

REPORT 2019 October Cycle

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: CASA of Central Texas, Inc.		Federal Tax ID#: 74-2403373	
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Head Of Organization

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Application Contact

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REPORT INFORMATION

Report Funding Cycle: 2019 October Cycle	Report Date: 10/01/2020 12:00 am
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1: Please include in your report the dollar amount of the funds that were awarded, the date they were funded and what the funds supported.

Awarded Amount: 45,000	Date: 10/30/2019
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2: Were the objectives cited in your original proposal met? Please address each started objective and how it was met.

Funding supported "Make a Difference in the Lives of Children" for general operating costs in recruiting, training, and supporting community volunteers and staff. The primary project goal was to advocate and achieve safe, permanent homes for a higher number of children in conservatorship of Child Protective Services. From 10/1/19 to 9/30/20, achieved the following:

Goal: Serve 392 children (130 new appointments) from Comal and Guadalupe Counties.

Achieved: 293 children (115 new) received CASA services. Cases were closed with 94 children placed in safe, permanent homes.

Activities:

1. Support, supervise, train and recruit 177 volunteer advocates.

Completed: 144 volunteers provided over 8,000 hours donated casework (est.), +9 volunteers from outside these counties served Comal/Guadalupe children. 96% of all cases were served by trained and supported volunteers.

2. Offer and facilitate 10 Pre-Service Volunteer Training classes; and participate in 230 community engagement activities.

Completed: 18 training classes were offered; 229 community presentations and 534 community outreach.

3. Provide Continuing Education to staff and volunteers through 4 local classes (10 hrs); and provide 3 appreciation/retention events for volunteers.

Completed: 13 local classes of CE were provided (20.5 hrs). Topics included: Educational Advocacy, Disability Rights, Daycare Process, Forensic Interviews, Child Sexual Abuse Prevention, Chosen Caregiver Resources, Adoption Process and Requirements, Drug Test Analysis, Collaborative Family Engagement, Trial Preparation & CASA Testimony, Child Support, Human Trafficking 101, Therapeutic Process and Goals. Volunteer retention activities included holiday and quarterly mixers (pre-COVID), mailed birthday cards and cookie delivery to celebrate CASA anniversaries.

3: Please explain any changes from the original proposal and the circumstances that lead to the modification of the objective.

No changes were made to the plans and objectives that were stated in our original proposal.

4: What needs were addressed?

By offering 18 pre-service volunteer training sessions on a variety of dates and times, CASACenTex successfully recruited, screened and trained 52 new volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children. CASACenTex was appointed to 115 abused and neglected children who newly entered the foster care system and otherwise would have been without CASA representation. In total, CASACenTex advocated for 293 Comal and Guadalupe children during this grant period as many children and youth remain in foster care for more than one year. CASA volunteers kept the child welfare system alert of the children's needs for services (including medical, mental health, educational and legal) and helped establish permanency for the children by recommending placements in safe, nurturing homes at the close of the cases. We successfully closed cases on 94 children, finding permanent, safe homes, out of the foster care system (safe reunification with parents - 37; adoption by relatives - 11; adoption by new families - 15; permanent placement with guardian - 24; independent living (age 18+) - 4; other stability/dismissal - 3). By achieving these outcomes, the hope for long-term impact is that these children are free of abuse and neglect and that the child abuse cycle is broken.

5: What method of evaluation did you use to monitor and measure the project's outcome and what are the result?

To monitor and measure the project's outcomes and results, CASACenTex case Supervisors and the Program Director prepared monthly case statistic reports, including the number of new case assignments, number of children served, number of closed cases and types of outcomes. This allowed us to track our growth as well as to enhance and refine our services. Closed case narratives report anecdotal outcomes of the help children received by CASA (ex. education advocacy, mental health advocacy). The Training Coordinator tracked the completion of background checks and the number of volunteers completing training. Reports are shared with the Board of Directors on a monthly basis. All reporting and tracking indicates that CASACenTex successfully met the goals and objectives for the program and for this grant.

6: Do you plan to continue this project, and if so, how do you plan to sustain it?

CASACenTex plans to continue this project. We submitted a grant application to the Najim Family Foundation for the 2020 October cycle, seeking to continue our partnership in providing advocacy services to abused and neglected children from Comal and Guadalupe Counties. In addition, following our Fund Development Plan, CASACenTex will apply for grants with other private foundations and corporations and will hold fundraising events. Our 4th annual golf tournament fundraising event will be held October 26 & 27, 2020. We hope to resume our annual dinner/auction event in April 2021 (cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID19 public health pandemic). We participated again in the San Antonio Big Give 24-hour online fundraising day on September 10, 2020 and we expect to continue this annual campaign.

7: Please provide any other comments of information relevant to this grant.

Closed Case Narrative, illustrative example of CASA services (please note, the graphic nature of this story may be difficult to read):

Case Summary: The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS) received a referral alleging neglectful supervision of 3mo GR by her parents who had engaged in a domestic violence altercation with Mother threatening to kill herself and baby. Mother was very volatile with law enforcement, screaming and threatening. Father claimed to have been abducted by aliens and also that he was Jesus. It was learned that Mother also had 13yo IG who was at school. Both parents were detained at a mental health facility. The Child Protection Court judge appointed CASA and volunteer GD was assigned. Baby GR was initially placed with Aunt and Uncle and youth IG was placed with her Father out-of-state. Volunteer GD provided educational advocacy for IG, facilitating between Texas and her new school. CASA visited IG and her Father; IG enjoyed staying in touch by text. Volunteer GD monitored Mother's progression with service providers, observed Mother's visits with baby, and visited Grandparents' home prior to Mother and baby moving there. Volunteer GD maintained regular contact with everyone during a period of monitored return to ensure GR's safety and to facilitate visits and the significant bond between siblings, despite their age difference and distance. The case successfully closed in March 2020 with IG's safe reunification with her Father and GR's safe reunification with her Mother.

8: Please provide an updated detailed projected budget with expenses for the received grant. Also include the totals for the budgeted and actual amount. Explain any discrepancies between the budgeted and the actual expenses for the project.

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Requested Funds	Project Funds Actual	Najim Funds Allocation
Executive Director	\$95,000	\$15,000	\$95,000	\$9,000
Development Director	\$78,900	\$11,000	\$78,900	\$6,600
Community Relations Coordinator	\$40,400	\$12,500	\$40,400	\$7,500
Development Coordinator	\$40,000	\$13,500	\$40,000	\$8,100
Administrative Coordinator	\$38,000	\$12,500	\$38,000	\$7,500
Program Coordinator	\$33,280	\$7,500	\$33,280	\$4,500
Audit	\$6,500	\$3,000	\$6,500	\$1,800
TOTAL:	\$332,080	\$75,000	\$332,080	\$45,000

Signature

Norma Castilla-Blackwell, Executive Director