

FUNDING APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: Child Advocates San Antonio		Federal Tax ID#: 74-2494625		501(c)(3) Public Charity 509 (a)(1)	
Address: 1956 S WW White Rd		City: San Antonio		State: TX	
				Zip Code: 78222	
Website: www.casa-satx.org		Fax: (210) 225-7070		United Way Funded: Yes	

Fiscal Year: July 01 to June 30

Head Of Organization

Name: Marina J. Gonzales, J.D.		Title: Chief Executive Officer	
E-Mail Address: mgonzales@casa-satx.org		Phone: (210) 225-7070	

Application Contact

Name: Erin Grothues	Title: Grants Manager	E-Mail Address: grants@casa-satx.org	Phone: (210) 225-7070
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Previous Najim Funding

Year	Funding \$
2007	\$20,000
2008	\$30,000
2010	\$25,000
2011	\$40,000
2012	\$50,000
2013	\$50,000
2014	\$50,000
2015	\$75,000
2016	\$100,000
2017	\$100,000
2018	\$110,000
2019	\$107,000
Total	\$757,000

Has the organization applied to the Najim Family Foundation in the past and been declined? No

Grant Amount Requested \$: \$139,000	Total Project Budget \$: \$3,300,000	Organization's Annual budget \$: \$3,300,000
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Mission Statement:

The mission of Child Advocates San Antonio (CASA) is to recruit, train, and supervise court-appointed volunteer Advocates who provide constancy for abused and neglected children and youth while advocating for services and placement in safe and permanent homes.

PROJECT INFORMATION**Program / Project Title:**

To support salaries and fringe for three Advocate Supervisors.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Start Date	End Date
07/01/2020	06/30/2021

Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation Priorities:

Child Abuse & Child Neglect

Program / Project Description:

This grant will address the critical need for Volunteer Advocates due to the epidemic of child abuse in Bexar County. According to the Department of Family and Protective Services, Bexar County had the highest number of removals (1,702) and children in custody (5,341) in Texas for 2019. This problem overwhelms the system and CPS lacks the capacity to identify and procure holistic and timely health, legal and educational interventions. The average child spends 13 months in foster care, although the length varies from 1 month to 9 years. The average child changes placements twice; however, those dealing with complex medical or special needs move an average of 6 times. In the process, records are lost, and care is inconsistent. Abuse is associated with a range of risks--juvenile delinquency, suicide, unemployment, and poor school performance. According to the Family Care Network (2019), over 60% of child trafficking victims were in foster care, and 33% of homeless adults were previously in foster care.

CASA serves children and youth (ages 0-21) in Bexar County who are in legal custody of Child Protective Services (CPS) who have been removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect. CASA Volunteer Advocates are recruited from the community, train for 33 hours, and are sworn in by the Bexar County Court so that they may speak on behalf of the best interest of children on court-appointed welfare cases.

They spend an average of 180 hours per case, obtaining critical information from contact with doctors, teachers and other professionals who are aware of the children's needs. Typically, judges select the most complex cases for CASA to serve on, since our volunteers often provide critical information that helps the judge determine the best final placement for the children on the case. By researching the best options for the children, a CASA Volunteer Advocate can provide more information to the Judge than anyone else involved in the case. The agency is led by CEO Marina Gonzales, who reports to the Board of Directors and currently employs 44 full-time employees, including 24 Advocate Supervisors who oversee the Volunteer Advocates. CASA operates under a cost-effective model, in which one CASA staff member can supervise up to 27 Volunteer Advocates. In FY 2019, 664 active Volunteer Advocates successfully served 1,810 CASA children. In terms of economic impact, last year alone, CASA Volunteer Advocates provided services to the Bexar County Courts worth an estimated \$1,106,254.

This request would help us reach our FY 2021 (7/1/2020 - 6/30/2021) goal to recruit, train and support a capable volunteer base of up to 792 Volunteer Advocates to serve 1980 children. Major program components include recruitment, training, supervision, support, and retention of volunteers. Volunteer Advocates train for 33 hours in medical, mental health, cultural competency, communications, and trauma so that they may "speak" on behalf of the best interest of the child in court. They then spend an average of 15-20 hours per month, obtaining critical information from contact with doctors, teachers and other professionals who are aware of the child's needs. By researching the best options for the child, a CASA volunteer can provide more information to the judge than anyone else involved in the case. We estimate this year's project cost for three Advocate Supervisors to be \$139,000 based on an increase in fringe and salaries due to merit raises. Last year, we served 1810 children in state protective custody through 664 active volunteers. Our strategic plan sets a realistic growth rate based on modified program capacity with an average 6% annual increase and 2.5 children served per volunteer. This program has been in existence for 36 years and is a sound investment in the future of Bexar County's most vulnerable children. In the past year, volunteer retention has been at a record high of 95%, much higher than the national average of 65%. This high retention rate leads to better outcomes as experienced volunteers can knowledgeably address complex situations and, potentially, take on more than one case at a time. Staff turnover in the past year was 1.84%. This figure was achieved with zero employee turnover for 8 months of the year. CASA is the only agency in Bexar County legally authorized by the Texas Family Code to provide court appointed advocacy services for children and youth who have been removed from their homes and are in the legal custody of Child Protective Services. Judges have requested a CASA volunteer for every child who needs one; at our current capacity CASA can only serve about 67% of children eligible to receive CASA services. Our goal is to provide an Advocate for every child referred through the Bexar County Children's Court.

