



City of Lawrence

2013 Social Service Funding Application – Non-Alcohol Funds

Applications for 2013 funding must be complete and submitted electronically to the City Manager's Office at ctoomay@lawrenceks.org by 5:00 pm on Friday, May 4, 2012.

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. These funds are to be used pursuant to the goals of the City Commission, which can be found below:

- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Promoting the economic development of Lawrence to provide varied work and business opportunities.
- **PLANNED GROWTH:** Encouraging growth that protects our environment, neighborhoods, and cultural features while benefiting all of our citizens.
- **COMMUNITY BUILDING:** Creating social capital and celebrating our heritage.
- **ENVIRONMENT ISSUES:** Integrating the environment into our decisions as we work towards a sustainable city.
- **NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY:** Improving the livability of all Lawrence neighborhoods.
- **TRANSPORTATION:** Improving access for all citizens.
- **DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT:** Enhance the vitality of downtown while maintaining it as a unique community treasure.
- **SERVICE DELIVERY:** Provide excellent city services consistent with resources available.

Applications will be reviewed by the Social Service Funding Advisory Board at meetings held from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. on May 16 and May 23. Applicants are asked to make a contact person available by phone in case questions arise. Following their review, the Advisory Board will forward recommendations for funding to the City Commission.

Recommendations will be based upon the following criteria:

- availability of city funds
- the need demonstrated through the agency's application
- the stated objectives of the applicant's program
- alignment of the program with the City Commission Goals
- the efforts to collaborate and avoid duplication of service demonstrated through the application
- outcomes that move program participants from total dependency toward measurable levels of independence
- ability to measure progress toward the program objectives and the City Commission Goals
- past performance by the agency in adhering to funding guidelines (as appropriate)

The final decision regarding funding will be made by the City Commission when they adopt the Annual Operating and Capital Improvement Budget in August.

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

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



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2013 Social Service Funding Application – Non-Alcohol Funds

SECTION 1. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Legal Name of Agency: Douglas County CASA, Inc.
Name of Program for Which Funding is Requested: General Program Support
Primary Contact Information (must be available by phone 5/16 and 5/23 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.)
Contact Name and Title: Diana Frederick, Executive Director
Address: 1009 New Hampshire, Suite B, Lawrence, KS 66044
Telephone: 785-832-5172 Fax: 785-856-1279
Email: dfrederick@douglas-county.com

SECTION 2. REQUEST INFORMATION

- A. Amount of funds requested from the City for this program for calendar year 2013: \$25,000
B. Will these funds be used for capital outlay (equipment or facilities) in 2013? No. If so, please describe: NA
C. Will these funds be used to leverage other funds in 2013? No. If so, how: NA
D. Did you receive City funding for this program in 2012? 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 any reduction in city funding in 2013 impact your agency?
Any reduction in our current funding would reduce the number of children, from birth to age 18, served by our CASA program and would diminish the additional assistance our agency provides for clothing, shoes and other essential support. At a time when the need for our services has substantially increased and other funding sources are precarious, any reduction in city funding would be devastating. National CASA funding was cut 63% in 2012 and more federal cuts are proposed for 2013, making local financial support more important than ever before. The current number of abused and neglected children (50) on our waiting list for a CASA volunteer is higher than it has been in more than 6 years, and a reduction in City funding would cause this number to increase even more. The impact on our community's most vulnerable children would be significant.
2. If you are requesting an increase in funding over 2012, please explain why and exactly how the additional funds will be used:
A substantial increase in the number of abused and neglected children in need of a CASA volunteer in our community has created a need for additional funds. The number of children on our waiting list for a CASA volunteer has doubled in the past year. The goal of CASA agencies nationwide is to provide a CASA volunteer for every Child in Need of Care. The additional funds will help provide the staff support necessary to recruit, train and supervise additional volunteers that are necessary to serve more children, reduce our waiting list, and make progress on the goal of providing an advocate for every child in foster care. The additional funds will also be used to implement the new "Fostering Futures" training curriculum. The Fostering Futures program engages CASA volunteers as advocates for and advisors to foster youth ages 14-21. The program is built around the framework of the Fostering Connections to Success Act, to help youth identify supportive, lifelong adult connections, and to develop specific plans for their transition to become independent, successful adults. Providing additional support as youth in foster care "age out" of the system will help them become successful independent adults and decrease the risk of homelessness, unemployment and other associated risks that are social and economic concerns for our community.

