



City of Lawrence
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 BEGINNING IN 2009, 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 2009 funding must be complete and submitted electronically to the City Manager's Office at ctoomay@ci.lawrence.ks.us by the deadline of 5:00 pm on Friday, May 2, 2008.

Questions? Contact Casey Toomay, Budget Manager at ctoomay@ci.lawrence.ksu.s or at 785-832-3409.

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 S. Frederick, Executive Director
Address: 1100 Massachusetts, Suite 302, Lawrence, KS 66044
Telephone: 785-832-5172 Fax: 785-832-5359
Email: dfrederick@douglas-county.com

Section 2. Request Information

- A. Amount of funds requested from the City for this program for calendar year 2009: \$20,000
- B. Will these funds be used for capital outlay (equipment or facilities) in 2009? If so, please describe:
No.
- C. Will these funds be used to leverage other funds in 2009? **No.** If so, how: **NA**
- D. Did you receive City funding for this program in 2008? 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.**

- E. If you are requesting an increase in funding over 2008, please explain exactly how the additional funds will be used: **We are not requesting an increase in funding at this time.**

Section 3. Agency and Program Budget information

- A. How many paid full time employees work for your agency? 1 FT
4 PT Volunteers? 50-60
- B. What percent of your total 2008 budget goes to employee salaries and benefits? 84%
- C. What percent of your total 2008 budget is used for operating expenses? 16%
- D. What is the total estimated cost to provide the program in 2009? \$149,647
- E. What percent of 2009 program costs are being requested from the City? 7.5%

- F. List other anticipated sources of funding and funding amount for this program in 2009:

<u>Anticipated Funding Source</u>	<u>Dollar Amount</u>
Douglas County	\$26,000
CVAF	\$10,000
United Way	\$33,000
City of Lawrence	\$20,000
Permanent Family Fund	\$9,000
Kappa Alpha Theta	\$3,500
Fundraising and Income Interest	\$48,147
TOTAL 2009 PROGRAM BUDGET	\$149,647

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 year in Douglas County, dozens of children are removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect; then they are moved to foster care or other placement while the court system, judge, and a cast of lawyers, social workers, therapists, and other professionals make decisions regarding their future. Douglas County CASA recruits, trains and supervises community volunteers who work with children, from birth to age 18, who have been abused and/or neglected and are in the court system through no fault of their own. These “children in need of care” are among the most vulnerable children in our community; providing them with a CASA volunteer – a Court Appointed Special Advocate – helps assure that these children do not fall through the cracks in the system and that thoughtful, informed decisions are made regarding their care. CASA volunteers assure that a child’s basic needs are met, provide a consistent and stable presence in their lives, advocate for their best interests and needed services, and help these children find a safe, permanent home in a timely manner. CASA volunteers make sure that the abuse and neglect that the children originally suffered at home does not continue as abuse and neglect at the hands of the system.

The children with whom CASA volunteers work often have multiple, complex problems resulting from the abuse and neglect that they have endured, including special physical and mental health challenges. In addition, abuse is associated with a range of other risks, including juvenile delinquency, suicide, unemployment, and poor school performance. 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.

In 2007, 92 new children entered the foster care system in Douglas County; out of those 92 cases, approximately 46 were considered suitable for CASA services. 57% of the cases involved truancy, 15% involved abuse, 24% involved neglect, and 4% involved other issues. Due to staffing levels, available volunteers, and other extraneous factors - including case closures and placements at distant locations - we were only able to serve 25 of these new cases suitable for CASAs. Douglas County CASA continued to serve another 52 cases that we were already staffing in 2006, resulting in a combined total of 77 children in need of care served by our CASA program in 2007. A total of 28 cases were closed in 2007, representing 28 children with safe, permanent homes. In order to address the needs of vulnerable children in our community, CASA began assigning volunteers to relevant truancy cases (abuse/neglect involved, placed out of home, etc.) in 2008.

