

Name of Grantee: **Voices for Children**

Title of Proposed Project: **Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program Training Initiative**

Requested Amount: **\$25,000**

of Residents Served: **10**

CHNA Category: **Behavioral Health**



Introduction

The mission of Voices for Children (VFC) is to transform the lives of abused, abandoned, or neglected children by providing them with trained, volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs). VFC matches children in foster care with CASA volunteers who learn the child’s needs in depth, identify beneficial services and resources, and advocate for them in court, at school, and in the community. CASA volunteers help children to heal from past trauma, overcome current obstacles, and pursue brighter futures.

Project Highlights

Through the CASA program, CASA volunteers help ensure that the needs of East County children and youth in foster care are addressed so that the children can thrive. This CASA program training initiative will identify and address new and emerging staff and volunteer training needs related to an increased need of behavioral health services for children in foster care and related changes in behavioral health service providers. This training will enable VFC to better support East County children and youth in foster care and to better meet their increasing behavioral health needs.

Prior Funding

FY24-25:	\$	25,000
FY23-24:	\$	25,000
FY22-23:	\$	25,000
FY21-22:	\$	-
FY20-21:	\$	-

Prior Sponsorships

FY24-25:	\$	10,000
FY23-24:	\$	10,000
FY22-23:	\$	-
FY21-22:	\$	-
FY20-21:	\$	-

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Title of Proposed Project: Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program Training Initiative

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CHNA Category: Behavioral Health



Financial Overview

Total Assets: N/A Simplified

Current Assets: N/A Simplified

Total Liabilities: N/A Simplified

Current Liabilities: N/A Simplified

Current Ratio: N/A Simplified

Total Revenue: N/A Simplified

Operating Cash Flow: N/A Simplified

Cost per Client: \$ 2,500.00

Budget Data

Total Organization Budget: \$ 7,065,000

Total Project Budget: \$ 1,173,520

GHD % of Project Funding: 2%

Grant Funding Allocation:

6 Advocacy Supervisors \$ 25,000

Management \$ -

Consultants \$ -

Equipment \$ -

Food \$ -

Information/Materials \$ -

OTHER \$ -

Utilities & Office Exp. \$ -

Professional Services \$ -

Training \$ -

Marketing/CASA Recruitment \$ -

Children's Assistance Fund \$ -

\$ -

\$ -

Total \$ 25,000

Total Organization Funding Sources

Source	Amount
Federal	\$ -
State	\$ 1,190,000
City/County	\$ 400,000
Other Government	\$ 35,000
Proposed GHD	\$ 25,000
Fees for Service	\$ -
Nonprofit Organization:	\$ 990,000
Private Donations	\$ 1,800,000
Other (list below)	\$ -
Special Events	\$ 2,075,000
Corporate	\$ 200,000
Investment & Other Revenue	\$ 350,000
Total	\$ 7,065,000

Title	Voices for Children	08/29/2025
	by Brian Hutchins in Simplified Grant FY25-26	id. 51480360
	brianh@speakupnow.org	

Original Submission 08/29/2025

Score	n/a
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Organization Information

Legal Name of Organization	Voices for Children
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Address	2851 Meadow Lark Dr San Diego CA 92123 US 32.7945236 -117.1524613
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Organization Website	www.speakupnow.org
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Organization Introduction	Please provide a brief (2-3 sentence) introduction to the organization, and its primary purpose(s).
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Organization Introduction (response):	The mission of Voices for Children (VFC) is to transform the lives of abused, abandoned, or neglected children by providing them with trained, volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs). VFC matches children in foster care with CASA volunteers who learn the child's needs in depth, identify beneficial services and resources, and advocate for them in court, at school, and in the community. CASA volunteers help children to heal from past trauma, overcome current obstacles, and pursue brighter futures.
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Applicant Information

Name (application point of contact)	Rebecca Rader
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Applicant Title	Chief Philanthropy Officer
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Applicant Phone	+18586105665
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Applicant Email	rebeccar@speakupnow.org
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Are you the agency director? No

Name of Agency Director Jessica Muñoz

Phone of Agency Director +19513579100

Email of Agency Director JessicaM@speakupnow.org

Organization Brochure

[VFC_ProgramReport_SD_FY2024-20253_Q4.pdf](#)

Has the organization received grant or sponsorship funding from the Grossmont Healthcare District within the past five years? Yes

Past GHD awards received FY 22-23
FY 23-24
FY 24-25

Grant funding received in FY 22-23 (enter "0" if not applicable) 25000

Sponsorship funding received in FY 22-23 (enter "0" if not applicable) 0

Grant funding received in FY 23-24 (enter "0" if not applicable) 25000

Sponsorship funding received in FY 23-24 (enter "0" if not applicable) 10000

Grant funding received in FY 24-25 (enter "0" if not applicable) 25000

Sponsorship funding 10000
received in FY 24-25
(enter "0" if not
applicable)

Grant Information

Proposed Project Title Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program Training Initiative

Project Highlights Please provide below a concise (2-3 sentence) description of the proposed project.