SECTION 3. PROGRAM BUDGET INFORMATION

- A. Provide a detailed budget for the proposed program using the following categories: personnel (list each staff position individually and note if new or existing), fringe benefits, travel, office space, supplies, equipment, other.

Estimated 2013 Budget:

Table with 3 columns: Personnel (payroll & taxes), Amount, Total. Rows include 1.0 FTE Executive Director (\$47,900), 1.0 FTE Administrative Assistant (\$28,840), and .8 FTE Volunteer Supervisor (\$25,346), totaling \$148,503.

.62 FTE Volunteer Supervisor (existing)	\$20,016
.5 FTE Volunteer Supervisor (existing)	\$15,848
Payroll taxes	\$10,553
Fringe benefits	\$24,533
Health Insurance	\$23,957
Workers Comp	\$576
Travel (staff training, workshops, conferences)	\$3,600
Office space	\$16,310
Rent	\$12,000
Storage Unit	\$1,200
Utilities & Maintenance	\$3,110
Supplies	\$5,655
General office supplies & postage	\$5,655
Equipment	\$3,367
Copier/Fax Rental	\$948
Office equipment, software, furniture	\$2,419
Other	\$37,669
Professional fees (accounting, licensing)	\$4,985
Kansas CASA & NCASA Memberships	\$1,300
Board & Liability Insurance	\$2,722
CASA Kids Clothing, Shoes & Assistance Funds	\$7,700
Youth Summer Camp/Activity Scholarships	\$7,500
Volunteer Training & Appreciation	\$5,862
Outreach & Fundraising (Mail, Special Events)	\$7,600
TOTAL	\$239,637

- B. What percent of 2013 program costs are being requested from the City? 10%
- C. Provide a list of all anticipated sources of funding and funding amount for this program in 2013:

ESTIMATED 2013 INCOME

GRANTS	\$150,500
United Way	\$40,000
Douglas County	\$45,500
City of Lawrence	\$25,000
Other grants (CVAF, PFF, DCCF, NCASA, CJA, Rice Fdn)	\$40,000
FUNDRAISING	\$63,500
Mail Solicitation	\$32,500
Special Events	\$31,000
DONATIONS	\$18,955
Kappa Alpha Theta	\$4,500
Board & Other Donations	\$13,887
Miscellaneous	\$568
OTHER	\$6,682
Employee Health Ins. Contribution	\$4,432
Interest income	\$2,250
TOTAL	\$239,637

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.

Child abuse and neglect are ongoing problems in our community and throughout the nation. At least 900,000 children are abused or neglected each year in the United States, and an estimated 1,740 children die at the hands of those who ought to be their fiercest protectors. In Douglas County, there were 1,888 reports of child abuse and neglect in 2011. Every year in our community, dozens of children are removed from their homes due to abuse and/or neglect, and placed in SRS protective custody as a Child in Need of Care (CINIC). As a result, these children are thrust into foster care or other placements while the court and social service systems decide their future. These children are among the most vulnerable in our community, and they rely on the support of a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) to assure their safety and long-term care. Children who were identified as abuse victims in the past are 94.6% more likely to suffer further maltreatment compared to children who were not victimized previously. A CASA volunteer carefully monitors the child's continued safety, ensures their medical and educational needs are met, and that thoughtful, informed decisions are made regarding the child's future, including a safe, permanent home.