Evaluation Plan:

CASA plans to serve 1980 children through the work of 792 volunteer Advocates during our FY20 (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021).

CASA will use statistical data collection through the Optima system to track and monitor the following:

1. 90% of the time, a CASA Advocate will serve a child as a constant, stable presence through the duration of a case.
2. 100% of the time, Advocates will have a specific and measurable impact on legal, medical and educational outcomes.
3. 95% of the time, Judges will agree and implement suggestions for the child's welfare and placement as recommended by a CASA Advocate.

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

Our vision is to improve the lives of abused and neglected children in State protective custody in Bexar County by providing a volunteer Advocate to every child in the foster care system who needs one. CASA maintains a long-term strategic plan to achieve our key objectives and sustainability. This includes the continued execution of our funding model for sustainable operations funding, the execution of strategic partnerships as well as the creation of financial efficiencies via administrative services. We will continue to be the voice for abused and neglected children and maintain diligence in obtaining other revenue sources, including State, foundation, corporate and individual contributions.

Children Impacted:

How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?	How many unduplicated children will NFF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?
1,980	100

Please provide the percentage of each group below that will be served by the project in which funds are being requested. Do not leave any area blank. If that specific group will not be served, include zero. The percentage should total 100%.

A. Population Served Age		B. Population Served Ethnicity	
Infants (0-5)	30%	African American	10%
Children (6-13)	46%	Asian American	0%

Young Adults (14-18)	24%	Caucasian	11%
TOTAL:	100%	Hispanic/Latino	67%
		Native American	0%
		Other and Define	12%
		TOTAL:	100%

City Council District for Which Children are Being Served:

District1, District2, District3, District4, District5, District6, District7, District8, District9, District10

Line item Budget:

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Funds Allocation
3 Advocate Supervisor Salaries & Fringe	\$3,300,000	\$139,000
TOTAL:	\$3,300,000	\$139,000

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

For Project being Requested: Funding sources and amounts, pending and committed.

PROJECT - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Sunstate Equipment Foundation	\$10,000
Nathalie and Gladys Dalkowitz Charitable Trust	\$10,000
David and Betty Sacks Foundation	\$3,000
Coates Foundation	\$7,500
Valero Energy Foundation	\$10,000
TOTAL:	\$40,500

PROJECT - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Circle Bar Foundation	\$20,000
Cowden Charitable Family Trust	\$15,000
Capital Group	\$5,150
In-N-Out Burger Foundation	\$7,500
Gordon Family Charitable Fund	\$300
Kronkosky Charitable Foundation	\$125,000
James Avery	\$7,500
San Antonio Area Foundation	\$50,000
Valero Benefit for Children	\$40,000
Parker Foundation Inc	\$2,000
Texas CASA - Volunteer Travel	\$2,066
Marek Family Foundation	\$1,250
Terry and Regina Armstrong Foundation	\$3,000
Texas Cavaliers	\$2,000
Sundt Foundation	\$3,300

Kiwanis	\$7,000
TOTAL:	\$291,066
Other funding sources and amounts, pending and committed not specific to this request.	
ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - PENDING	
Funder Name	Amount Requested
Charity Ball Foundation	\$19,999
Mutual of America	\$100,000
Texas Bar Association	\$6,900
Mays Family Foundation	\$25,000
Shield-Ayres Foundation	\$12,000
TOTAL:	\$163,899
ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED	
Funder Name	Amount Requested
Texas CASA VOCA	\$1,021,337
License Plate Fund - TX CASA (LSP)	\$330
Bexar County	\$15,000
Humana Foundation	\$126
OVAG	\$42,000
Texas CASA - CVC	\$617,381
United Way	\$172,000
National CASA	\$41,500
TOTAL:	\$1,909,674
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
What percentage of your board contributes financially to the organization?	
100%	
If Board giving is not at 100%, please explain why?	
Not Applicable	
How are board members expected to participate in your organization?	
Board members are expected to act as a voting member with full authority and responsibility to develop policies, procedures and regulations for the operation of CASA; to monitor the nonprofit's financial health, programs and overall performance; to support the organization financially and publicly; and to provide the CEO/President with the resources to meet the needs of the children CASA serves.	
LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS	
Name & Office Held	Corporate Affiliation
Juanita Pelaez-Prada (Chair)	Begum Pelaez-Prada, PLLC
Christina Lecholop	CAPTRUST
Gabriela Black	Rinaldo J. Gonzales, CPA, PC
Carmen Gellhausen	H-E-B
John Carlson	Sundt Construction
Larry Mendez	Transwestern

Lorien Whyte	Pozza & Whyte, PLLC
Krishna Reddy (Secretary)	Paul Garcia & Associates
Matt Turner (Treasurer)	Padgett, Stratemann & Co., LLP
Sandra Gonzales	Premiere Realty Group
Hon. Yvonne Katz, Ed.D.	Vision Into Action Associates, Inc.
Joseph Baxter	Holt Texas, Ltd.
Robert Lopez	Lopez Sala Architects
Kathryn Goertz	Texas Medical Legal Consultants, Inc.
Francis Brown	Chargify
Priscilla Ingle	VIA Metropolitan Transit
Kay Casey	Trinity University
Matthew Barnfield	Valero
Signature	
Marina J. Gonzales, J.D.	