



## City of Lawrence

### 2011 Outside Agency Funding APPLICATION

**General Information:** Each year, the City Commission considers requests for the allocation of dollars to a number of agencies that provide services benefiting the Lawrence community. The decision on funding a request will be made during the City's annual budgeting process. The decision will be based upon the availability of funds, the need demonstrated through the agency's application, the stated objectives of the applicant's program, past performance by the agency in adhering to funding guidelines (as appropriate), and the ability to measure progress toward the program objectives.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT FUNDS WILL BE DISBURSED ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE UNLESS OTHERWISE AGREED TO IN WRITING:**

- FIRST HALF OF FUNDS WILL NOT BE DISBURSED BEFORE APRIL 1
- SECOND HALF OF FUNDS WILL NOT BE DISBURSED BEFORE OCTOBER 1

**Instructions:** Applications for 2011 funding must be complete and submitted electronically to the City Manager's Office at [ctoomay@ci.lawrence.ks.us](mailto:ctoomay@ci.lawrence.ks.us) by the deadline of 5:00 pm on Monday, May 31, 2010.

**Questions?** Contact Casey Toomay, Budget Manager at [ctoomay@ci.lawrence.ks.us](mailto:ctoomay@ci.lawrence.ks.us) or at 785-832-3409.

**Please give your answers in the gray text fields below:**

---

#### Section I. Applicant Information

Legal Name of Agency: Douglas County CASA, Inc.  
Name of Program for Which Funding is Requested: General Program Support  
Primary Contact Person: Diana Frederick, Director  
Address: 1009 New Hampshire, Suite B, Lawrence, KS 66044  
Telephone: 785-832-5172  
Fax: 785-856-1279  
E-mail: [casa@douglas-county.com](mailto:casa@douglas-county.com)

---

#### Section 2. Request Information

- A. Amount of funds requested from the City for this program for calendar year 2011: \$20,000
- B. Will these funds be used for capital outlay (equipment or facilities) in 2011? If so, please describe:  
No
- C. Will these funds be used to leverage other funds in 2011? If so, how: No/NA
- D. Did you receive City funding for this program in 2010? If so, list the amount and source for funding (i.e. General Fund, Alcohol Fund, etc.): Yes. We received \$20,000 from the General Fund.
  1. How would a 2.5% reduction in city funding in 2011 impact your agency? A 2.5% decrease would translate to a \$500 reduction of our current funding. This reduction would result in a 50% reduction of the funds available for our EmergencyClothing Fund for CASA.
  2. If you are requesting an increase in funding over 2010, please explain exactly how the additional funds will be used: NA

---

---

**Section 3. Agency and Program Budget information**

- A. How many paid full time employees work for your agency? 1 full-time & 4 part time = 3.4 FTE  
Volunteers? 60
- B. What percent of your total 2010 budget goes to employee salaries and benefits? 66%
- C. What percent of your total 2010 budget is used for operating expenses? 34%
- D. What is the total estimated cost to provide the program in 2011? \$186,183
- E. What percent of 2011 program costs are being requested from the City? 10.7%
- F. List other anticipated sources of funding and funding amount for this program in 2011:

A

<u>Anticipated Funding Source</u>	<u>Dollar Amount</u>
Special Events, Mail Solicitation, other Fundraising	\$ 48,500
Douglas County	\$ 45,500
United Way	\$ 30,588
City of Lawrence	\$ 20,000
Grants (CVAF, DCCF, Rice Fdn, PFF)	\$ 26,700
Miscellaneous donations	\$ 14,895
TOTAL 2011 PROGRAM BUDGET	\$ 186,183

---

---

**Section 4. Statement of Problem/Need to Be Addressed By Program**

- A. Provide a brief statement of the problem or need your agency proposes to address with the requested funding and/or the impact of not funding this program. The statement should include characteristics of the client population that will be served by this program. If possible, include statistical data to document this need.

Every 35 seconds a child is abused or neglected. Every hour a child is displaced from their home. At least 800,000 children are abused or neglected each year in the U.S. In 2008, there were nearly 55,000 reports of child abuse and neglect in Kansas. In Douglas County, dozens of children are removed from their homes every year due to substantiated abuse and neglect, and placed in SRS protective custody as a Child in Need of Care (CINC). As a result, these children are thrust into foster care or other placements while the court and social service systems make decisions regarding their future. These children are among the most vulnerable individuals in our community, and they are in need of the special support that only a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) can provide to assure their safety and long-term care. A CASA volunteer helps assure these children do not fall through the cracks in the system and that thoughtful, informed decisions are made regarding their future, including a safe, permanent home.