The number of abused and neglected children in our community is unpredictable from year to year, but the recent recession and related stressors on parents are linked to a marked increase in the number of abused and neglected children in Douglas County who are in need of a CASA volunteer. In 2011, our agency served 89 children with the following demographics: 43 girls, 46 boys; age groups included 32 children from birth to age 5; 21 children from ages 6 to 11; 17 children from ages 12-15; 9 youth from ages 16-17; and 3 youth ages 18 and above. Substance abuse by one or more parents is typical in these cases; domestic violence and mental illness are also prevalent family issues. Most children served by CASA are from low-income families. As of May 2, 2012, our volunteers have already served 79 children so far this year and there is currently a waiting list of at least 50 children who are in need of a CASA.

The requested city funding will allow our agency to recruit, train and supervise community volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children from birth to age 18 who are under the protection of our court system and will allow us to implement the new Fostering Futures training curriculum for volunteers serving youth from ages 14-21. This funding will also support our child clothing fund and special aid for other critical needs. As the number of children who need a CASA volunteer continues to increase, a decrease in city funding would be especially devastating to our agency. The ultimate goal of CASA agencies nationwide is to provide a CASA volunteer for every Child in Need of Care, but increased funding is required to serve more children and eliminate local waiting lists.

- B. How was the need for this program determined?

Child abuse and neglect are long-term, ongoing tragedies on both a local and national level. The need for CASA programs was determined on the national level by Seattle Judge David Soukup in 1976. From the bench, Judge Soukup recognized the unique challenges confronting child victims of abuse and neglect and the limitations he faced in getting sufficient facts to make appropriate decisions regarding their long-term welfare. As a result, Judge Soukup developed an idea that changed judicial procedure and, more importantly, thousands of children's lives. The idea: Train community volunteers to serve as Court Appointed Special Advocates, or CASAs, to represent the best interests of abused and neglected children in the courtroom and beyond. There are now nearly 1,000 CASA programs nationwide, including 24 in Kansas.

The need for our local program was first determined by District Court Judge Jean Shepherd in 1991. Judge Shepherd identified a crucial need for a CASA program to serve Lawrence and Douglas County and this need prompted her to establish our CASA program 21 years ago. Retired in 2011, Judge Shepherd affirms the necessity of CASA volunteers in our community: "CASA has provided that one-on-one special attention that each of our unique Douglas County children needed. Over these twenty years so many kids have benefitted from the wonderful gift of CASA care, attention and advocacy." As the district court judge who now presides over Child in Need of Care cases in Douglas County, Judge Peggy Carr Kittel also values the observations and recommendations of CASA volunteers: "The citizens of Douglas County are fortunate to have had all the wonderful CASA volunteers over the years who have provided this crucial service of advocating for the most vulnerable children in our community." The constant influx of new abuse and neglect cases every year in our community clearly demonstrates the ongoing need for our local CASA program. Judges, attorneys, child welfare workers and parents overwhelmingly report that CASA volunteers make a difference with the children they serve.

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

Protecting the rights and safety of abused and neglected children is one of society's most fundamental

obligations and is crucial for a healthy, vibrant community. All children should be raised in healthy and nurturing homes, free from abuse and neglect. The safety and well-being of children in our community is an important responsibility of our City and is essential to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life in the Lawrence community. Children who are the victims of child abuse and neglect lack adequate parental support and must rely on the assistance of our community for their safety, education, medical care, and the ultimate goal of a safe, permanent home.

Child abuse is associated with a range of other risks, including juvenile delinquency, suicide, unemployment, lost productivity to society, and poor school performance. By helping to reduce time spent unnecessarily in foster care, reducing recidivism, and increasing safety, CASA programs can reduce child welfare costs and help break the cycle of abuse and neglect in our community. Child advocacy by CASA volunteers ultimately strengthens our community, improves neighborhood quality, and facilitates excellent service delivery.

D. How does the program relate to one or more of the goals of the City Commission (see page one)?

Douglas County CASA addresses the City Commission goals of community building, neighborhood quality and service delivery in the following ways:

COMMUNITY BUILDING: “Creating social capital and celebrating our heritage.”

