

FY2020 Court Improvement Program Sub-Grantees

Organization:	Texas Legal Services Center
Project:	Family Helpline
Grant Amount:	\$147,650
Project Description:	The Family Helpline assists callers with questions about various aspects of CPS investigations and cases. The Helpline attorneys address common misunderstandings of parents and family members who usually call during a CPS investigation to ask about the process, their rights, and potential outcomes. The Helpline collects and analyzes data, provides education and training and develops resources and outreach materials. The Helpline is a benefit to CPS caseworkers as well as the Helpline attorneys can answer many basic questions that the caseworker may not have time to answer. The project expects to improve positive outcomes for children and families by explaining helping families understand the terms and condition of a CPS investigation and compliance with existing court orders in the case. The Helpline does not provide legal advice and because all calls are anonymous, no attorney-client relationship is established.
Project Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide direct legal information and education to callers with Texas CPS questions by providing easy and efficient telephonic access to experienced child welfare attorneys (on-going for duration of project). - Evaluate and analyze data gathered from Family Helpline calls and share information with interested stakeholders (on-going for duration of project and will occur on a quarterly basis). - In-person outreach, local CPS court information gathering, and community education (local CPS court trips will occur on a quarterly basis and any requested community education presentations will occur as requested). - Expand mailing and distribution of outreach materials throughout the state (on-going for duration of project and will occur on a quarterly basis). - Continue to provide content for Texas Law Help with information regarding CPS matters (this will occur on at least a twice per year basis).
Use of Funds:	Personnel & Benefits Travel Promotional Items Printing/Postage Phone Lines & Internet Rent
Organization:	Texas CASA
Project:	Child Protection Normalcy Guide and Focused Legal Discussion
Grant Amount:	\$25,726
Project Description:	Normalcy Guide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with Children's Commission and other interested stakeholders to produce a written guide on normalcy that will give practical tips on how to promote and improve normalcy for children in state care. - Create several short videos to complement and promote the normalcy guide.
Project Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct literature and resource search for existing state and federal publications and resources regarding normalcy.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop and outline of proposed normalcy guide in consultation with the Children's Commission. - Identify expert resource group based on attendees at February 2019 Children's Commission Roundtable on normalcy. Experts will provide information, support and feedback on the normalcy guide. - Develop materials and scripts for short videos pertaining to normalcy for identified groups or purposes. <p>Provide a finished normalcy guide suitable for publication and completed videos for public distribution.</p>
Use of Funds:	<p>Personnel & Benefits Travel Graphic Design</p>
Organization:	Texas Center for the Judiciary
Project:	Judicial Training
Grant Amount:	\$311,460
Project Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve the quality and timeliness of court proceedings by providing training and technical assistance to judges hearing CPS cases - Enhance judicial expertise on topics related to well-being, child and family safety, and permanency in order to improve outcomes for children and families - Improve judicial procedure in CPS cases to ensure due process, timeliness to case resolution, and permanency - Facilitate collaboration between the judiciary and system partners represented in the courtroom - Support judicial best practices through data and information sharing
Project Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hold the 2019 Child Welfare Judges Conference. The conference is scheduled for October 21-23 in Austin at the Sheraton Austin at the Capitol. The conference will include an optional half-day pre-conference training on Judicial Impact on Wellbeing Issues for Children in Care. This pre-conference is designed primarily for judges who have been on the bench less than a year and General Jurisdiction judges but is open to all conference attendees. CWJC typically trains between 85-100 judges and includes collaboration with the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and Texas CASA. - Plan a track at the 2020 Family Justice Conference. This conference typically reaches between 125-145 judges and specifically targets general jurisdiction judges. TCJ staff will facilitate curriculum development for three sessions for a Child Welfare breakout track. The 2020 Family Justice Conference will be held January 22-24 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in San Marcos. - Plan and hold a Judicial Trauma Institute to be held March 29 - 31 at the Sheraton Austin Georgetown. The Institute will train between 85-100 participants. - Begin planning process for the 2020 Child Welfare Judges Conference. The exact dates and conference location is TBD.
Use of Funds:	<p>Personnel & Benefits Travel Supplies</p>