Last year, more than 68,000 CASA volunteers served over 240,000 abused and neglected children in the U.S. In Kansas, CASA volunteers at 24 agencies served 2,072 abused and neglected children. Douglas County CASA served 74 abused and neglected children in 2009 with the following demographics: 41 females, 33 males; age groups included 20 children from birth to age 5; 30 children from ages 6 to 11; 11 children from ages 12-15; and 13 youth from ages 16-18. Substance abuse by one or more parents is typical in these cases; domestic violence is also a prevalent issue.

Our agency recruits, trains and supervises community volunteers to work with children, ages birth to 18, who are under the protection of the court system. CASA volunteers assure that a child's medical, educational, and basic needs are met. They provide a consistent and stable presence in each child's life, advocate for their best interests and needed services, and help these children find a

safe, permanent home in a timely manner. CASA volunteers monitor the child's safety, assuring that a recurrence of abuse and neglect does not happen while they are in foster care or other placements. Children who were identified as victims in the past are 60% more likely to be maltreated again compared to children who were not victimized previously.

Our agency experienced a 12% increase in the number of children served from 2008-2009. Unfortunately, further increases are likely to continue. The impact of the economic recession and job loss has been linked to a rise in child neglect and abuse cases nationwide, and this trend has also surfaced in the Lawrence community. As the number of children in need of a CASA increases, a decrease in funding would be especially devastating to our agency. Douglas County CASA is currently juggling the increased financial needs of our new venue, prompted by the need for our former office space in the Douglas County courthouse. A decrease in City funding now would be especially ill-timed. Without city funding, our agency would be forced to reduce staff, thereby reducing the number of abused and neglected children we serve. We would also be forced to discontinue our emergency clothing fund for CASA kids and our summer scholarship program for at-risk youth in the Lawrence community.

This loss of service to abused and neglected children would ultimately result in increased costs to the City of Lawrence. Children served by a CASA spend less time in foster care than those without a CASA volunteer, thus reducing child welfare costs. Other direct costs (health care, mental health services, law enforcement, judicial system) and indirect costs (special education, juvenile delinquency, lost productivity to society) associated with service to this vulnerable client population. City funding is crucial to our organization and our efforts to break the cycle of abuse and neglect.

B. How was the need for this program determined?

Unfortunately, child abuse and neglect are long-term, ongoing tragedies in our community and throughout the nation. In 1976, Seattle Judge David Soukup recognized the unique challenges confronting these vulnerable children and the limitations he faced in getting sufficient facts to make the right decisions regarding their long-term welfare. As a result, Judge Soukup obtained funding to train community volunteers to serve as Court Appointed Special Advocates who would represent the best interests of abused and neglected children in the courtroom and beyond. This unique program was implemented in 1977 and was replicated across the country; there are currently more than 980 CASA programs nationwide and 24 in Kansas. In 1991, Lawrence Judge Jean Shepherd identified the need for CASA services to assist her in making thoughtful, informed decisions for the

vulnerable children in her court. As a result, Judge Shepherd founded the CASA program in Douglas County and our local court district continues to rely on CASA services. According to the National CASA Association, Judges assign CASA volunteers to nearly half of the abuse and neglect cases before them. They express a great need for more volunteers for their cases.

C. Why should this problem/need be addressed by the City?

The safety and well-being of children in our community is the responsibility of our City. Children who are victims of child abuse and neglect lack parental support and rely on the assistance of our community for their safety, education, and a home. In 2007, an estimated 794,000 children were substantiated as victims of child maltreatment and an estimated 1,670 children died from abuse or neglect. CASA volunteers make sure the abuse and neglect the children originally suffered at home does not continue as abuse and neglect at the hands of the system. A recent survey of 35 Kansas District Court Judges revealed 100% of Kansas judges deemed a CASA's personal knowledge about children and the information in their court reports to be beneficial in their decision making. 96% of judges reported CASA volunteers as beneficial to the children and their families. 92% of the judges indicated services provided to the children and family are monitored more frequently when a CASA is involved in the case. By helping to reduce time spent unnecessarily in foster care, reducing recidivism, and increasing safety, CASA programs can reduce child welfare costs. From a financial standpoint, if the median length of stay in foster care (18 months) were shorted by just one month, it would realize a savings of approximately \$2,75 billion. In 2009 Douglas County CASA volunteers volunteered more than 5,353 hours; based on the National Standard Wage, these volunteer hours are worth \$111,610. To an abused or neglect child assigned a CASA volunteer, these hours are priceless.

