

Organization Information

Legal Name

Voices for Children

DBA (if Applicable)

n/a

Program Name/Title

Court Appointed Special Advocate

Describe the impact of the program to date. Briefly explain how the service/intervention has worked - include cumulative metrics from the Q1 and Q2 Impact reports.

During Q2, Voices for Children's (VFC's) CASA program served approximately 890 San Diego County children in foster care, including nine from the Fallbrook Regional Healthcare District. Bringing the total number of children VFC's CASA program has served this fiscal year to approximately 970 children in foster care in San Diego County. Services for two of the children we serve in the Fallbrook region began in Q2. The impact a CASA has on a child's life is immeasurable. CASAs help children recover from Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) such as abuse and neglect. They lessen the effects of ACEs by providing supportive relationships, facilitating access to services, identifying the best resources for each child to thrive, and advocating for those resources.

Often, the best way to illustrate a CASA's impact is through story.

After entering foster care due to abuse, sixteen-year-old Anthony was struggling with his mental health, which was impacting his schoolwork. Realizing the effect Anthony's mental health was having on his academics, CASA Joe worked with his Advocacy Supervisor to identify resources for Anthony. At the time, Anthony was attending a public high school. With the guidance of his Advocacy Supervisor, CASA Joe successfully advocated for him transfer to an alternative school designed for students with significant mental health challenges and begin mental health counseling where he was prescribed medication. These changes significantly improved Anthony's mental health as well as his academic performance, thanks to the tailored support he received.

Target Population - Age

	Percent of program participants	Estimated number of participants
Children (infants to 12)	33	3
Young Adults (13-17)	45	4
Adults (18-60)	22	2
Seniors (60+)		
We do not collect this data (indicate with 100%)*		

Target Population not collected - Age

n/a

Target Population - Gender

	Percent of program participants
Female	67

	Percent of program participants
Male	33
Non-binary	
Unknown*	

***Target Population - Gender**

n/a

Target Population - Income Level

	Percent of program participants
Extremely Low-Income Limits, ceiling of \$32,100	
Very Low (50%) Income Limits, ceiling of \$53,500	
Low (80%) Income Limits, ceiling of \$85,600	100
Higher Than Listed Limits	
We do not collect this data (indicate with 100%)*	

***Target Population - Income Level**

n/a

Projected number of residents that will directly benefit (participant/client) from this program.

9

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)

Program/Services Description - Social Determinants of Health

Education Access & Quality (Early Childhood Education and Development, Enrollment in Higher Education, High School Graduation, Language and Literacy)

Healthcare Access & Quality (Access to Health Care, Access to Primary Care, Health Literacy)

Program Goal

The goal of VFC’s CASA program in the Fallbrook Regional Healthcare District is to provide crucial advocacy to 18 children living in foster care Fallbrook, Bonsall, De Luz, and Rainbow in fiscal year (FY) 2024-2025. Funding from the Fallbrook Regional Healthcare District is supporting CASA advocacy for six of the 18 children we expect to serve this fiscal year in the Fallbrook region. CASA volunteers ensure that the physical, mental, and behavioral health needs of children in foster care are addressed by advocating on their behalf in court, at school, in healthcare settings, at home, and in the community.

Anticipated Acknowledgment

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Website Display

Eligibility Check

You are ineligible to apply per the District's Grant Policy & Procedures, please contact District staff to if you have questions.

Organization Information

Contact Information

Contact Name

Rebecca Rader

Title

Chief Philanthropy Officer

Primary Contact Phone

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Email Address

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Organization Physical Address

2851 Meadow Lark Drive
San Diego, CA, 92123

Writing Instructions:

Program Information

What language(s) can this program accommodate:

English

Spanish

Tagalog

Chinese (Mandarin/Cantonese)

What demographic group does this program predominately serve:

Youth - other setting

Program Objectives & Measurable Outcomes

VFC measures the impact of our program in two ways. We measure the number of children matched with CASA volunteers because each child matched will benefit from a relationship with a consistent and caring adult. The goal of the CASA program is to provide CASA advocacy services to 18 children in

foster care from FRHD and monitor the cases of the children in the FRHD who do not require CASA advocacy. To achieve this goal, VFC is working to accomplish the following objectives in FY 2024-25:

Objective one: By June 30, 2025, VFC will match 18 children from the Fallbrook Regional Health District with CASAs who will advocate on their behalf. At least 18 children will receive individualized advocacy from a CASA. This will be measured through an order from the court documenting the assignment of each CASA to the case of a child from the Fallbrook Regional Health District. VFC is tracking our progress by uploading court documentation of CASA assignments to each child's case profile in CASA Manager, our database system.

So far in FY 2024-25, 9 children from Fallbrook, Bonsall, De Luz, and Rainbow have been matched with CASAs and are benefiting from a relationship with a caring adult who advocates on their behalf.

Objective two: By June 30, 2025, VFC will recruit and train 18 new CASA Volunteers. At least 18 prospective CASAs will complete Advocate University, VFC's CASA training program. This will be measured through internal volunteer records, which will document completion of training requirements. VFC will track each CASA trainee's progress in CASA Manager. Each prospective trainee is required to attend a CASA volunteer information session and complete an initial interview prior to enrollment in Advocate University. During Advocate University, trainees complete 35 hours of coursework, two additional interviews, a courtroom observation, and homework.

