

COUNCIL GROVE AREA FOUNDATION
P.O. BOX 137, Council Grove, Kansas 66846

GRANT APPLICATION

Organization Information

CASA of the 8th Judicial District

Organization Name

801 North Washington Street, Suite C Junction City KS 66441

Street Address

City

State

Zip

785-762-3907

casa@8thjd.com

Phone Number

Email Address

Please list your 3 of organizations officers below:

Lisa Hatt Executive Director 785-762-3907

Name

Title

Phone Number

Steve Olson

Board President

785-762-3907

Name

Title

Phone Number

Jim Autrey

Board Secretary

785-762-3907

Name

Title

Phone Number

Is your organization a tax-exempt? Yes

Date of tax exemptions status granted: 4/7/89

Is your organization a nonprofit 501(c)(3)? Yes

Date status granted: 5/17/07

Tell us about your organization.

CASA of the 8th Judicial District is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Our mission is to advocate for the best interests of the local abused, neglected, and trafficked children in the court system. We strive to help children have safe, permanent, and nurturing homes.

Project Information

Name of project: Morris County CASA Advocacy

What geographic area will be served: Morris County

Who will benefit: Morris County court ordered "Children in Need of Care"

May 1, 2020

April 30, 2020

Anticipated Project Start Date

Anticipated Project Completion Date

What is the purpose of this project; what specifically will it accomplish?

Keeping the office in Council Grove open will help CASA of the 8th Judicial District meet the needs of children who are involved within the court system of Morris County. These children have been victims of abuse, neglect, and/or human trafficking. The office enables CASA of the 8th Judicial District to recruit, train, supervise, and support CASA Volunteer Advocates in their work with the children. Community outreach is an important component of a visible and active CASA office on Main Street, Council Grove.

What problem is this project attempting to solve?

CASA of the 8th Judicial District would like to have enough CASA Volunteer Advocates, so that every child who comes through the courts of Morris County can be assigned a CASA. There are currently only 5 trained and certified CASA Volunteer Advocates in Council Grove. The presence of a highly visible CASA office in Council Grove helps promote the need for CASA Volunteer Advocates as well as educating the community about CASA. The office provides space for recruiting, training, supervising, and supporting CASA Volunteer Advocates. National CASA standards require one staff member to up to 20 Volunteer Advocates. A part-time staff case supervisor is necessary in Council Grove.

Who else in the community is working on this issue? Please list all other groups and/or committees.

CASA of the 8th Judicial District is the only agency to provide court appointed services to children in the court system. As a result, CASA works closely with other social agencies, schools, mental health services, and medical services that serve family, as well as, the child. CASA is the only agency that is appointed by the Judge to advocate solely for the child.

How will the project be implemented and how will you coordinate with others working on this issue?

This grant would enable CASA of the 8th Judicial District to pay the rent for the Council Grove office, which totals \$5,000 per year (utilities included). Additionally, the grant would help partially fund the Morris County Case Supervisor position (at a current rate of \$10.25/hour for 15 hours/week). The office is and would remain available to CASA Volunteer Advocates to meet with families, work on court reports, receive training, and even seek the support of fellow CASA Volunteer Advocates. Community outreach from the Council Grove office will continue to be important for attracting new volunteers, training, and informing the public of CASA's role in the courts supporting children.

What local support is there for this project?

The current owner of this building has offered us a very reasonable rent and utilities package. The Morris County court system is also very supportive. Judge White assigns CASA frequently and is very supportive of our program (a letter can be provided). The Morris County Attorney Office is also very supportive of the CASA program. Ministers from several local churches also support our mission.

Financial Information

\$16,000

\$3,000

Total Project Cost

Amount Requested from CGAF

Please list the amount and source of pledge or commitments to date:

\$6,000 has been pledged by the United Way of the Flint Hills. -- CASA of the 8th Judicial District receives funding for the Morris County office from the United Way of the Flint Hills, the Bill Young Foundation, the Trembly Foundation, the Combined Federal Campaign, Fundraising, and donations. To date none of the grants listed can be used to cover the expenses of the CASA office in Council Grove.

Please list any additional funding requests that will be made:

The John E Trembly Foundation (\$3,000), United Way of Flint Hills (\$6,000), and the Bill Young Foundation (\$3,000).

Lisa Hatt

Print Name



Signature

Executive Director

Title

4/21/20

Today's Date

Please send your application to:

Council Grove Area Foundation
C/O Grant Application
P.O. BOX 137
Council Grove, KS. 66846



MARGARET F WHITE
DISTRICT MAGISTRATE JUDGE

MORRIS COUNTY COURTHOUSE
P.O. BOX 259 - 501 W MAIN
COUNCIL GROVE, KS 66846
PHONE (620) 767-6838
FAX (620) 767-6488

March 16, 2020

Office of Judicial Administration
Kansas Judicial Center
301 SW Street Room B2
Topeka, Kansas 66602-1507

RE: CASA

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the District Magistrate Judge for the 8th Judicial District based out of Morris County. I am writing you because I support our CASA organization. I hear Child in Need of Care matters and often appoint a CASA as they are able to provide information to the Court that might otherwise be unavailable. For example, in truancy cases where the children and parents are not complying with the order of the court, they have been very helpful. Since there usually is no other agency involved in that type of case, the CASA is able to provide information that may pinpoint another reason for the truancy of the child, which many times can be the case.

The CASA is usually more involved with the children than is the Guardian ad litem. Although the GAL does meet with the children, the CASA has the ability to meet more often with them and can provide helpful information as to what is going on in the child's life. A child may be more willing to open up to the CASA volunteer than to the GAL as they develop a trusting relationship with the child.

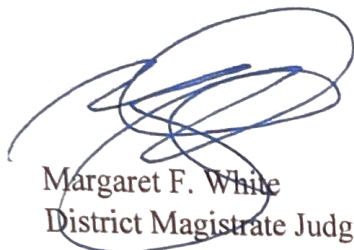
The CASA can also obtain information from the child's school as I often will order grade reports, not just in truancy cases, but also other CINC cases where the child is of school age. With our foster care agencies, I may not receive any reports from the school on the child's attendance and grades until the day of court. Many times the CASA will have this information prior to the day of court so that all attorneys, as well as the court, can review prior to the hearing.

Our CASA's provide very extensive and complete reports for every hearing and do so in a timely manner. They often will provide an addendum if any problem arises after their initial report.

This organization, which operates entirely completely with the help of volunteers, has been extremely helpful in my decisions on the outcomes of cases. If there was ever a loss of this program, it

would be a detriment not only in the cases I hear, but to the community as a whole as they help protect the children from harm and are their voice when the GAL is not able to talk to them.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.



Margaret F. White
District Magistrate Judge