

LOUISIANA COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION F CRIMINAL JUSTICE APPLICATION AND REVIEW SUMMARY

APPLICATION NUMBER: C10-4-006

APPLICANT: Stuller Place - A Children Advocacy Center

PROJECT TITLE: Child Advocacy Program

PROJECT FUNDS :

FUND:	\$	49,012	80.00%	PROJECT DURATION: 12 months
MATCH:	\$	12,253	20.00%	START DATE: 10/01/2010
TOTAL:	\$	61,265	100.00%	END DATE: 09/30/2011
		Continuation of	C95-4-006	

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Hearts of Hope - Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) provides a child-friendly environment where a forensic interview and mental health services for children ages 2-17 can be conducted when abuse allegations are investigated. Support services are also provided to the non-offending parent or family member. All services are confidential and are completed without expense for the clients. The CAC provides services in the 15th JDC, as well as St. Landry Parish. CAC staff also coordinates service delivery with other victim advocates and provides assistance with accessing needed services with community resources. The CAC provides court accompaniment to victims as needed and provides monthly contact with victims and family. CAC staff participates in monthly Multidisciplinary Team Reviews and regularly attends case review meetings to increase prosecution rates. The CAC staff includes a Child Forensic Interviewer, licensed Therapists, and a Family Advocate/Case Tracker.

RECOMMENDATION : FUND X DENY

SPECIAL CONDITIONS :

1. NO RELEASE OF 10% TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS BY LCLE UNTIL MONITORING REVIEW IS RECEIVED BY LCLE.
2. NO DRAWDOWN OF FUNDS (AWARD) UNTIL APPLICATION IS REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY LCLE STAFF.

SECTION 200. FRINGE BENEFITS (Employer's Share Only)

Enter the individual Name(s) of the employees receiving fringe benefits for each position funded through this grant. There are two sets of each benefit below to allow budgeting for eight employees. For further information and direction, please refer to the application instructions.

Check: All Fringe Benefits Will Be Paid by Applicant Agency

Additional Fringe Benefits Will Be Paid by Applicant Agency

EMPLOYEES NAMES				EMPLOYEES NAMES (continued)			
SOCIAL SECURITY	RATE	SALARY	TOTAL	SOCIAL SECURITY	RATE	SALARY	TOTAL
1. Aime Cunningham	.062	\$31,200	\$1,934	5	.062	\$0	\$0
2. Claudia Abel	.062	\$14,300	\$886	6	.062	\$0	\$0
3	.062		\$0	7	.062	\$0	\$0
4	.062		\$0	8	.062	\$0	\$0
MEMORANDUM				MEMORANDUM			
1. Aime Cunningham	.0145	\$31,200	\$452	5	.0145	\$0	\$0
2. Claudia Abel	.0145	\$14,300	\$207	6	.0145	\$0	\$0
3	.0145		\$0	7	.0145	\$0	\$0
4	.0145		\$0	8	.0145	\$0	\$0
HEALTH INSURANCE				HEALTH INSURANCE			
1				5			
2				6			
3				7			
4				8			
WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION				WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION			
1				5			
2				6			
3				7			
4				8			
UNEMPLOYMENT TAX				UNEMPLOYMENT TAX			
1				5			
2				6			
3				7			
4				8			
PUBLIC/PRIVATE RETIREMENT				PUBLIC/PRIVATE RETIREMENT			
1				5			
2				6			
3				7			
4				8			
OTHER				OTHER			
1				5			
2				6			
3				7			
4				8			
FRINGE BENEFITS TOTAL (A)				FRINGE BENEFITS TOTAL (B)			
\$3,479				\$0			

PLEASE NOTE: IF MORE THAN EIGHT EMPLOYEES QUALIFIED TO THIS PROJECT, FURTHER COMPLETE AN ADDITIONAL PAGE

Fringe Benefits Total (A+B): \$3,479

SECTION 200. FRINGE BENEFITS SUMMARY	
FEDERAL FUNDS	\$3,479
CASH MATCH	
TOTAL FRINGE BENEFITS	\$3,479

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

A. PROBLEM DEFINITION

1. Identify the nature and magnitude of the specific problem existing in your particular community that needs to be addressed through this proposed project. Document the need, not the symptoms or solutions. Be sure to include current valid local data to support the justification. Give the source and date of your information. State the needs of your agency and the needs of the victims in your area as related to this problem and justify the need for the proposed project.

