

SOCIAL AND VOLUNTARY SERVICES COMMISSION FUNDING REQUEST

Legal Name of Agency: Mary Abbott Children's House
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 6316, Norman, OK 73070
Application completed by: Kristin Langrehr
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Amount of Funding Request: \$12,000

In what year was your Agency incorporated: 1996

Are you associated with a national organization: Though an independent non-profit organization, we are an accredited member of the National Children's Alliance.

Number of volunteers: 37

How many hours do volunteers donate: 980

How much money do volunteers save the agency: \$6,860.00

Has your Agency applied for SVSC funds before: Yes.

Year <u>2013</u>	Amount	<u>\$8,000</u>	Purpose <u>Training and Travel</u>
Year <u>2012</u>	Amount	<u>\$5,000</u>	Purpose <u>Internet Lab Equipment</u>
Year <u>2011</u>	Amount	<u>\$6,000</u>	Purpose <u>Facility Repair</u>
Year <u>2010</u>	Amount	<u>\$9,500</u>	Purpose <u>Education Program</u>
Year <u>2009</u>	Amount	<u>\$6,000</u>	Purpose <u>Operating Expenses</u>
Year <u>2008</u>	Amount	<u>\$1,500</u>	Purpose <u>Training for Development Director</u>

Year <u>2007</u>	Amount	<u>\$4,000</u>	Purpose <u>Equipment-Interview Room #2</u>
Year <u>2005</u>	Amount	<u>\$1,099</u>	Purpose <u>Forensic Interviewer Training</u>
Year <u>2002</u>	Amount	<u>\$1,000</u>	Purpose <u>Development of Child Victim Unit</u>
Year <u>1999</u>	Amount	<u>\$1,200</u>	Purpose <u>Two Months Lease On New Facility</u>
Year <u>1998</u>	Amount	<u>\$400</u>	Purpose <u>Video Equipment</u>

Financial Information from the last fiscal year:

Percent of the budget which is spent on fundraising:	07.62
Percent of your budget spent on programs:	71.65
Percent of your budget spent on administrative expenses:	20.73

Percentage of Organizational funding:

Religious Organizations	0.0
Civic Clubs	0.0
Corporate Donors	0.0
Endowment/Interest Income	0.26
Fees for services/products	2.75
Government Grants	53.33
Government Contracts	0.0
Individual Donors	6.93
Private Foundations	10.17
Special Events (based on net earnings)	6.93
United Way	18.63
Other	

Overall Mission of Agency

Mission

The Mary Abbott Children's House serves child victims of sexual and severe physical abuse and neglect through coordinated interagency investigation, intervention, education, and advocacy. Put another way, Abbott House exists to reduce additional trauma after a child has been abused and sets them on the path to healing.

Client Population

The Mary Abbott Children's House serves Cleveland, Garvin, and McClain Counties, which comprise the 21st District Attorney's jurisdiction. The total population served is approximately 300,000, including diverse socio-economic groups. We also work with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation and have provided services upon request to 12 other Oklahoma counties. The targeted population is children, birth to 18 years of age. In 2012, Abbott House interviewed 555 children; 384 have been interviewed as of August 2013.

Programs and Services

Abbott House offers four distinct programs and services: forensic interviewing, medical assessment, family advocacy, and educational outreach. Abbott House also serves as the hub of the Cleveland County multidisciplinary team: a unified approach to investigating child abuse and treating its victims. Forensic interviews are an integral element of the work at Abbott House and are conducted by two highly trained full-time members of the Abbott House staff. Through the interviewers' skill and experience and the highly specific protocols required by our national accrediting agency, forensic interviews are conducted that document the child's account of the instance of abuse in a way that is unbiased, non-judgmental, and court defensible.

Two types of medical assessments are performed by Abbott House's full-time registered nurse: acute and non-acute. Acute sexual exams follow the protocol of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners and are used to collect DNA evidence from a child victim who has been sexually assaulted. Evidence collected is given to the law enforcement officer investigating the case and can be used against alleged perpetrators in court. Non-acute medical exams are head-to-toe assessments that establish overall health. These exams are offered to all children that come to Abbott House and are often a step toward a medical referral of some sort, such as a primary care provider or a dentist. Abbott House has developed a network of referrals that will see child victims regardless of their ability to pay.

The Family Advocate serves as a compassionate presence before, during, and after a family's visit to Abbott House. Recounting abuse can be traumatic not only for the child but for the entire family, and it is often the Family Advocate who begins to alleviate fear and apprehension. Family Advocates sit with the family while the interview is taking place, explaining the interview, answering questions, and providing referrals for counseling and other services. Additionally, a call is made to the family several days after the interview to address any further questions or concerns.

