

# CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER OF HIDALGO COUNTY, INC.

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December 6, 2019

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Rick Guerrero, Vice-President  
Providence Boneta, Treasurer  
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Honorable Richard Cortez  
Hidalgo County Judge  
2818 S Bus. Hwy. 281  
Edinburg, TX 78539

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## RE: 381.004 (f) of the Local Government Code

Dear Judge Richard Cortez:

It is the time of year when the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) requests funding assistance from appropriate sources and we are reaching out to you for consideration. Section 381.004 (f) of the Local Government Code: states "*The commissioners' court of a county may support a Children's Advocacy Center that provides services to abused children.*" Last year, commissioners' court supported our CAC with \$50,000. We are respectfully requesting the same level of funding for this FY2019-20.

## Starr County Board Members:

Omar Escobar, DA  
Miguel Villarreal

## Executive Director:

Jesus A. Sanchez

The funding received last year allowed us to serve 1,900 children during FY2019; this is an increase of 42% from FY2017. At the same time, we were able to expand our services by adding a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) who conducts Forensic Medical evaluations. These Medical evaluations are critical to evaluate the physical and mental stability of child abuse victims. We are excited to report that during the first (10) ten months, over 150 children received these services at no cost to them.

The Children's Advocacy Center of Hidalgo County has been serving Hidalgo County children and families affected by abuse or neglect for **nineteen** years. We are a community-based nonprofit that provides coordinated team investigations, forensic interviews, victim advocacy, immediate crisis intervention, counseling services, forensic medical evaluations, case reviews, case tracking and follow-up services using a multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach. We work in collaboration with law enforcement, Child Protective Services, and the District Attorney's Office to coordinate a quick response and provide vital services to the victim and non-offending caregivers. These services are especially critical to have in place for the families that we see who are mostly from low economic populations and who may not otherwise have access to them at no cost. This one-stop full service approach helps us to bring Hope, Healing and Justice to children and families affected by child abuse.

Studies show that abused children who get early professional assistance are more likely to succeed in dealing and coping with the trauma of abuse and do better later in their adult lives. With early intervention, we can help restore the lives of child abuse victims and, more importantly, significantly increase their chances of becoming a healthy adult, a good parent, and a citizen that is able to positively contribute back to the community.

Do not hesitate to contact me at (956) 287-9754 if you have any questions. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we thank you for your time, your consideration and your support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jesus A. Sanchez  
Executive Director