VFC staff are working towards meeting this objective and have already held 14 informational sessions to recruit new CASA volunteers which 384 San Diego County community members attended. We have also held four sessions of Advocate University, our 35-hour CASA training program, graduating 100 new CASA volunteers who will serve children throughout San Diego County.

Objective three: By June 30, 2025, VFC will provide Juvenile Court judges with comprehensive reports at each regularly scheduled hearing, typically held every six months, on behalf of CASA-served children in foster care. At least 18 court reports will be submitted to judges on behalf of children in foster care, enabling judges to make more informed decisions about the children and their needs. This will be measured through the San Diego County Juvenile Electronic Library System (JELS), the program that court reports are submitted through. CASAs will provide their VFC Advocacy Supervisors

with monthly case updates, including information about the services provided to each child, observations from their monthly visits, and information shared by caregivers, teachers, health providers, and child welfare professionals. Every six months, CASAs will work with their Advocacy Supervisors to create court reports that will be submitted to the Court electronically through JELS.

VFC CASAs are continually submitting court reports and accompanying their case child to their court hearings as they are scheduled. The court report helps Juvenile Court judges make well-informed decisions about each child's case and also provides VFC with an internal means of monitoring and assessing each child's progress on their path toward safety, stability, and well-being. VFC staff use the court report to help assess program's individual impact on a child in foster care. A court report serves several important functions. It serves as a roadmap that guides CASAs as they gather information about a child's situation. It documents a child's progress over time. It is an advocacy tool that alerts a child's judge, attorney, and social worker with timely information about a child's most urgent needs. It has a humanizing impact that provides the Court with a whole-child perspective on the child for whom they are making life-altering decisions.

Financial Reporting & Budget

Program Budget



VFC 24_25 FRHD CHC Budget Report...xlsx



Awards Voices for Children \$15,000 to support children living in foster care

In a commendable move toward enhancing the well-being of children living in foster care, the [Fallbrook Regional Healthcare District](#) awarded a \$15,000 grant to [Voices for Children \(VFC\)](#) in July 2024. This funding will significantly bolster VFC's ongoing efforts to recruit, screen, train, and supervise dedicated community volunteers who serve as [Court Appointed Special Advocates \(CASAs\)](#) in North San Diego County.

CASAs play a vital role in the lives of children in foster care, ensuring that their voices are heard and their unique needs are met. Through this partnership with the Fallbrook Regional Healthcare District, VFC can provide tailored advocacy that focuses on the health and well-being of these vulnerable children. CASAs serve as a critical bridge between children and the myriad of services available to them. Each CASA is assigned to an individual child, allowing them to develop a deep understanding of the child's circumstances. This relationship enables CASAs to identify necessary services, resources, and support systems that can aid in the child's healing and development. From facilitating educational opportunities to ensuring that mental health needs are addressed, CASAs are instrumental in advocating for what is best for the child. They compile comprehensive reports for the court and provide real-time updates, thus ensuring that all the professionals involved are aligned and in the pursuit of the child's best interests.

Together, VFC and the Fallbrook Regional Healthcare District positively impact the lives of children in North San Diego County's foster care system. This partnership aims to help children in foster care heal from trauma and equip them with the tools and resources they need to overcome obstacles and build brighter futures. Collaborations like this illustrate the power of community engagement in safeguarding the rights and well-being of our most vulnerable children.

Category: [Giving, News & Updates](#)

Tag: [child welfare](#), [community outreach](#), [San Diego County](#), [voices for children](#)



← [Celebrating Over a Decade of Magic: Merlin's Magic Wand Makes a Difference for Youth in Foster Care](#)



[Riverside County CASA of the Month - December 2024](#) →

FRHD CHC GRANT BUDGET REPORTING FORM

Agency Name:

Voices for Children

PROGRAM NAME:

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program

The main categories align with the budget submitted with your application. Aggregate totals are all that should be reported under each heading.

1)	A	INDIRECT EXPENSES:	PROGRAM COST	REQUESTED FROM FRHD	<i>AMOUNT USED Q1</i>	<i>AMOUNT USED Q2</i>	<i>AMOUNT USED Q3</i>	<i>AMOUNT USED Q4</i>
		TOTAL INDIRECT EXPENSE	\$9,563.00	\$0.00				
	B	PERSONNEL EXPENSES - PROGRAM SPECIFIC	PROGRAM COST	REQUESTED FROM FRHD	<i>AMOUNT USED Q1</i>	<i>AMOUNT USED Q2</i>	<i>AMOUNT USED Q3</i>	<i>AMOUNT USED Q4</i>
		TOTAL PERSONNEL EXPENSE	\$39,892.00	\$15,000.00	\$3,750.00	\$3,750.00		
	C	DIRECT PROGRAM EXPENSES	PROGRAM COST	REQUESTED FROM FRHD	<i>AMOUNT USED Q1</i>	<i>AMOUNT USED Q2</i>	<i>AMOUNT USED Q3</i>	<i>AMOUNT USED Q4</i>
		TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	\$1,711.00	\$0.00				
	D	TOTALS	PROGRAM COST	FRHD Funds Awarded	Total Amount Q1	Total Amount Q2	Total Amount Q3	Total Amount Q4
			\$51,166.00	\$0.29	\$3,750.00	\$3,750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

 Total funds expended to date: **\$7,500.00**