“A community that cares for its most defenseless citizens is one worth living in.” – G. Gardner, Lawrence

The child advocacy provided by CASA volunteers is the bedrock of building communities. If our most vulnerable citizens - children – can't count on someone like a CASA to see to their most rudimentary needs when their parents fail them, we don't have a community. CASA invests the community in its children. Through this unique opportunity to help a vulnerable child, CASA volunteers learn to understand the needs of kids and families, and the strategies that are most effective in supporting them. They observe the challenges of the courts and the child welfare system, and are important advocates for public policy change when such change is needed. CASA facilitates collaboration among many community resources and stakeholders to meet the needs of abused and neglected children as they advocate for the child's medical, educational and housing/permanency needs. Because CASA volunteers have contact with key service providers and community resources touching many aspects of a child's life (education, recreation, health, mental health and more), they serve to strengthen collaboration and communication among the programs and systems that serve child victims of physical and sexual abuse and neglect. This holistic approach helps target resources, increases efficiency, and raises questions, problems and issues earlier, when they are generally less expensive to address. Community connections and cooperative relationships are utilized by Douglas County CASA staff, board members and volunteers to meet the diverse needs of abused and neglected children and to achieve the best possible outcomes for these babies, toddlers, children and teens. By investing in its youngest residents, the city commission is laying the groundwork for a better Lawrence.

NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY: improving the livability of all Lawrence neighborhoods

“Some of the things that were challenging for me in foster care were that I had to keep switching case workers, leaving friends and family and changing schools several times. The thing that helped me the most was having the same CASA volunteer. I think every kid that goes into state custody should have a CASA worker. I wouldn't have made it without mine. I know that for sure.” – Heidi, age 13, former Douglas County CASA child

CASA improves neighborhoods and the quality of life for children by breaking the cycle of abuse and neglect, and offering our most vulnerable children the hope of a safe, loving permanent home. The livability of all Lawrence neighborhoods is improved when children are safe, and CASA volunteers are mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect. Their frequent contact with vulnerable children puts them in a unique position to notify authorities when safety concerns arise. In addition, CASA volunteers, employees and board members are also working to make sure that our neighborhoods and neighborhood schools are meeting the needs of our youngest and most vulnerable residents, many of whom have no one else to speak up for them. By establishing a presence at neighborhood schools attended by CASA children, our volunteers make sure that all children are getting the best education possible. CASA volunteers network with teachers, counselors and other school personnel regularly to make sure the child's educational needs are being met, and they advocate for special services when necessary. As many children in foster care change placements frequently, CASA volunteers advocate for maintaining stability in the child's neighborhood school whenever possible.

SERVICE DELIVERY: Provide excellent city services consistent with resources available.

“Volunteers are our greatest natural resource.” - Anonymous

CASA programs are the model of an outstanding public/private partnership. Backed by the Department of Justice and the Kansas Office of Judicial Administration, 24 local Kansas CASA agencies served more than 2,400 abused and neglected children in 2011, with 89 children served by Douglas County CASA. In the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program, paid staff members facilitate and support the core work performed by volunteers. In 2011, more than 50 Douglas County CASA volunteers contributed over 4,829 hours

serving children, and board members and other agency volunteers contributed another 2,800 hours supporting the CASA mission. This total of 7,629 hours of CASA volunteerism in the Lawrence community reflects a donation value of \$166,236 when based on \$21.79 per hour, the national estimated value of volunteer time for 2011. It is evident that Douglas County CASA provides a crucial and excellent service to our city's youngest residents, utilizing community volunteer resources in a significant manner. Every dollar spent on CASA yields \$23 in savings in the foster care and family court systems (National CASA Association, 2011).

With a service delivery model that uses volunteers supervised by professionals, CASA programs provide continuous contact with children and reports to the court. The CASA volunteer plays an important role in the life of children who live in foster care as they encourage and facilitate appropriate *service delivery* to meet the child's medical, educational and permanency needs. Douglas County CASA volunteers also invest in a very practical and personal way. In addition to donating significant time to serving children, they also donate the cost of their transportation to visit their assigned children, their families, foster families and service providers. Douglas County CASA volunteers drove more than 29,000 miles in 2011 to visit and advocate for abused and neglected children.

