

# FUNDING APPLICATION

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Organization Information

|   |  |                                       |  |   |  |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| <b>Legal Name:</b><br>Guadalupe County Children's Advocacy Center |  | <b>Federal Tax ID#:</b><br>41-2071236 |  | <b>501(c)(3) Public Charity</b><br>509 (a)(1) |  |
| <b>Address:</b><br>265 Wetz                                       |  | <b>City:</b><br>Seguin                |  | <b>State:</b><br>TEXAS                        |  |
|   |  |                                       |  | <b>Zip Code:</b><br>78155                     |  |
| <b>Website:</b><br>www.gccac.net                                  |  | <b>Fax:</b><br>(830) 303-4760         |  | <b>United Way Funded:</b><br>Yes              |  |

**Fiscal Year:**  
September 01 to August 31

### Head Of Organization

|   |  |                                     |  |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Name:</b><br>Christy Williams              |  | <b>Title:</b><br>Executive Director |  |
| <b>E-Mail Address:</b><br>cwilliams@gccac.net |  | <b>Phone:</b><br>(830) 303-4760     |  |

### Application Contact

|                                  |  |                                     |  |   |  |                                 |  |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Name:</b><br>Christy Williams |  | <b>Title:</b><br>Executive Director |  | <b>E-Mail Address:</b><br>cwilliams@gccac.net |  | <b>Phone:</b><br>(830) 303-4760 |  |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|---------------------------------|--|

### Previous Najim Funding

| Year         | Funding \$      |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 2020         | \$25,000        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$25,000</b> |

**Has the organization applied to the Najim Family Foundation in the past and been declined?**  
Yes  
2009

|                                   |                                 |   |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Grant Amount Requested \$:</b> | <b>Total Project Budget \$:</b> | <b>Organization's Annual budget \$:</b> |
| \$45,000                          | \$55,027                        | \$1,018,531                             |

**Mission Statement:**  
To advocate for and provide services to abused children and their families in the investigation, prosecution, treatment, and prevention of child abuse, and to reduce the trauma to children by coordinating a multi-disciplinary approach.

## PROJECT INFORMATION

**Program / Project Title:**  
To support the Mental Health program operations to eliminate the wait-list of 26 families.

### PROJECT TIMELINE

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Start Date</b> | <b>End Date</b> |
| 11/01/2019        | 10/31/2020      |

## **Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation Priorities:**

### **Mental Health**

#### **Program / Project Description:**

As you know, the GCCAC is a non-profit agency serving children and families when there are allegations of child abuse and neglect alongside our partners in law enforcement, Child Protective Services, prosecution, CASA, mental health professionals, and medical professionals. We are one of the 71 children's advocacy centers in the state of Texas, operate under the guidelines in the Texas Family Code for Children's Advocacy Centers, and are governed by the Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, Inc. located in Austin, Texas.

We provide an array of services to promote safety, justice, and healing to children and families who may be victims of child abuse and neglect or other crimes investigated by our partner agencies. We provide child friendly, developmentally appropriate forensic interviews for the purpose of investigations of criminal and civil child safety matters at the request of law enforcement, Child Protective Services, and prosecuting attorneys. Since opening our doors more than 15 years ago, we have conducted 6,446 forensic interviews of children. We also provide initial and continued advocacy and support to non-offending and supportive caregivers when they come to the center for the forensic interview and until their case has been resolved. Over the past 15 years, we have conducted more than 3,300 initial advocacy sessions.

As an important part of our continuation of care and mission to end the cycle of abuse, we offer fee-free, specialized, trauma-informed counseling services to clients. These crucial services facilitate healing and reduce the risk of additional victimization through psycho-education, empowerment and fostering healthy coping skills. Over the past 15 years, we have provided more than 11,000 counseling hours. Unfortunately, we have carried a counseling wait-list for these necessary services for a number of years and currently have a wait-list of approximately 26 families.

The demand for services from our partner agencies and community have been steady over the past several years. With COVID-19 over the last six months, we experienced fewer reports of abuse as children and families remained in their homes with less contact with their communities. As children are now re-engaging with schools and other programs, the number of reports of suspected abuse is returning to previous, historic levels. Children and families continue to suffer in our community. Due to the continued requests for services from our seven local law enforcement agencies, Child Protective Services, and the Guadalupe County Attorney's Office, we respectfully request continued support from the Najim Family Foundation to assist our agency with the funds necessary to ensure that the GCCAC will be able to continue to meet the rising demand for mental health services in the coming year.

Last year, with the Najim Family Foundation support and additional federal funds, we were able to increase the counseling department staff. There are now four full time therapists and a clinical director providing mental health services through the GCCAC. Even with this many providers and with the hurdles of COVID-19, we are still working to eliminate the wait-list, but are hopeful we can do that this year. We know that children and families will keep being referred and our hope is that there will not be a waiting period before services can begin.

All clients who come to the center are eligible for counseling services, yet many are referred out each month to receive mental health services from an external provider due to current capacity issues. In-county mental health referral options are limited compared to those in larger cities, and the limitations become even greater when a specific specialization in working with trauma is taken into account. Therefore, many clients who are referred out prefer to also be placed on the wait-list. Clients who are placed on the wait-list currently face an estimated wait time of at least three months.