Project Highlights (response): Through the CASA program, CASA volunteers help ensure that the needs of East County children and youth in foster care are addressed so that the children can thrive. This CASA program training initiative will identify and address new and emerging staff and volunteer training needs related to an increased need of behavioral health services for children in foster care and related changes in behavioral health service providers. This training will enable VFC to better support East County children and youth in foster care and to better meet their increasing behavioral health needs.

Amount of Funds Requested 25000

Number of Unduplicated GHD Residents to be Served 10

Ages of Population to be Served (select all that apply) Early childhood (up to 5 years)
Middle childhood (6-11 years)
Adolescent (12-17 years)
Adult (18-65)

Which of GHD's strategic priorities best aligns with your project? (select one) Behavioral Health

Areas of Impact The Grossmont Healthcare District is home to approximately 520,000 residents, and its boundaries cover a large geographic area of 750 square miles that include most cities and towns frequently referred to as "East County," as well as much of the rural Mountain Empire Region. For the purposes of Board governance, it is divided into five zones. Use the image below or visit the Grossmont Healthcare District Interactive map to identify which zone(s) your project will impact.

Which zone(s) of the Grossmont Healthcare District will your project impact?	<p>Zone 1: Santee, El Cajon - Bostonia</p> <p>Zone 2: Spring Valley, Lemon Grove, Mountain Empire communities (Tecate, Potrero, Campo)</p> <p>Zone 3: La Mesa</p> <p>Zone 4: Lakeside, Harbison-Crest, Alpine, Pine Valley, Tribal communities (Barona, Sycuan, and Viejas Reservations), El Cajon (unincorporated)</p> <p>Zone 5: El Cajon, Jamul</p>
Project Narrative	<p>Provide below a brief (approximately 500 words) description of the proposed project, addressing the following: Problem statement Target population(s) to be served Description of proposed services Organizational capacity to deliver needed services Anticipated impact of the project on the health and well-being of East County residents</p>
Project Narrative (response)	<p>Each year, an estimated 2,500 San Diego County children and youth spend time in foster care, including more than 400 children from the Grossmont Healthcare District. Each child has experienced multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), including abuse and neglect. ACEs are associated with multiple long-term health effects, including chronic illness, substance use disorders, anxiety and mood disorders, and shortened lifespans. VFC’s CASA program provides comprehensive and ongoing advocacy to these children and ensures they have access to necessary and beneficial behavioral health resources, educational services, and the stability they need to thrive.</p> <p>Children and youth entering foster care have been exhibiting significantly greater need for behavioral health resources following the COVID-19 pandemic and as a byproduct of the County of San Diego’s continuing efforts to emphasize family reunification over foster care, a long-term strategy that benefits many children but can also expose others to greater levels of abuse and neglect before court involvement. As a result, organizations serving youth in foster care, including San Diego County’s Behavioral Health Services, the San Diego County Child and Family Well-Being Department, and the San Diego County Office of Education are adapting their services for children with elevated needs.</p> <p>In response to these elevated needs and related changes in services at the above agencies, VFC will be shifting and deepening education and skills of our staff and volunteers so that they can better advocate on behalf of children in foster care and match them with life-changing services. The first step in this process will be a series of cohort meetings with the aforementioned partner agencies to see firsthand their changes, to understand what these agencies have been encountering, and to learn how CASA volunteers can best utilize these enhanced services to better serve East County children in foster care. VFC will consolidate and tailor this information to be presented at staff trainings to ensure our program staff is up to speed on the latest and most effective practices and services so that they can better support volunteers. In addition, information will be used for volunteer trainings as appropriate so that our existing volunteers are better prepared to handle today’s challenges.</p> <p>Under the CASA program, CASA volunteers are matched with individual children or sibling groups and devote 10 hours per month to their cases.</p>

They commit to serving for at least 12 months and spend time with children during one-on-one visits and speak with members of each child's support network, including family, caregivers, therapists, educators, and others to gain a keen understanding of each child's situation. CASA volunteers submit court reports every six months which help Juvenile Court judges make informed decisions on behalf of each child.