---

#### **Section 4. Description of Program Services**

- A. Provide a brief description of the service you will provide and explain how it will respond to the need you identified in Section 3. The description should include how many clients will be served, and should describe as specifically as possible the interaction that will take place between the provider and the user of the service.

Douglas County CASA recruits, screens, trains and supervises volunteers to advocate for the best interests and critical needs of abused and neglected children who have been removed from their biological homes for their safety. Most children served by CASA reside in foster care or with a relative until they are adopted or another safe, permanent home is finalized. These children often have multiple, complex problems resulting from the abuse they have endured. Some have serious

medical conditions and physical disabilities that present additional challenges. These children require special attention to ensure that all of their needs are met and they find a safe, permanent home. CASA provides a stable, caring advocate for these vulnerable children to assure their safety and long-term care.

CASA volunteers are assigned to one child or sibling group at a time, allowing them to focus individual attention on the child's unique situation and needs. A CASA volunteer provides a critical supplement to the efforts of social workers and other professionals with huge case loads and insufficient time to devote to each child.

Our agency will provide advocates for an estimated 75-100 abused and neglected children in 2011. Each child will be assigned a Court Appointed Special Advocate who will provide the following support:

- 1) The volunteer completes an independent examination or investigation of the child's situation, including relevant history, environment, and needs of the child. The volunteer will network with foster parents, teachers, lawyers, social workers, therapists, doctors, lawyers, biological family members, various professionals, and other adults involved in the child's life. The CASA volunteer will also develop a one-on-one relationship with the child, spending time with the child on a weekly or monthly basis, serving as a friend, mentor and advocate. The volunteer will also communicate the child's wishes to the court. These assessments decrease the likelihood of further abuse or neglect
- 2) The volunteer identifies resources and services for the child and facilitates a collaborative relationship between all parties involved in the child's case, helping facilitate a situation in which the child's needs can be met. The CASA volunteer makes sure the social welfare system provides services to meet the child's physical, educational, medical and emotional needs.
- 3) The volunteer advocates for the child's best interests. This includes relaying important information to the court and making recommendations concerning where the child should live and what the ultimate permanency goal for the child should be. CASA volunteers submit monthly reports to their CASA supervisors, and provide an average of 3-5 official court reports to the Judge each year, with factual information, observations, and recommendations.
- 4) The volunteer monitors court-ordered services to the child and family members to ensure progress is being made and services are comprehensive and appropriate. The volunteer reports any observed non-compliance to the judge.

A CASA volunteer brings stability to the life of a child by staying involved with the child until the case is completed, and the child has a stable, safe place to live.

Children served by a CASA volunteer are less likely (9%) to reenter the child welfare system compared to those not served by a CASA (16%). In addition, children with a CASA volunteer are less likely to spend time in long-term foster care (13.3%) than those without a CASA (27%).

- B. Describe any efforts your agency has made to explore the community to determine if there are any other agencies providing similar types of services. What efforts have you made to coordination services?

Douglas County CASA is the only agency in our community to provide volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in the court system. Collaboration and coordination are ongoing goals of our agency, and our service to abused and neglected children includes cooperative relationships with Big Brothers Big Sisters, Willow Domestic Violence Center, DCCCA, Citizens Review Board, Roger Hill Volunteer Center, SRS, KVC, Success by Six, Bert Nash, Family Promise, the Shelter, and other local social service programs and agencies

---

## Section 5. Program Objectives

Please provide three specific program objectives for 2011. Objectives should demonstrate the purpose of the program and measure the amount of service delivered or the effectiveness of the services delivered. A time frame and numerical goal should also be included. Examples include, “75% of clients receiving job training will retain their job one year after being hired,” “increased fundraising efforts will result in a 15% increase in donations in 2011,” “credit counseling services will be provided to 600 clients in 2011,” “new digital arts program will serve 275 students in 2011” etc. **Applicants will be expected to report their progress toward meeting these objectives in their six month and annual reports to the City.**

### Program Objectives

1. 95% of children assigned a CASA volunteer will not experience reported or substantiated abuse or neglect during the calendar year.
2. 90% of children served by Douglas County CASA will remain with the same CASA volunteer throughout the calendar year.
3. 90% of children whose cases close will not re-enter the jurisdiction of the Court as a Child in Need of Care (CINC) within two years.

**Please return completed application electronically to [ctoomay@ci.lawrence.ks.us](mailto:ctoomay@ci.lawrence.ks.us) by  
5:00 pm on Monday, May 31, 2010.**