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	Speaker Fees Other
Organization:	Office of Court Administration
Project:	Office of Court Administration (OCA) / Court Improvement Program (CIP) Partnership Grant
Grant Amount:	\$275,375
Project Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue enhancing the Child Protection Case Management System. This includes the continuance of the established governance structure and work to continue enhancing the system as needed by the governance committee. The goal of enhancements is to provide the courts with better tools, current from perspectives of technology and judicial process, facilitating child and family safety, permanency, well-being, and timeliness to case resolution. - Continue facilitation of youth participation in hearings via video conference. Facilitation of youth participation in their hearings via video conference allows youth involvement when attending court in person may not be feasible. It improves contact with the children/youth in placements which impacts child safety, well-being and due process. - Continue supporting use of the Notice and Engagement web tool, maintaining and enhancing as appropriate. This will assist parties involved in CPS cases to receive timely notice of scheduled court hearings and adding reporting functionality aid administration of the tool.
Project Activities:	<p><u>CPCMS Enhancement:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct a minimum of two governance meetings in FY20 to establish priorities for CPCMS enhancements and report status of governance activities. - Conduct maintenance activities, including version upgrades of supporting software, as needed. <p><u>Video Conferencing:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue providing video conferencing user support. - Conduct follow-up activities from the FY19 user survey results. - Develop a web-based solution to facilitate the coordination process between involved parties (DFPS/CPS, courts hearing CPS cases, and placement facilities). <p><u>Notice and Engagement Tool</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pro-actively monitor system to identify and resolve any issues in a timely manner. - Conduct maintenance activities, including version upgrades of supporting software, as needed. - Expand reporting features to include administrative statistical reporting. - Continue to work with the Children's Commission to identify courts to expand use of the Notice and Engagement system through an API.
Use of Funds:	Personnel & Benefits Travel Equipment (Web Cameras, Cellular Hotspot Devices, Programmer Software)

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	Training
Organization:	Texas Center for Child and Family Studies
Project:	Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Analyst
Grant Amount:	\$125,000
Project Description:	- This project is designed to support the Children's Commission and Judges across the state in understanding and utilizing data to improve outcomes for children and youth in the DFPS conservatorship.
Project Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access publicly available data from DFPS, Court specific data, data from the Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services, etc. and analyze in a manner that provides information to the judiciary. - Alongside CPS Regional Directors and judges, participate in the annual Judicial conference and facilitate discussions between CPS and judges on data, gaps, processes, and potential systemic improvements. - Stay current on emerging industry trends and best practices. Deliver information on emerging trends, policy changes, and shifts in the child welfare landscape to the judiciary such that they can utilize the information to improve their court operations and practices. - Respond to ad-hoc requests for help that come from Judges as appropriate and as resources allow or identify content expert/peer organization to help with request and facilitate sharing of information. - Develop and deliver original content (presentations, white papers, analyses, trainings, etc.) on topics relevant to the child welfare judiciary the larger child welfare community.
Use of Funds:	Personnel & Benefits Travel Supplies
Organization:	Child Protection Law Section, State Bar of Texas
Project:	3rd Annual Advanced Child Protection Law Course
Grant Amount:	\$10,000
Project Description:	- Training to provide attorneys with the education and resources to empower their clients through effective representation and to improve the child welfare system. This will be a day and a half conference on advanced legal topics in child protection and child welfare law including a 3-hour workshop to facilitate education on more focused in-depth issues.
Project Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify and reserve training venue; - review survey and evaluation information from the prior year to assess specific requests and needs; - develop agenda; recruit appropriate experts to teach on a variety of important child welfare topics - market event and register attendees;

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - work with faculty to assist with presentations, facilitate travel, develop course descriptions, develop course materials, arrange AV, etc.; - prepare and distribute all conference materials; - track and reconcile MCLE hours for conference participants; - prepare conference evaluation materials, distribute at conference, and provide results from evaluations to Children's Commission. - funding to be used to provide 25 registration scholarships and conference related expenses.
Use of Funds:	Personnel & Benefits Travel Supplies
Organization:	Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS)
Project:	Experiential Learning PEAKS Camp with focus on Youth Empowerment, Youth Voice with Leadership, Wellbeing Improvement, and Normalcy
Grant Amount:	\$20,000
Project Description:	- The PEAKS Adventure Program is an intensive residential camp program for youth to help attendees build resiliency skills through structured experiential learning. Youth who attend PEAKS Camp attain feelings of self-worth, build relationship skills, learn to take safe risks, practice problem solving, and discover their strengths and limitations. Overall positive wellbeing impact is expected, including medical, mental as well as behavioral improvements.
Project Activities:	- Activities include high ropes courses and archery where campers learn self-confidence and the importance of supporting others. Team building, relationship building, and problem-solving skills are developed in small group activities. Campers learn to take safe risks while participating in canoeing and kayaking. There are self-care components incorporated into each PEAKS day including journaling, yoga and meditation. PEAKS includes opportunities for creative expression through art projects, talent shows and upcycling fashion shows and just "plain old fashioned" fun. The youth at PEAKS get to be "KIDS" regardless of the traumatic pasts that typically plague them.
Use of Funds:	Personnel & Benefits Travel Supplies Contractual Training