According to Child Maltreatment 2008, the most recent report of data from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS), approximately 772,000 children were found to be victims of child abuse or neglect in calendar year 2008. Of this number, an estimated 71 percent (71.1) suffered neglect, an estimated 16 percent (16.1) were physically abused, an estimated 9 percent (9.1) were sexually abused, an estimated 7 percent (7.3) were emotionally or psychologically maltreated, and an estimated 2 percent (2.2) were medicinally neglected. In addition, 9 percent of victims experienced "other" types of maltreatment such as "abandonment," "threats of harm to the child," and "congenital drug addiction." (Children's Bureau, Child Maltreatment: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2008)

State of Louisiana Department of Social Services-Office of Community Services Child Welfare Quarterly Assurance and Research Section, reported over 700 child sexual and severe physical abuse cases in 2008 in Lafayette Parish. Only a small percentage of these cases result in prosecution each year.

In 2009, Hearts of Hope CAC completed 447 child forensic interviews and 520 therapy sessions. As of June 2010, CAC has completed 228 child forensic interviews and 273 therapy sessions. All clients were referred from Lafayette parish and the surrounding parishes that Hearts of Hope serves. The Multidisciplinary team (MDT) reviews are held on each case at least once after the initial interview. Pending cases are reviewed periodically collaboratively, through the MDT process, by the CAC Child Interviewer, CAC Mental Health Clinician, MDT Assistant, DA (assistant in charge of the case), DA Victim's Assistant, Law Enforcement Supervisor and Office of Community Services Supervisor.

The Master level Social Worker provides therapeutic intervention for the children and family on an individual basis. The children have the opportunity to become acquainted with one setting. At Hearts of Hope, the children learn about the court system, increase their level of trust and decrease their level of fear, thereby producing better witnesses. It is imperative that the children learn coping skills and increase self-esteem to prevent future trauma. The CAC provides unique assistance to child victims of sexual and severe physical abuse in the region that Hearts of Hope serves, including Lafayette, Acadia, Iberville, St. Landry, St. Martin, and Vermilion. These parishes are defined as rural per the state regulations (with the exception of Lafayette and St. Martin which are served by Hearts of Hope) and do not have access to any other Children's Advocacy Center.

According to the latest update of a longitudinal study on the cycle of violence, being abused or neglected as a child increases the likelihood of arrest as a juvenile by 59 percent, as an adult by 28 percent and for a violent crime by 30 percent according to one study that looked at more than 1,500 cases over time. (Widom, C.S., and M.G. Maxfield, An Update on the "Cycle of Violence." Research in Brief, Washington DC: U.S. Department of Justice National Institute of Justice February 2001 NCJ 184804)

2. Describe gap in community resources and how the gap was identified. Explain what need is created by this gap in services/programs.

Prior to the CAC, victims were often made to recount the event to numerous disciplines. There was no central location for all involved agencies to serve the victim. Law Enforcement, Child Protective Services, medical personnel, and other necessary entities were all required to interview the victim. Often times there would be discrepancies making it virtually impossible to prosecute many cases. Hearts of Hope - CAC offers a safe, collaborative environment for children who have been sexually abused/assaulted or suffer severe physical abuse. At the CAC, the victims are interviewed by a trained Child Interviewer. All interviews conducted by the CAC have been reported to law enforcement and/or the Office(s) of Community Services. Law enforcement agents are present during the interview and have an opportunity to provide immediate feedback to the Child Interviewer via ear-microphone. The multidisciplinary team (MDT) meets at CAC on a regular basis to ensure collaboration and to promote prosecution of substantiated abuse allegations.

B. GOALS

GOALS: The primary mission of all projects is to have a positive impact on the victims, not just to accumulate statistics on how many are served. Based on the problem identified, BRIEFY state what the project hopes to accomplish. Do this by providing a clear statement of the effect this project will have on the problem.

Goal 1: Conduct 500 videotaped interviews on child victims reporting sexual and/or severe physical abuse.

Goal 2: Conduct 250 individual therapeutic sessions with child victims and family advocacy sessions.

C. OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVES: Provide at least TWO (2) measurable objectives for EACH goal. Objectives need to be measurable, observable aspects of the program. Identify who, what will change and by how much. Use absolute numbers, not percentages and be sure to include a baseline number.

Goal 1: Conduct 500 videotaped interviews on child victims reporting sexual and/or severe physical abuse.