By supporting VFC's efforts to update our behavioral health services training, a Grossmont Healthcare Foundation grant will improve our advocacy to all East County children in foster care and enable us to provide ongoing and comprehensive CASA advocacy to 10 previously unserved East County children. Last year, VFC provided CASA advocacy to 1,206 children overall, provided issue-specific staff advocacy to more than 400 more, and assessed and monitored every San Diego County child in foster care for relative need of advocacy. Overall, VFC volunteers and staff advocated on behalf of an approximately 400 Grossmont Healthcare District children last year.

Measurable Project Goals In addition to the number of unduplicated GHD residents to be served, please briefly describe below 2-3 measurable goals that the project aims to achieve. If awarded, you will be asked to report back on your achievement of these goals, so please be sure that they are specific, measurable, and achievable within the project timeframe.

Project Goal #1 Provide 1,200 San Diego County children in foster care, including at least 400 from the Grossmont Healthcare District, with ongoing and comprehensive advocacy from a CASA volunteer by June 30, 2026.

Project Goal #2 Recruit, screen, and train 175–200 new CASA volunteers by June 30, 2026.

Project Goal #3

Project Budget and Organization Funding Sources Please use the forms below to provide: 1) Project Budget: The project's total budget, including requested GHD funding as well as other funding that is available to support the project 2) All Budget Sources: The organization's total budget for the current fiscal year and all major sources of revenue. (Required of applicants with an annual operating budget of over \$500,000.) For budget preparation purposes, Excel versions of the budget forms are available here: 1) Project Budget, 2) All Budget Sources. Please note that you will need to transfer the information into the form(s) below, taking care to avoid the use of special characters, and value errors.

Project Budget Form. DO NOT USE SPECIAL CHARACTERS (EX: \$, %, ",")

[GHD Project Budget form 5.15.24.xlsx](#)

Is your organization's annual operating budget greater than \$500,000? Yes

All Budget Sources Form. (Required of organizations with an annual operating budget of over \$500,000.) DO NOT USE SPECIAL CHARACTERS (EX: \$, %, ",")

GHD All Budget Sources form 5.15.24.xlsx

I confirm the information provided above is accurate and there are no #VALUE errors above.

checked

Attestation and Digital Signature

Applicant Name Rebecca Rader

I understand entering my name above will serve as my digital signature on this grant application.

checked

You have finished completing the application.

Before finalizing and submitting your application, please review all your materials and answers, ensuring that all attachments are correct and up-to-date. You will receive an email confirmation once your application has been successfully submitted, and will be able to review your submission. To ensure you receive communication related to your application, safelist the @submittable.com email address. Please check your email to confirm receipt. If you do not receive a confirmation email, consider the following: Check the junk/spam filters for your email account. Ensure that you have submitted the application and that it is not still saved as a draft. Failure to receive the confirmation email may result in missing other important information. To complete and submit your application, click the "Submit" button below. Please note that once you submit, you will not be able to make changes to your application unless requested and approved by District staff.

Total Grant Amount Requested

PERSONNEL	Grossmont Healthcare District Project Funding	Other Funding Available for Project	Total Project Budget
Staff (non-management) - List Position	-	-	-
Advocacy Supervisors (6)	25000	365000	390000
Case Liaison		70000	70000
Training Coordinator		63000	63000
Training Associate		52000	52000
Recruitment Coordinator		54000	54000
Total Staff Salary and Benefits	25000	604000	629000
Management - List Position(s)	-	-	-
Program Manager-Advocacy Superviso		79000	79000
Program Manager-Case Liaisons (0.2 FTE)		17000	17000
Director of Training and Recruitment (0.3 FTE)		28000	28000
Director of Advocacy (0.3 FTE)		30000	30000
Chief Program Officer (0.3 FTE)		47000	47000
Total Management Salary & Benefits	0	201000	201000
Consultant Fees			0
TOTAL PERSONNEL	25000	805000	830000
-	-	-	-
OTHER EXPENSES	Grossmont Healthcare District Funding	Other Funding Available for Project	Total Project Budget
Telephone		17850	17850
Postage		1200	1200
Office Supplies		4780	4780
Equipment		13410	13410
Printing/Duplicating		750	750
Information/Materials		35250	35250
Professional Services		19260	19260
Travel		20730	20730
Rent		98100	98100
Utilities			0
Insurance		47790	47790
Training		16000	16000
Project Food /Packaging Costs			0
Miscellaneous - List	-	-	-
Marketing/CASA Recruitment		52500	52500
Children's Assistance Fund		15900	15900
			0
			0
			0
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSE	0	343520	343520
TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES	25000	1148520	1173520

Grant Request Must Match GHD Total

FUNDING SOURCE	Total Organization Budget
Federal	
State	1,190,000
City/County	400,000
Other Government	35,000
Proposed GHD	25,000
Fees for Service	
Nonprofit Organizations	990,000
Private Donations	1,800,000
Other (list below)	
Special Events	2,075,000
Corporate	200,000
Investment & Other Revenue	350,000
	7,065,000

Program Report

Voices for Children (VFC) ensures every child has a safe, permanent home by providing trained CASA volunteers to abused, abandoned, or neglected children and advocating for youth in foster care.

