

FUNDING APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: Children's Advocacy Center of Comal County, Inc.		Federal Tax ID#: 20-0011412	501(c)(3) Public Charity 509 (a)(1)	
Address: 1168 Pride Drive	City: New Braunfels	State: TX	Zip Code: 78133	
Website: www.comalcac.org		Fax: (803) 626-2543	United Way Funded: Yes	

Head Of Organization

Name: Trendy Sharp	Title: Executive Director
E-Mail Address: tsharp@comalcac.org	Phone: (803) 626-2543

Application Contact

Name: Trendy Sharp	Title: Executive Director	E-Mail Address: tsharp@comalcac.org	Phone: (803) 626-2543
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Previous Najim Funding

Year	Funding \$
2008	\$20,000
2009	\$10,000
Total	\$30,000

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

Grant Amount Requested \$: \$50,000	Total Project Budget \$: \$751,390	Organization's Annual budget \$: \$751,390
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Mission Statement:
To provide a neutral, child-friendly agency to the community that facilitates a multidisciplinary approach in the prevention, detection, investigation, and treatment of child abuse.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Program / Project Title:
To support interviewing, counseling and medical exam costs for Abused Children.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Start Date 09/01/2018	End Date 08/31/2019
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Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation Priorities:
Child Abuse & Child Neglect

Program / Project Description:

PROGRAMS

A. Forensic Interviewing- The Children's Advocacy Center of Comal County, Inc. (CACCC) provides a neutral, child-friendly place to perform a specialized interview with a child who has alleged abuse.

B. Family Advocacy- Non-offending caretakers meet with advocates to get much needed support, referrals and resources necessary to help the whole family begin to heal from abuse.

C. Multidisciplinary Team Enhancement Project (MEP) and Case Coordination- Every day, CAC staff reviews all abuse intake reports from the CPS hotline and every month all members of the interdisciplinary team of professionals meet and review all cases that come through the CACCC.

D. Counseling- Children that come to the CACCC for interviews are all eligible for free trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy.

E. Forensic Medical Examinations- There is a room in the CACCC that is child-friendly and comfortable for chronic forensic medical exams.

F. Prevention- Darkness to Light and Recognizing and Reporting Abuse are two prevention programs used by the CACCC. We offer free quarterly trainings that are open to the community. Additionally, the CACCC successfully partnered with all school districts in Comal county to provide a prevention training option.

ISSUES and NEEDS

In Comal County the total child population is 28,014. In FY 2018 in Comal, 1839 children had intakes opened for investigation of abuse and 521 of those children were provided with a forensic interview. 57% of those cases involved sexual abuse, 23% involved physical abuse and 20% of the children interviewed were deemed at risk for either or both types of abuse or had experienced other trauma.

Emotionally, abused children frequently suffer from low self-esteem, aggressive behavior, acting out, suicidal tendencies, running away, school and social adjustment problems. Advocacy centers help to lessen the emotional impact on a child after an allegation is made by giving the child a comfortable, non-intimidating environment for the interviewing process. A study performed by the Crimes Against Children Research Center in 1996 found that parents and caregivers who went to a CAC after an allegation were more satisfied with the investigation than parents were in jurisdictions without advocacy centers. Children were less likely to describe themselves as feeling scared during an interview than were children who were questioned elsewhere.

Abuse investigations performed in jurisdictions with CACs were 36% less expensive than in places without advocacy centers. Further, communities with CACs have significantly more evidence in coordinated investigations, and higher percentages of medical and mental health referrals for kids.

VOLUME OF CHILD CASES at the CACCC

The number of child interviews at the CACCC increased substantially from 2006 until 2012. In 2013 and 2014, however, the CACCC saw a decrease in forensic interviews. This decrease seems to be directly related to the way that the local CPS office determines the suitability of cases to refer for interviews. The MEP started in 2015 statewide in response to those issues and gave local centers the ability to assist in coordinating child abuse investigations more closely with law enforcement and child protective services. This program along with legislative changes increased the number of children brought in to CAC's for forensic interviews statewide.

The results of the changes have been dramatic in Comal County. The volume of clients in 2018 versus 2014 indicated a 124% increase in the number of forensic interviews (233 to 521). This also exponentially increased the volume of need for all other services as well, including family advocacy, where non-offending caretakers are able to get support, resources and referrals to begin to heal the whole family. Counseling services increased to 1063 hours of direct services to children. Evaluation tools have shown that children have a decrease in the negative symptoms associated with abuse including anxiety, depression, self-harm, poor school performance and substance abuse. Additionally, 116 sexual assault exams have been given to children since the CACCC opened up the new facility in 2014.

