds Amount
Personnel Services				
Salaries	45,000	35,150	Victims Of Crime Act grant	9,850
Fringe Benefits	3,375	2,850	Victims Of Crime Act grant	525
Supplies				
Office Supplies	2,000	500	unrestricted fundraising/donations	1,500
Program Supplies				
Client Materials				
Operating				
Training				
Insurance	2,000	500	unrestricted fundraising/donations	1,500
Utilities/Rent/Mortgage	7,625	1,000	unrestricted fundraising/donations	6,625
Other (please specify)				
Total	60,000	40,000		20,000

Please provide an explanation for any unusual budget expenditures listed in the line item budget above.

N/A

VII.**PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE WITH PERFORMANCE GOALS****Program Start Date:**7/1/21**Program Completion Date:**6/30/22

Activity Description	Start Month/Year	End Month/Year	Performance Measurement Goal
<i>Example: Hiring New Staff Member</i>	<i>October 2019</i>	<i>December 2019</i>	<i>Employment process complete</i>
Identify effected child protection cases	July 2021	July 2021	Case management list created
Advocate for abused/neglected children	July 2021	June 2022	15-20 children; closed, safe outcomes