Abbott House supports a year-round educational outreach program focusing on three main groups: school counselors and principals, civic groups and the community at large, and parents and caregivers. Each fall and spring, Abbott House offers presentations to several local schools that are seeking continuing education credit for teachers and counselors. These

presentations review the signs of sexual and physical abuse and explain how best to report disclosures to the appropriate authorities. Abbott House also offers general presentations about the organization and its mission to civic groups and the community at large. General presentations are conducted either in the context of the civic group's meeting or on site at Abbott House to facilitate a tour of the building. The newest element of our outreach program is specifically designed for parents and caregivers. First presented this summer, parent and caregiver presentations focus on keeping children safe when they are in the supervision of adults who are not directly responsible for them, such as youth group leaders, babysitters, scout leaders, and parents of friends. The presentation highlights key questions that parents and caregivers should ask when assessing safety.

In addition to our four program areas, as the children's advocacy center for judicial district 21, Abbott House is also charged with coordinating Cleveland County's multidisciplinary team, the Child Abuse Response and Treatment team. In this role, Abbott House personnel host a monthly staffing meeting to review all cases associated with child abuse. Staffing meetings include representatives of the CART team from each associated discipline: law enforcement, district attorney's office, child protective services, mental health professionals, medical professionals, forensic interviewing staff, and children's advocacy center staff and administration. Through this collaborative work, all members of the multidisciplinary team have access to other disciplines and resources that allow for better care of child victims. As an outgrowth of this model, Abbott House provides on site office space for several members of the multidisciplinary team. Through this collocation, more efficient collaboration is fostered, and child victims are better served.

Duplication of Services

Per the guidelines of Abbott House's accrediting body, the National Children's Alliance, only one children's advocacy center can exist in each judicial district. As a result, no duplication of services is possible. Additionally, Abbott House ensures no services are duplicated through close collaboration with partner agencies such as Bethesda and the Center for Children and Families.

Concerning the highly specialized forensic medical program at Abbott House, duplication of services is minimized through close collaboration with Norman Regional Health System, general practitioners in the area, and child abuse specialists in private practice and in the employ of other children's advocacy centers across the state.

Staff

At this time, our staffing level stands at six full-time employees and one part-time employee.

Specific project for which funding is being requested

The Mary Abbott Children's House is requesting \$12,000 to help fund the general operation of our medical program. The medical program is by far the most expensive service we provide, and we are continually seeking funding sources to specifically cover the cost of exams of physical abuse victims. Because of the nature of our work and the guidelines of our governing body, services are provided to children and their families at no direct cost; instead we seek funding sources elsewhere to cover the costs of this important work.

The medical evaluation component serves three main purposes: determining the need for

further evaluation and treatment, aiding the multidisciplinary team in determining a child's mental, physical, and emotional recovery program, and collecting forensic evidence used in the investigation of criminal cases of child abuse and neglect. The medical program was developed in 2010 and has been implemented in phases with the most recent phase being the creation of a full-time Director of Nursing Services position.

Under the leadership of our Director of Nursing Services, Abbott House provides the following program activities and components:

- A child friendly, safe environment for medical assessment following an instance of sexual or physical abuse or neglect
- A highly trained medical professional with pediatric experience and child abuse expertise
- Forensic medical examinations to collect evidence of sexual or physical abuse or neglect
- Reassurance and wellness checks for children and appropriate referrals to primary care providers and other medical support services following an instance of abuse or neglect
- Medical evaluations offered to all CAC clients free of charge
- State-of-the-art recording equipment and evidence collection equipment
- Medical findings provided to detectives and child protective services workers in open investigations of child abuse or neglect
- Information and referral sources regarding general health and wellness
- Ongoing training and peer review for those who conduct medical evaluations
- Coordination and support of the multidisciplinary team; selected team members include Bethesda, the Center for Children and Families, Central Oklahoma Community Mental Health, Norman Police Department, Moore Police Department, the Oklahoma Juvenile Authority, and DHS Child Protective Services
- Ongoing training of multidisciplinary team members and Abbott House staff regarding the purpose and nature of the medical evaluation
- Sharing of expertise and information with multidisciplinary staffing of cases
- Prevention and intervention presentations to the community concerning medical assessment of children who have been sexually or physically abused

As we continue to build our medical program, we are focusing on aspects of our medical services that are more difficult to fund. Medical reimbursements for sexual abuse exams are provided by federal Victims of Crimes Act funding administered by the Oklahoma District Attorneys' Council. No such source exists to fund physical abuse exams, yet these exams constitute approximately 40% of the work our full-time Director of Nursing Services performs. 94 unfunded physical abuse exams have been performed in this year alone. A \$12,000 grant from the Social and Voluntary Services Commission would assist greatly in defraying the costs of these 94 exams.

Financial Information

All internal finances are controlled by a number of checks and balances within the organization.