We are still working toward reaching the clients who desire and are in need of counseling services in a timely manner to begin the healing process as soon as possible. The elimination of the wait-list is still a top priority because experience has shown that clients who are placed on a wait-list have a lesser likelihood of engaging in services than if they are offered services earlier on in the process. When left untreated, a child's experience of and response to trauma can have a lasting emotional and physical impact on the rest of their lives and lead to hindered brain development, diminished self-esteem, depression, suicide, participation in unhealthy relationships, and poor health outcomes. Maintaining the capacity of the GCCAC counseling department is necessary in order to meet the needs of our growing population of trauma survivors and ensure that they have access to these vital services.

This past year, we made great strides to eliminate our mental health wait-list and ensure that children were receiving the services they need to aid them in healing. The year was also riddled with hurdles with COVID-19. We had to transition to distance therapy sessions to ensure children were able to receive services during this time while limiting everyone's exposure. Though we have had hurdles, we have also had triumphs. Many children were provided tools to promote their mental health and healing, and for that we are incredibly grateful.

**Evaluation Plan:**

The project will be evaluated by examining the mental health waitlist over the course of one year to see the impact and effects of having an additional therapist taking case assignments. In addition to examining the waitlist, each client receives a service assessment

**Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:**

The GCCAC plans to sustain this project by seeking grants from the Najim Foundation and/or other foundations in future years. The addition of a therapist to the GCCAC staff is vital to reducing and eliminating the therapy waitlist, so it is important that the GCCAC acquires the funds to hire and retain a qualified candidate.

**Children Impacted:**

**How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?**

50

**How many unduplicated children will NFF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?**

50

**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)            | 20%         | African American               | 5%          |
| Children (6-13)          | 51%         | Asian American                 | 0%          |
| Young Adults (14-18)     | 29%         | Caucasian                      | 36%         |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>            | <b>100%</b> | Hispanic/Latino                | 52%         |
|                          |             | Native American                | 0%          |
|                          |             | Other and Define               | 7%          |
|                          |             | <b>TOTAL:</b>                  | <b>100%</b> |

**City Council District for Which Children are Being Served:**

Outside San Antonio

**Counties applicant is in:**

Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe

**Line item Budget:**

| Line Item Description    | Total Project Funds Allocation | Najim Funds Allocation |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Salary                   | \$43,056                       | \$35,262               |
| Health Insurance         | \$7,200                        | \$5,900                |
| Life Insurance           | \$185                          | \$130                  |
| Retirement               | \$1,292                        | \$1,039                |
| Employer Social Security | \$2,670                        | \$2,169                |
| Employer Medicare        | \$624                          | \$500                  |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>            | <b>\$55,027</b>                | <b>\$45,000</b>        |

## OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

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

### PROJECT - PENDING

| Funder Name   | Amount Requested |
|---------------|------------------|
| None provided | \$0              |
| <b>TOTAL:</b> | <b>\$0</b>       |

### PROJECT - COMMITTED

| Funder Name   | Amount Requested |
|---------------|------------------|
| VOCA          | \$10,027         |
| <b>TOTAL:</b> | <b>\$10,027</b>  |

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              |
| <b>TOTAL:</b> | <b>\$0</b>       |

### ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED

| Funder Name   | Amount Requested |
|---------------|------------------|
| None provided | \$0              |
| <b>TOTAL:</b> | <b>\$0</b>       |

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

What percentage of your board contributes financially to the organization?

92%

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

Children's Advocacy Centers are statutorily required to have representation from prosecution, law enforcement, and the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). These partners are sometimes designated by their superiors and are not always financially able to contribute. The representative from DFPS sits on many CAC boards and reports that personal contributions are rotated between the CACs. A financial contribution was not received this year from the DFPS representative, however, the representative spent considerable time supporting events, meetings, and committee work.

How are board members expected to participate in your organization?

Members have a legal and moral responsibility to ensure that GCCAC does the best work possible in pursuit of its goals, and act responsibly and prudently as its steward.

**Responsibilities:**

- o Interpret GCCAC work and values to the community, represent the organization and act as a spokesperson.
- o Attend at least 75% of board meetings, committee meetings, events, and fundraising activities.
- o Make a financial contribution at a level meaningful to the member.
- o Act in the best interests of the organization and excuse myself from discussions and votes where I have a conflict of interest.
- o Stay informed about the organization. I will ask questions and request information. I will participate in and take responsibility for making decisions on issues, policies and other board matters.
- o Work in good faith with staff and other board members as partners towards achievement of our goals.
- o Follow Bylaws.
- o Actively participate in the board's annual evaluation and planning efforts.

**LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS**

| <b>Name &amp; Office Held</b>                      | <b>Corporate Affiliation</b>  |
|--|---|
| Karen Wallock, President                           | Retired Seguin ISD school counselor   |
| Sarah Donhauser, Secretary                         | Owner and Manager at ZDT's Amusement Park   |
| Kirsten Legore, Treasurer                          | Director of Student Services at Seguin ISD  |
| Arnold Zwicke, Partner Agency Representative       | Sheriff at Guadalupe County Sheriff's Office  |
| Michelle Cunningham, Partner Agency Representative | Program Director at DFPS-CPS  |
| Jennifer Smith, Partner Agency Representative      | First Assistant County Attorney - Felony Division at Guadalupe County Attorney's Office |
| Danna Salinas-Harrison, Member                     | Lecturer at Texas Lutheran University Nursing Department                                |
| Roxanne Heckmann, Member                           | Retired Navarro High School band director   |
| Dean Webb, Member                                  | Retired FBI agent   |
| Ruben James Reyes, Member                          | Attorney at Law Office of James Reyes   |
| Bryan Jones, Member                                | Realtor at RE/MAX Corridor  |
| Ivory Freeman                                      | New York Life Insurance   |

**Signature**

Christy Williams