Objective 1: The Child Interviewer will receive reports of child abuse from law enforcement and Offices of Community Services and conduct videotaped interviews for 500 children

Objective 2: The Child Interviewer is to conduct multidisciplinary team (MDT) review on the 500 child sexual abuse cases interviewed to determine the status and progress of the case.

Goal 2: Conduct 250 individual and family therapeutic sessions with child victims.

Objective 1: The Master level Social Worker will begin treatment with 250 children referred by the Child Interviewer. The MSW will provide therapeutic sessions to alleviate anxiety resulting from the abuse. Each victim is allotted up to eight sessions, averaging four sessions per client, for an estimated total of 2,000 sessions.

Objective 2: The Master level Social Worker will participate in the MDT process of the 250 child victims to monitor the progress of the case and to provide feedback on the emotional stability and needs of the child victim.

D. ACTIVITIES/ METHODS

List the specific activities and/or services to be provided that will accomplish the objectives. Must include a timeline for achieving the various components of your project. Timetable must cover entire grant period. This must relate back to the Goals and Objectives. If this is a training project, omit this page and complete D-2 Training Programs.

Goal 1: Conduct 500 Interviews

Objective 1: The Child Interviewer will continue to receive training annually from an established training center to perfect their interviewing skills. The grant funding for training is provided by the National Children's Alliance. The Child Interviewer will interface with referring agencies to schedule child interview to be conducted at the CAC.

Objective 2: The Child Interviewer will coordinate the bi-weekly multidisciplinary team (MDT) reviews, with DA, Law Enforcement, Office of Community Services and CAC Mental Health Clinician in collaboration. The MDT reviews are conducted at the CAC and the cases to be reviewed will be provided by the Child Interviewer to the participants prior to the meeting.

Goal 2: Conduct 250 therapeutic sessions.

Objective 1: The Master level Social Worker will receive referrals from the Child Interviewer on 250 child victims deemed emotionally appropriate for counseling. The therapist will provide individual and family sessions to the children. The sessions range from thirty to fifty minutes in duration. While sessions are limited to eight, many of the children successfully achieve the goal of emotional stability within five sessions. If additional intervention is necessary, the MSW will make outside referrals to a private clinician or in-patient psychiatric facility. The child's progress and statistical information will be documented by the MSW throughout therapy. Reading literature will be provided to the child and family members to support the learning in therapy.

Objective 2: The Master level Social Worker will be informed by the Child Interviewer of the cases up for review prior to the multidisciplinary team (MDT) review. The status of the case as it pertains to law enforcement, legal and child protection, will be supplied by the MSW. The MSW will relate emotional status of the child. In the child's best interest as the primary focus, the course of action to be taken will be determined and planned by the entire MDT review team.

The project will begin operation on October 1, 2010 and continue thru the end date of September 30, 2011.

1. This project serves the following Congressional District(s)

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 All (Statewide Project)

E. DEMOGRAPHICS

2. Type of Organization:

- Applicant Agency: Law Enforcement Prosecution Court Non-Profit Organization Tribal Government
Community-Based Organization
Domestic Violence Program
Dual Program (Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence)
Dual State Coalition (Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence)
Government Agency (Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health)
Law Enforcement
Probation, Parole, or Other Correctional Agency

F. LOUISIANA AUTOMATED VICTIM NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (LAVNS)

- 1. Name of the individual responsible for assisting victims in regard to accessing and using the LAVNS system.
NAME: Pam Harris PHONE: (337) 269-1557 email: pam.harris@theheartsofhope.org
2. Does this individual also serve as agency's point of contact for LAVNS? If not, please provide name and contact information.
NAME: PHONE: EMAIL:
3. Has this individual attended trainings provided by LCLE to learn how victims are served by LAVNS? If no, agency will request LAVNS training from LCLE within 30 days of award. NOTE: More information regarding the LAVNS program, including training information, can be found at: http://lcle.la.gov/procedures/lavns.asp.
4. Does the agency have posters displayed for promoting LAVNS and brochures readily available to victims? If no, please go to the LCLE website to request free LAVNS materials at: www.lcle.la.gov.