San Diego County | FY2024-2025 | Statistics through Q4

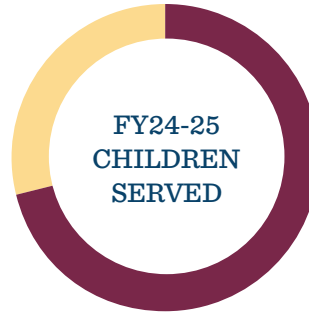


Voices for Children

Meeting the Need

As we celebrate our 45th anniversary, we are reminded that our mission has always been rooted in the children we serve and the volunteers who stand beside them. In FY2024-2025, 2,625 children spent time in San Diego County foster care (701 entered since July 1, 2024).

This year, VFC provided a CASA to 1,206 children. Staff supported an additional 426 youth, and monitored hundreds more who may need advocacy in the future. Through our juvenile justice program, VFC also assigned a CASA to 61 youth and continues to lead innovation in child advocacy.



● CASA ADVOCACY 1,206
● CASE LIAISON ADVOCACY 426

RECRUITING & TRAINING CASA VOLUNTEERS

Voices for Children raises awareness of CASA roles and recruits volunteers to advocate for children in foster care. Prospective CASAs attend an information session, complete an application and interview with background checks, and then train through Advocate University.



▶ *During FY2024-2025, VFC responded to 3,207 volunteer inquiries, hosted 31 Information Sessions for prospective volunteers, and completed 8 Advocate University trainings, averaging 28 graduates per class.*

THE CASA PROGRAM:

“EYES AND EARS” FOR THE COURT, “VOICES” FOR CHILDREN

CASAs have two key objectives: get to know their child in order to understand their needs, worries, hopes, and dreams; and use that information to advocate for the child’s best interest to the judge making decisions on the case.

224

new CASA volunteers graduated from Advocate University

1,715+

court reports submitted by CASAs & staff advocates

83

experienced CASA volunteers took on a new case or additional case

▶ *“My job is not only to advocate for him in court, but to also be there for even the most minor discoveries. It’s about being someone who shows up, someone who cares, someone who says, ‘You are not alone.’”*

— CASA Brian



July 1 - June 30

During FY2024-2025, Voices for Children CASA volunteers and staff advocated on behalf of

1,632

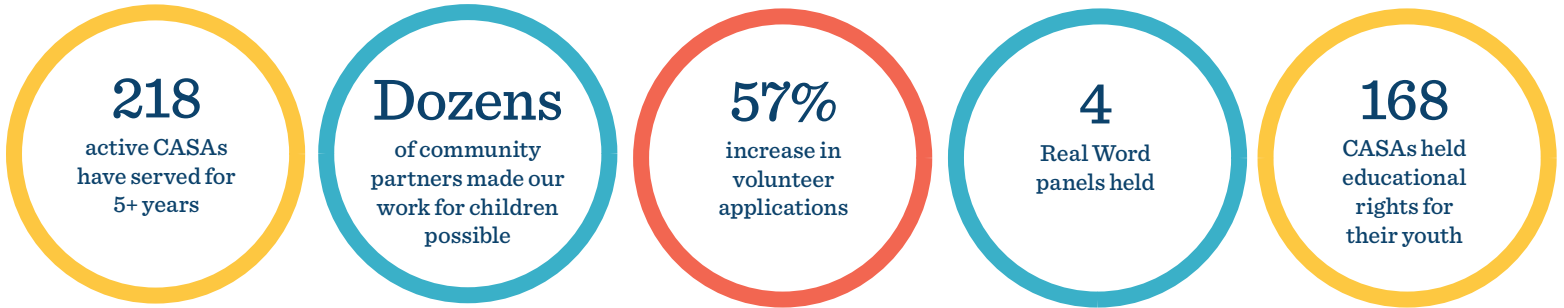
children and youth, newborn through age 21.

During that time,

880

community members served as CASA volunteers in San Diego County.

BY THE NUMBERS



SAN DIEGO COUNTY PLACEMENT REGION

► *Where children served in FY2024-2025 were placed*