The CACCC and THE NAJIM FAMILY FOUNDATION

In 2008, only 4 years after the CACCC opened, we experienced difficulties in federal funding cutbacks and desperately needed assistance from Najim Family Foundation to keep the doors open and to keep helping children who had been abused. The \$20,000 granted to us that year saved the CAC's operations and ensured our future growth. In 2009/2010 the CACCC started a capital campaign due to the expansion of cases coming into the center. Further, we needed to provide counseling and medical examinations to kids and couldn't do so at the old facility. Again, the NAJIM FAMILY FOUNDATION stepped up and helped the CACCC at a critical time in our growth and granted the CACCC a capital grant in the amount of \$10,000. In FY 2019, an operational grant is just as vital to the ongoing work of the CACCC as it has been in prior years when the CACCC relied upon the NAJIM FAMILY FOUNDATION to join us in the battle to help children recover from abuse. Operational funding from Najim will contribute to essential program needs like utility and telephone services, for vital office expenses needed to provide direct services to children, like play therapy toys, and toys and supplies for the waiting rooms as well as for basic essential safety infrastructure costs like fire panel and septic testing. Keeping the facility open and operations running is paramount in providing services to children so that they can receive the help they need to heal from abuse.

Evaluation Plan:

1. Forensically Interview and record abused and at risk children at the center and document the number of children internally in the Case Tracking System (CTS) and discuss each case at monthly MDT meetings. Increase number of forensic interviews annually by 8%.
2. Review results of Family Survey to monitor the CACCC's effectiveness in providing a child-friendly environment where families can feel comfortable and get assistance in referrals for services. Increase satisfaction rating of family's initial impression of CACCC by 10% and of staff treatment by 2% or maintain overall satisfaction rating at over 90%.
3. Provide counseling services to children with a clear treatment goal. Measure negative symptoms child is experiencing at outset of counseling then again after treatment goals are met (usually after 12-15 sessions) with an overall reduction in negative symptoms by at least 50% using the Child Symptom Assessment Form. (Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children TSCC.)

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

In 2017, the CACCC hired an Outreach Director to assist the Executive Director in development. The CACCC is in the process of building a robust fundraising plan annually that includes two new events and donor cultivation that has just begun but will continue to grow over time. Our growth as an organization in terms of funding began in FY 2006 with a total budget of \$115,510. Our current operating budget for FY 2019 is \$751, 390. Not only has the CACCC sustained funding over time, we have grown tremendously operationally AND completed a capital campaign worth over one million dollars incurring no debt.

Children Impacted:

How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?	How many unduplicated children will NFF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?
550	550

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)	27%	African American	2%
Children (6-13)	44%	Asian American	0%
Young Adults (14-18)	29%	Caucasian	50%
TOTAL:	100%	Hispanic/Latino	36%
		Native American	0%

Other and Define	12%
TOTAL:	100%

City Council District for Which Children are Being Served:

Line item Budget:

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Funds Allocation
Forensic Interviewing	\$263,278	\$20,000
Medical Examinations	\$43,093	\$5,000
Counseling	\$190,241	\$15,000
MDT Enhancement Program/Case Coordination	\$179,778	\$7,000
Prevention	\$75,000	\$3,000
TOTAL:	\$751,390	\$50,000

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

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

PROJECT - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
McKenna Foundation	\$50,000
Baptist Health Foundation	\$50,000
Private/Corporate Contributions	\$42,573
Najim Family Foundation	\$50,000
Meadows Foundation	\$75,000
TOTAL:	\$267,573

PROJECT - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Kronkosky Foundation	\$50,000
CAC of Texas (VOCA/HHSC)	\$378,432
United Way	\$34,000
Special Events	\$96,568
TOTAL:	\$559,000

Other funding sources and amounts, pending and committed not specific to this request.

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
None provided	\$0
TOTAL:	\$0

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
None provided	\$0
TOTAL:	\$0

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

What percentage of your board contributes financially to the organization?

100%

If Board giving is not at 100%, please explain why?

N/A

How are board members expected to participate in your organization?

Pursuant to Texas Family Code, the District Attorney, the CPS supervisor and all county police chiefs must sit on the Board of Directors at a Children's Advocacy Center. Those team members who represent agencies come to board meetings and share the ideas and perspectives regarding how child abuse cases are worked on jointly by the team members. All board members also contribute something financially and assist with fundraising events. Most board members invite CAC staff to present information to various other community organizations and groups.

LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS

Name & Office Held	Corporate Affiliation
Michael Agnese, President	Schlitterbahn, New Braunfels (In House Counsel)
Molly Patrick, Vice President	Nothing Bundt Cakes, Selma (Owner)
Mike Mullins, Treasurer	Mullins and Associates, CPA, New Braunfels (Owner)
Maggie Wiggins, Secretary	Lucky Barre Dance Studio, New Braunfels (Owner)
Jennifer Tharp, MDT Board Member	District Attorney, Comal County
Mark Reynolds, MDT Board Member	Sheriff, Comal County
Tom Wibert, MDT Board Member	Chief of Police, City of New Braunfels
Ron Eberhardt, MDT Board Member	Chief of Police, City of Garden Ridge
Gary Haecker, MDT Board Member	Chief of Police, City of Bulverde
Larry Thompson, MDT Board Member	Mayor, City of Garden Ridge
Grace Pfeiffer, Board Member	Pfeiffer Pphotography, New Braunfels (Owner)
Chris Owen, Board Member	Amergy Bank, New Braunfels (Vice President)
Brandon Mund, Board Member	Mund Insurance, New Braunfels (Owner)
Cassandra LeClair, Board Member	Texas State University, San Marcos (Professor)
Mike Penshorn, Board Member	New Braunfels Police Department (Captain)
Allison Roemer	Department of Family Protective Services, (Supervisor)

Signature

Trendy Sharp