G. CRIME VICTIMS REPARATIONS (CVR)

- 1. Is same individual responsible for assisting victims in regard to services available through the CVR program? If not, please provide name and contact information.
NAME: PHONE: EMAIL:
2. Does the agency know who the Crime Victims Reparations (CVR) Claims Investigator is at the Parish Sheriff's Office?
3. Does the agency have posters displayed for promoting CVR and brochures readily available to victims? If no, please fax a written request (contact person, agency name, mailing address) for free CVR posters and brochures to 225-925-6159. NOTE: More information regarding the CVR program, including applications and other forms, can be found at: http://lcle.la.gov/DOCS/CRIMEVICTREPAR.

H. PRIOR RESULTS (For Continuation Projects Only)

- 1. Based on the objectives of the previous application, what were the measurable outcomes? (Refer to the previous project's performance stated in the quarterly progress reports and other additional information.)
In 2009, Hearts of Hope - CAC conducted 447 Child Interviews, CAC Therapists conducted over 500 individual counseling sessions. The Family Advocate met with over 100 families to offer education and advocacy services. For 2010, CAC has conducted 228 Child Interviews and 273 individual counseling sessions. The Family Advocate has met with over 60 families. CAC is seeing an increase in the number of subpoenas being issued to our Child Interviewer for her expertise in the field and work with victims. In 2009, CAC's Child Interviewer received 31 subpoenas. To date in 2010 our Child Interviewer has received 21 subpoenas.
2. Did the project work as expected? Explain.
The project has worked as expected.

- 3. Have the original goals and objectives been revised?
Yes No
If Yes, explain what changes will be made in the continuation of this project and why?

L. EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS

A COPY OF YOUR EVALUATION FORMS USED FOR THIS PROJECT MUST BE INCLUDED.

1. From whom will the data be collected – what is the source?

Data is collected from the victims and/or the parent or legal guardian.

2. When will the data be collected?

Data is collected at the time of the interview and/or therapy sessions.

3. Who will collect and analyze the data?

Data is collected and analyzed by the CAC staff. All data collected is reviewed by the Executive Director of Hearts of Hope.

4. Who will be responsible for submitting the data for the Quarterly Progress Reports: State name and contact information.

Name: Jill Dugas Phone: (337) 269-1557 Email: jill.dugas@theheartsofhope.org

5. Following evaluation, who and how will updating or revising of the project's strategy be accomplished?

Kimberly Brooks, Grant Administrator for Hearts of Hope, under the direction of Jill Dugas, Executive Director, will be responsible for updating or revising the project's strategy, if necessary.

6. Name the recipients who will receive the project's results and the schedule of reporting (i.e. monthly, quarterly, yearly). Recipients MUST state the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement will receive Quarterly Progress Reports and expenditure reports quarterly/monthly as specified at award time. Recipients should also include, if applicable, board of directors, applicant agency (if different from implementing agency), courts with jurisdiction, etc.

Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement will receive Quarterly Progress Reports and expenditure reports either quarterly or monthly as specified. Financial and statistical reports are provided to Hearts of Hope Board of Directors on a monthly basis and outcome measurements on a quarterly basis. Reports are also disseminated to United Way of Acadiana and Iberia, and to the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault (LAFASA). A financial audit is conducted on the agency annually, with a fiscal year of January through December.

I. CONTINUATION

Yes No

Do you plan to continue this project at the conclusion of federal support? Since continued VOCA funding is limited and not assured, alternate funding sources should be sought. Name the sources and potential sources of continued funding for this project at the conclusion of Federal support.

At the conclusion of the 2010-11 grant project, Hearts of Hope will again apply for CVA funding (2011-1012). Child victims of sexual crimes are a very vulnerable group and this grant provides an invaluable resource. If for some reason, Hearts of Hope is denied funding for this project, the Board of Directors and the Executive Director will be responsible for seeking out community support in the forms of fund raising and donations, and/or replacement grants. The Children's Advocacy Centers of Louisiana and the National Children's Alliance continue to seek out sources of income for all CACs(s).

K. RESOURCES

Describe the facilities and additional resources available to this project. Include the physical facility where services are provided. If applicable, list other resources available to this project, i.e. equipment, supplies, staff, etc.

Hearts of Hope is a 4,000 square-foot building that is used by two programs. The Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) occupies 3,000 square feet of the building and has created an atmosphere that is child-oriented and professionally directed to the needs of children. The Sexual Abuse Response Center (SARC) and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) programs occupy the remaining area. The merger of the CAC and SARC has enabled the two programs to provide continuity of care for victims of sexual crimes, shared resources for volunteer training, and shared costs for operational and administrative expenses. An alarm system ensures that clients, staff and assets are secured 24 hours a day.

