

Faulkner County
American Rescue Plan / Coronavirus State and Local
Fiscal Recovery Funds Application

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FAULKNER CO. JUDGE

Organizational information:

Name or organization: Children's Advocacy Alliance
Physical address: 1107 Main Street, Conway, AR 72032
Mailing address: PO Box 1202, Conway, AR 72033
Email: tletcher@hopeandjustice.org
Phone: 501-328-3347

CEO or Executive Director information:

Name: Tess Fletcher
Email: tletcher@hopeandjustice.org
Phone: 501-269-1198 (cell)
Brief qualifications statement: Tess has her Masters in Public Administration and has been working for the organization since 2004. She has been Executive Director for the last 14 years.

Financial Officer or Director information:

Name: Amber Hester
Email: drewamberhester@gmail.com
Phone: 501-733-0303
Brief qualifications statement: Amber is a CPA and the Board Treasurer.

Who is the contact person for this application?

Name: Tess Fletcher
Email: tletcher@hopeandjustice.org
Phone: 501-269-1198

Entity type or IRS registration: (501(c)3, LLC, sole proprietorship, etc.) 501(c)3 – EIN 71-08323919

Brief history of the organization:

The Children's Advocacy Alliance was originally formed in 2000 as CASA of the 20th Judicial District. The establishment of the CASA 20th program came about with the formation of a strong Board of Directors, a partnership with a local judge, and the appointment of the program's first

Executive Director who assumed the role with a mission to build the organization. The CASA 20th program has continued to grow and was able to open a satellite office in Van Buren County, which allowed for improved advocate support services, improved community awareness and better relationships with local resources for service recommendations for victims.

In 2010, the CASA 20th organization joined with the Central Arkansas Children's Advocacy Center (CAC), a newly forming program, to create the Children's Advocacy Alliance. The partnership allowed both programs to share resources and increase their capacity to serve abused and neglected children and their non-offending families in our community. The Children's Advocacy Alliance is the umbrella organization with a single governing board.

Financial information:

1. Have you received other state or federal grant funds in the past three years? If so, list the grant name, the organization from whom it was received, the amount of funding received, and the status of the grant expenditure. Our agency receives state grants from CACar (Children's Advocacy Centers of Arkansas) for our child advocacy center program in the amount of \$75,000. This is an annual grant. We receive funding from the Arkansas State CASA Association for our CASA program in the amount of \$87,400. This amount is fairly stable annually. We receive funding through the UAMS ARBEST program for our child advocacy center program for mental health services in the amount of \$50,400. This amount can vary from year to year. We receive TANF funds (federal) for our child advocacy center program in the amount of \$160,000 annually. This is the third year for this funding. We are unsure whether this amount will be stable in the future. We receive VOCA funds (federal) for both programs totaling \$258,753.02. This amount is less than last grant cycle. Funding for this grant varies.
2. Please Attach your organization's audits from 2019, 2020, and 2021 if available. Auditor is currently working on audits for the last two fiscal years.
3. What is your organization's annual budget? Please attach a copy of your 2020, 2021, and 2022 budgets.
4. The applicant certifies that any funds received through this Faulkner County granting program are fully subject to federal regulations and affirms that the funds will be properly spent in compliance with the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The applicant further affirms that financial controls are in place such that each expenditure under the grant will be fully documented and that such documentation will be open to the public and submitted to the County for audit. The applicant understands that all aspects of their use of the grant are open to the public and subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

- Yes

About your request:

5. Please indicate under which category of eligibility under ARPA your organization is applying:

- Public Health and Economic Impacts – Responding to COVID-19
- Public Health and Economic Impacts – Responding to Negative Economic Impacts
- Investments in Infrastructure – Water and Sewer
- Investments in Infrastructure – Broadband

6. Briefly and clearly state how your project responds to the COVID-19 crisis: At the onset of COVID-19, schools pivoted to virtual school and children were no longer in a classroom daily with a mandated reporter. As a result, for a brief time, we saw a reduction in the number of children referred to the child advocacy center. In July of 2020, we started seeing an increase in abused and neglected children and since then have seen a sustained increase in the number of children needing services and we have maxed out our capacity to be able to serve them. We do not have adequate facility space (currently 1,632 square feet) for the number of children needing to be referred. We haven't been able to adequately meet the public health components (distancing, etc) due to limited space. With the increase in children and families, it has been especially hard to ensure confidentiality of clients. This project would allow us to purchase an additional space to expand the physical space we have to serve the current needs and to be able to develop a master plan for a new campus to consolidate all services into one adequate facility. Like many nonprofits during the COVID-19 crisis, we have experienced a loss in revenue, both public and private as well as a significant reduction in one of our federal grants. Despite losing revenue, we have continued to provide services. Due to the reduction in funding, key positions have had to be held open.

7. Does your project have a county-wide impact? If so, please describe. Yes. Our child advocacy center and our CASA program serves all of Faulkner County with our children and family services. Our agency also provides prevention and education to children in Faulkner County, community members, law enforcement and other partner agencies.

8. Please describe your project including the following information (in any order): What will this project accomplish? How will those goals be measured? How do these goals relate to the goals of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)? **Accomplish** – This will allow us to replenish resources that we are lacking to be able to adequately serve the number of children needed. We can address the immediate need to have more space to serve the increased volume and do so in a manner that allows us to better ensure confidentiality of clients. In the event of another public health crisis or another phase of the current crisis, we will have the resources to sufficiently serve these children. This space will allow adequate space to provide more mental health services. **Measure** – We already track the number of children served and report at each board meeting. This project aligns with our strategic plan, which is also discussed at each board meeting as well as in committee meetings. **Relate** – Page 15 of the 'Overview of the Final Rule' found on the U.S. Department of the Treasury's website states that the "Treasury recognizes that the pandemic has broadly impacted Americans'

10. Are other funds part of the budget besides ARPA funds? If so, please list other sources of funding and a copy of their funding commitment, if available. Early conversations have been had for commitments to a capital campaign. These funds would meet a \$100,000 challenge. Conway Area Leadership Institute raised \$16,000.00 toward a capital campaign. These funds solve an immediate problem as well as help us with future needs to establish a capital campaign committee to raise additional funds for a future campus for services.

11. Please describe the organization's financial management practices that will ensure audit compliance. Income and expenses are entered into Quickbooks and categorized by program. Any funds donated for a specific purpose are marked as restricted in Quickbooks and only used for the intended purposes. Reports can be pulled at any time to show income/expenses for a particular project, if necessary. What is the total dollar amount that is being requested from Faulkner County? \$573,300.00

12. Have you received other ARPA or CARES Act funds? If so, how much have you received?

Yes, our child advocacy center program received CARES Act funds in the amount of \$25,000 in 2020 that the Children's Advocacy Centers of Arkansas secured for each CAC in the state.

Authorized Representative: The signature indicates that I have been authorized to submit an application requesting funding for the proposed project and to the best of my knowledge and belief, all data contained in this application is true and correct. If the application is approved for funding, I am authorized to sign any applicable documents on behalf of the applicant.

Tess Fletcher

Type Name

Executive Director

Title

Tess Fletcher

Signature

March 14, 2022

Date

When completed return by mail or drop-off
to: Faulkner County Judge's Office
801 Locust Street
Conway, AR 72034