

FUNDING APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: Children's Advocacy Center of Comal County, Inc.		Federal Tax ID#: 20-1100412	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: (830) 837-3338	United Way Funded: Yes	

Fiscal Year:
September 01 to August 31

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
2019	\$25,000
2020	\$30,000
Total	\$85,000

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

Grant Amount Requested \$: \$50,000	Total Project Budget \$: \$678,687	Organization's Annual budget \$: \$678,687
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Mission Statement:
To provide a neutral, child-friendly facility 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	End Date
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Harvey E. Najim Charitable 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 (Statewide Intakes) 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.

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. FY 2019 showed a small decrease in the number of children interviewed (439 interviews). In FY 2020, Covid had an effect on the CACCC operations. Working throughout the pandemic as much as possible, the CACCC still had to face its own shut downs for cleaning/sanitizing when there was exposure on site. 331 children received forensic interviews in FY 2020.

Counseling direct service hours increased and the number of Statewide Abuse Reports increased from 1667 in FY 2017, to 1853 in FY 2018 to 1891 in FY 2019. In FY 2020 that number rose to 2008. Thus, the CACCC has been processing more abuse cases than ever, trying to provide interviews and services to those children but finds itself beset with challenges and difficulties. In February 2021, the CACCC experienced frozen water sprinkler pipes and the entire facility flooded. The building has to be gutted and repaired. Currently, the CACCC is borrowing a facility in a neighboring county and will have a temporary center up and running in New Braunfels within 2 weeks.

All of the challenges in the past year have been difficult for the CACCC, but all of the CACCC's difficulties have driven home the almost insurmountable challenges abused children face in addition to abuse in the home. COVID created (necessary) shelter in place orders which sometimes end up being more dangerous for children. That abuse causes long-lasting harm. 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.

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 2020, an operational grant was 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. Now, in FY 2021 the CACCC has faced corona shutdowns and facility challenges. Operational funding from Najim is thus now more critical than ever. As we move forward after devastating losses we again turn to the NAJIM FAMILY FOUNDATION to help the CACCC continue providing services to children. 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. Perform at least 350 forensic interviews in the FY.
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 build 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. The operating budget for FY 2020 was \$802,598 . 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. As we dealt with shutting down fundraising events due to Covid-19, the CACCC reduced the operating budget accordingly and is trying to continue providing quality care to kids in an environment with less fundraising ability.

Children Impacted:

How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?	How many unduplicated children will NCF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?
350	350

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:

Outside San Antonio

Counties applicant is in:

Comal

Line item Budget:

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Funds Allocation
Forensic Interviewing	\$208,278	\$20,000
Medical Examinations	\$8,000	\$5,000
Counseling	\$207,631	\$15,000
MDT Enhancement Program/Case Coordination	\$179,778	\$7,000
Prevention	\$75,000	\$3,000
TOTAL:	\$678,687	\$50,000

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

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

PROJECT - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Private/Local Donations	\$33,498
Najim Charitable Foundation	\$50,000
TOTAL:	\$83,498

PROJECT - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
	\$0
CAC of Texas (VOCA/HHSC)	\$440,718
United Way	\$34,000
Special Events	\$31,264
Kronkosky Foundation	\$50,000
McKenna Foundation	\$50,000
TOTAL:	\$605,982

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