

Organization Information

Legal Name

Voices for Children

DBA (if Applicable)

n/a

Program Name/Title

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program

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 Q3, Voices for Children's (VFC's) CASA program provided CASAs to approximately 910 San Diego County children in foster care, including 12 from the Fallbrook Regional Healthcare District. Additionally, our Case Liaison staff advocated for around 230 more children, two from the Fallbrook region, bringing the total children we served this fiscal year to about 1,440, with 20 from FRHD. Approximately 1,090 have been served by CASAs, 13 from FRHD. This grant supports services for six of these children.

To illustrate a CASA's impact we share the following story.

Dylan is nearly three years old and due to his mother's alcohol use during pregnancy, he has a complex medical history that includes cardiac disease, a misshapen cranium, vision impairment, and global developmental delays. Dylan has undergone several surgeries to allow his brain to grow properly, and CASA Karen has been there every step of the way.

CASA Karen has spent countless hours with Dylan and his caregivers in hospital waiting rooms, always encouraging and believing in his determination and the love surrounding him. She advocates for him to have access to all of the services he needs. Recently, CASA Karen was successful when she petitioned the court for Dylan to receive specialty therapies and assisted his caregivers in acquiring pediatric mobility equipment. With CASA Karen's advocacy and support, Dylan has shown significant progress in an intensive therapy program. He even started preschool and is making friends. CASA Karen continues to be a vital advocate as Dylan grows and develops.

Target Population - Age

	Percent of program participants	Estimated number of participants
Children (infants to 12)	70	14
Young Adults (13-17)	20	4
Adults (18-60)	10	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	55
Male	40
Non-binary	
Unknown*	5

*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.

20

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

Anticipated Acknowledgment

Other

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, 20 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 21 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 136 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

Fallbrook Regional Health District Awards \$15,000 Grant to Voices for Children for Children

The Fallbrook Regional Health District has awarded Voices for Children (VFC) a \$15,000 grant to significantly boost advocacy efforts for children in foster care. The grant supports Voices for Children's crucial work in recruiting, screening, training, and supervising Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) in North San Diego County.

CASAs are vital volunteers who advocate for the best interests of children navigating the foster care system. They act as dedicated voices for these vulnerable youth and provide a consistent presence, ensuring their needs are heard and met. The Fallbrook Regional Health District grant highlights the district's strong commitment to children in foster care in the region.

"This partnership with the Fallbrook Regional Health District will allow us to provide even more tailored advocacy, focusing specifically on the health and well-being of these children," said Voices for Children's President & CEO Jessica Muñoz, Esq., MFS.

The grant from Fallbrook Regional Health District showcases the profound impact of community collaboration in protecting and promoting the wellness of vulnerable children.



Above: Voices for Children's President & CEO Jessica Muñoz, Esq., MFS, with the Board of Directors for the Fallbrook Regional Health District.

The graphic features a blue-to-orange gradient background with white starfish illustrations. At the top left is the 'Voices for Children' logo, which depicts a stylized figure holding a child's hand. The text 'Voices for Children.' is in white, and 'Join the Starfish Giving Circle' is in a large, dark blue, handwritten-style font. Below this, a white text block reads: 'As a part of our monthly giving program, you will directly impact the lives of children in foster care.' At the bottom, a dark blue rounded rectangle contains the website address 'speakupnow.org/thestarfishgivingcircle' in white, with a white arrow pointing to it from the left.

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	AMOUNT USED Q1	AMOUNT USED Q2	AMOUNT USED Q3	AMOUNT USED Q4
		TOTAL INDIRECT EXPENSE	\$9,563.00	\$0.00				
B	PERSONNEL EXPENSES - PROGRAM SPECIFIC	PROGRAM COST	REQUESTED FROM FRHD	AMOUNT USED Q1	AMOUNT USED Q2	AMOUNT USED Q3	AMOUNT USED Q4	
	TOTAL PERSONNEL EXPENSE	\$39,892.00	\$15,000.00	\$3,750.00	\$3,750.00	\$3,750.00		
C	DIRECT PROGRAM EXPENSES	PROGRAM COST	REQUESTED FROM FRHD	AMOUNT USED Q1	AMOUNT USED Q2	AMOUNT USED Q3	AMOUNT USED Q4	
	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	\$3,750.00	\$0.00	

 Total funds expended to date: **\$11,250.00**