The requested City funding will provide more vulnerable children in our community with a CASA volunteer, and support the extensive training and supervision that are required of these special advocates. There would be a *significant negative impact* on CASA if our program did not receive funds from the City. Without City funding, our organization would be forced to reduce the number of staff members, thereby reducing the number of abused and neglected children we serve. Furthermore, we would be unable to accept new cases involving children in need of care and would be forced to discontinue services for many of the children we are currently helping.

This loss of service to abused and neglected children would ultimately result in increased costs to the city of Lawrence. By helping reduce time spent unnecessarily in foster care, CASA programs can reduce child welfare costs, and also reduce other direct costs (e.g., hospitalization, chronic health problems, mental health care system, child welfare system, law enforcement, judicial system) and indirect costs (special education, mental health and health care, juvenile delinquency, lost productivity to society, adult criminality) associated with service to this vulnerable client population.

B. How was the need for this program determined?

Child abuse and neglect are ongoing problems 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 began replicating across the country. 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 was instrumental in starting the CASA program in Douglas County and continues to strongly support CASA and utilize its services: "For over fifteen years, Douglas County CASA volunteers have made incredible commitments to many vulnerable children, and they have provided me with invaluable information about those children and their situations to aid me in my decision-making." 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. Judges, attorneys, child

welfare workers and parents overwhelmingly report that volunteers make a positive difference with the children they serve.

The system that was designed to address child abuse and neglect has many challenges; without the support of a CASA volunteer, many of these children would become lost in the system. Children who enter foster care experience many changes and constant turnover in case managers, therapists, schools, social workers, and other professionals, often resulting in misinformation to the court or a general lack of knowledge regarding the intricacies of a child's circumstances. Fortunately, a CASA volunteer provides stable involvement in a child's care, and ultimately helps facilitate a timelier placement in a safe, permanent home. CASA volunteers are typically appointed to the more complex children's cases – those where there are multiple risk factors which must be fully understood in order to make a placement decision that will be in the child's best interests. Thanks to our CASAs, these complex cases receive more attention so they can move forward in a timely way.

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

Child abuse and neglect are the responsibility of all citizens in our community. The City of Lawrence has a responsibility to help ensure that all citizens, including children, are safe. Children need protection and care more than ever. In 2005, an estimated 899,000 children were substantiated as victims of child maltreatment, a rate of 12.1 per 1,000 children in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. In Kansas from July 2004-June 2005, the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services received 46,250 reports alleging suspected family maltreatment. Fortunately, with the support of City funding, Douglas County CASA is able to increase the safety of abused and neglected children in our community, a segment of the population that is more likely to suffer a recurrence of maltreatment.

In addition to serving as role models and mentors, CASA volunteers are crucial advocates, assuring that abused and neglected children receive quality services that are needed, including medical treatment, therapy, and special education services. As a result, children served by a CASA are more likely to stay in school and become productive adults. CASA volunteers are also instrumental in helping break the family cycle of abuse and welfare. The investment that the City makes in these children now could potentially save a substantial amount of money to the community in the future by helping these children become successful adults and contributing members of society. The value of helping at-risk children become successful, contributing adults is priceless, providing a positive impact to the community that goes far beyond the financial aspects.

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.

The Douglas County CASA program recruits, screens, trains, and supervises volunteers willing to advocate for the needs of children, birth to age 18, who come to the attention of the juvenile court because of abuse and neglect. 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 specialized attention to ensure that all of their needs are met and that they find a safe, permanent, caring home.

CASA volunteers generally serve only one case at a time and, therefore, can commit a significant amount of time and attention to each child – providing a unique supplement to the efforts of social workers and other professionals who have huge case loads and simply do not have adequate time to devote to these children individually. CASA volunteers commit to at least one year of service, helping to provide stability and consistency for the children we serve. Volunteer training is held three times a year, which includes a 30-hour training curriculum; continuing education is also mandated and provided via monthly in-service opportunities. Each volunteer is assigned a Volunteer Supervisor with whom they work throughout their assignment to a case. We estimate that Douglas County CASA will train 25-30 new CASA volunteers in 2009, supervise approximately 70 volunteers throughout the year, and serve 75-100 abused and/or neglected children from Douglas County, including the addition of truancy cases that involve out of home placement and substantiated abuse or neglect.