Another important city service provided by Douglas County CASA is the summer scholarship program for CASA children and other at-risk children from the community to attend summer camps and activities. This program is financed by CASA funds and grants, and is coordinated by CASA staff members, yet it is extended to all at-risk youth in the community. In 2011, this scholarship program allowed 44 at-risk children and youth to attend summer camps and activities – 15 children served by CASA, 17 children served by Big Brothers Big Sisters, and 12 others referred by social workers and staff from local schools. These activities ranged from swimming lessons, Tae Kwon Do, basketball, science, music camp, football, photography, soccer, special population camps for children with disabilities, and more. In order to stretch community resources as far as possible, CASA staff negotiate fee waivers and camp discounts to allow more at-risk children from our community to participate in summer activities. Throughout the year, in-kind donations to CASA and other donated resources allow our agency to provide CASA kids with birthday gifts, Halloween costumes, Christmas stockings, adoption gifts, clothing, shoes, backpacks, diaper bags and more.

SECTION 5. 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 4. 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 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 just 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 85-120 abused and neglected children in 2013. 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. These assessments decrease the likelihood of further abuse or neglect. 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.
- 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. The volunteer also communicates the child's wishes to

the court.

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.

The positive results achieved by providing a Court Appointed Special Advocate are affirmed via the National CASA Association. 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%). Children with CASA volunteers may receive more court-ordered services because of the volunteer's detailed knowledge of the child's circumstances. These services can be more carefully targeted so that service dollars are used more effectively. (National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association National Statistics 2011)

- B. What other agencies in the community are providing similar types of services. What efforts have you made to avoid duplication or coordinate services with those agencies?

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 activities and goals of our agency, and our service includes cooperative relationships with KVC, DCCCA, Citizens Review Board, SRS, Bert Nash Mental Health Center, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Willow Domestic Violence Center, Roger Hill Volunteer Center, Success by Six, VanGo, Family Promise, the Shelter, USD 497 and other local social service programs and agencies. CASA staff members participate in team meetings involving local court, school and social service professionals to assure our efforts enhance and complement other community efforts and do not duplicate existing services. CASA staff participate in Monthly Family Centered System of Care (FCSC) and MultiDisciplinary Team (MDT) meetings to collaborate on issues that affect at-risk youth in our community and to formulate specific response plans for children in crisis.

SECTION 6. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Please provide three specific program objectives for 2013. 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 2013," "credit counseling services will be provided to 600 clients in 2013," etc. **Applicants will be expected to report their progress toward meeting these objectives in their six-month and annual reports to the City.**

CASA Program Objectives:

- 1. Child safety:** 95% of children assigned a CASA volunteer will not experience substantiated abuse or neglect in 2013. - Children should not experience recurrence of abuse or neglect, especially while under court jurisdiction. Safety of children is the primary focus of the Child in Need of Care system. While additional monitoring by the CASA reduces the risk of recurrence of abuse and neglect, it does not eliminate the risk entirely. Safety is defined as no recurrence of abuse or neglect while under the jurisdiction of the court. Abuse or neglect is defined as SRS substantiated cases.
- 2. CASA stability:** 90% of children served by Douglas County CASA will remain with the same CASA volunteer throughout 2013. - Stability in CASA assignment: Provides a sense of security for the child, especially for those who may change placements during their time in the child welfare system. A familiar CASA assigned to the child provides the child with someone they can trust during a very chaotic and challenging time in their life.
 Reduces further losses for the child. Ensures the CASA has an understanding of the child's needs and background, allowing the CASA to make quality recommendations to the court and to keep others aware of the child's history and its impact on the present. Is vital for the CASA to advocate for the best interest of the child.
- 3. Children will remain in safe, permanent homes:** 90% of children whose cases close will not re-enter the local jurisdiction of the Court as a Child in Need of Care (CINC) within two years. - The jurisdiction of the Court should remain in place until children are placed in safe, stable and permanent homes. Recidivism is defined as the re-entry of a child into the jurisdiction of the Court as a Child in Need of Care within two years of the close of their original case. Advocacy by the CASA volunteer helps ensure that children are placed in safe, permanent homes and the court case does not close until the child's situation is stable.