L. AUDIT REQUIREMENTS

All applications must check one:

This organization/agency expends \$500,000 or more in federal funds (during the fiscal year of the organization/agency from any and all sources including the amount of this application) AND MUST SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

1. Date of last audit
2. Dates covered by last audit
3. Date of next audit
4. Dates to be covered by next audit
5. Date next audit will be forwarded to LCLCE

This organization/agency expends less than \$500,000 in federal funds from all sources during the fiscal year of the organization/agency.

M. VOLUNTEERS

Yes No

Are you using volunteers as much? If yes, describe the dates and functions performed by the volunteers. Indicate the number of volunteer hours per day/function for this application (this can be an estimate). Volunteers' duties must directly relate to the focus of this project and information stated in Section 100 Personnel.

Yes No Are volunteers screened in compliance with the Louisiana Child Protection Act (LRS 15:587.1) as appropriate?

Volunteers are in compliance with the Louisiana Child Protection Act (LRS 15:587.1). Volunteers are utilized in two capacities: 1) Volunteers answer the 24-hour crisis line to provide immediate information of services and crisis intervention counseling for the victims and their families. In addition, volunteers answering the telephone receive calls from the hospital emergency rooms when families report sexual abuse of a child. The volunteer in turn contacts the Stuller Place escort and/or law enforcement agency and the SANE nurse. 2) Volunteers accompany victims and their family in the hospital emergency room setting, acting as a liaison between the SANE nurse, hospital personnel, law enforcement, child protection services and the victim. Volunteers are available between the hours of 4:00pm and 6:30am during weekdays and full weekend coverage. Volunteers must complete 40 hours of training prior to being placed on the volunteer call schedule.

N. REQUIRED COMPONENTS

1. Subgrantees are required to help victims apply for victim compensation. Describe a specific plan on how applicant has or will interface with the Louisiana Crime Victims Reparations Program.

The CAC Child Interviewer, Family Advocate/Case Tracker, and/or Master Level Social Worker will assist the victimized families in completing the Crime Victim's Reparation Report when deemed necessary and appropriate. Notification of the victim compensation is provided by the CAC to all of its clientele, be it in the office or during the forensic examination at the hospital. Referrals to the District Attorney's Victims Assistant and local Sheriff's Department are also made.

2. Describe how applicant has/will coordinate activities with other criminal justice system/private service providers in the community. If you have obtained cooperative agreements, a copy may be attached to the application in addition to the brief description.

Hearts of Hope- CAC was awarded full membership to the National Children's Alliance in 1999 and re-certification was accomplished in 2007. The core element of a CAC is the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT). A MDT is a group of professionals who represent various disciplines and work collaboratively to promote a thorough understanding of case issues and assure the most effective system response possible. Disciplines--Law Enforcement, Child Protective Services, Prosecution, mental health, medical, in collaboration with CAC staff members, comprise the core MDT. The CAC must meet the demands of the bi-weekly MDT review process. Representatives from the CAC, Office of Community Services Supervisor, Lafayette Police Department, Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Department, and District Attorney's office are present during applicable cases. Also possible attendees of the reviews are medical personnel and private mental health clinicians. Clients in need of services outside the scope of the CAC are referred to private clinicians and/or psychiatric hospitals. The representatives mentioned above of the multidisciplinary team, prior to the inception of the CAC, signed an interoffice agreement stating their participation.

3. Indicate how the applicant will address the issue of encouraging the victims to report to law enforcement. Policies and procedures may be attached to the application in addition to the brief description.

All interviews conducted by the CAC have been reported to law enforcement and/or the Office(s) of Community Services prior to the interview. In situations where OCS makes the first contact, the OCS caseworker will report the incident to law enforcement if deemed a valid case. Law enforcement agents are present during the interview and have an opportunity to provide immediate feedback to the Child Interviewer via ear-microphone. Law enforcement agencies are contacted and detectives must be present at the hospital when a forensic rape kit is accomplished on a child victim. The Lafayette Police Department and Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Department were co-signers of the interagency agreement when the CAC was developed and participate in the multidisciplinary team review process.

4. State that the applicant will comply with the Louisiana Child Protection Act (LS 15:587.1) as appropriate. The Louisiana Child Protection Act refers to screening prospective employees, NOT reporting instances of child abuse.

Hearts of Hope Children's Advocacy Center will comply as appropriate to the circumstances with the Louisiana Child Protection Act (LS 15:587.1)