In order to serve as effective advocates, CASA volunteers have four major responsibilities to the children they serve:

- 1) The volunteer completes an independent examination or investigation of the child's situation, including relevant history, environment, and needs of the child. To complete this task, the volunteer reviews court files and interviews everyone involved in the child's case. The volunteer investigates the facts about the child's situation through phone calls, e-mails, and personal interviews and visits with the child's family, caregivers, teachers, lawyers, social workers, therapists, and other professionals. They also take time to talk with the child and find out what he or she wants the court to know. A CASA volunteer develops a one-on-one relationship with the child by spending time with that child regularly, establishing trust and rapport, serving as a friend, mentor, and advocate. These assessments decrease the likelihood of further abuse or neglect, with our CASAs providing "a powerful voice for a child."
- 2) The volunteer identifies resources and services for the child and facilitates a collaborative relationship between all parties involved in the case, helping create a situation in which the child's needs can be met. Our CASAs makes sure that the social welfare system is providing services to meet the child's physical, educational, medical, and emotional needs. By networking with family members and professionals, CASA volunteers assure that regular medical screenings and treatments are completed, and therapy appointments are kept, thus reducing the likelihood of recurring abuse and neglect while children are in state custody. Our CASAs immediately report and respond to *any* "red flags" regarding child abuse and safety issues, and participate in ongoing education and training opportunities offered on this subject.
- 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. At the same time, the volunteer presents the child's wishes and thoughts to the court. They report factual information to the judge so the judge can make informed decisions, and they make thoughtful recommendations to the judge about the child's future. CASA volunteers submit monthly reports to their CASA supervisors, and provide an average of 3-5 official court reports to the Judge each year.
- 4) The volunteer monitors court-ordered services to the child and family members to ensure that progress is being made and services are appropriate. The volunteer monitors the situation to help ensure that the system acts swiftly and appropriately and that adequate progress is made towards making the changes necessary for the child to return home if reintegration is the case plan; if adoption is the best option for the child, they make sure that

progress is being made toward this goal. Thanks to our CASAs, the family court judge receives an official court report containing concrete examples of the child's strengths and resources. This information helps ensure that the individual needs of the child are met and that appropriate services are utilized. It also allows CASAs to develop personalized recommendations such as appropriate extra-curricular activities and educational opportunities. These recommendations are beneficial to a child's self-esteem, safety, and personal and educational development, ultimately reducing the likelihood that they will return to the court system after their case is closed.

A CASA volunteer brings stability to the life of a child by staying with the case and the child until the case is completed, and the child has a stable, safe place to live. In addition to the emotional stability they provide for a child in the midst of chaos and change, the consistency of a single CASA for a child also provides valuable case history information, which aids a changing cast of professionals as they provide make decisions that will affect the child's future. Cases involving a CASA volunteer are more likely to be "permanently closed (i.e., the children are less likely to reenter the child welfare system) than cases where a CASA volunteer is not involved. According to the National CASA Association, just 9% of CASA children reenter the system; this is in contrast to 16% for children not served by a volunteer.

- 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 that provides volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in the court system.

In order to provide the best advocacy possible for the children we serve and optimal training for our volunteers, the CASA staff nurtures cooperative relationships with the Citizens Review Board, Big Brothers Big Sisters, KVC, DCCCA, and other local service agencies.

Section 5. Program Objectives

Please provide three specific program objectives for 2009. 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 2009," "credit counseling services will be provided to 600 clients in 2009," "new digital arts program will serve 275 students in 2009" 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 substantiated abuse/neglect during the calendar year.
2. 90% of the children served by the CASA program will remain with the same CASA advocate during 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 by
5:00 pm on Friday, May 2, 2008.

Office Use Only			
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six month report received	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	audit received:	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no
annual report received:	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	tax return received:	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no