

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER OF HIDALGO AND STARR COUNTIES

525 W. Wisconsin Rd. • Edinburg, Texas 78539 • Phone (956) 287-9754 • Fax (956) 287-9764

WWW.CACHSC.ORG



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Executive Director:

Nadia Ochoa, MPA



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January 21, 2026

Dear Judge Cortez,

Thank you for your continued support of the Children's Advocacy Center of Hidalgo and Starr Counties. Since 2000, the Center has provided a safe, child-friendly environment where thousands of children have been able to disclose abuse and access critical services. For more than 26 years, our doors have remained open because of the unwavering support of Hidalgo County, and this partnership is more important now than ever before.

In the previous year, the Center received \$150,000 in county funding. We are deeply grateful for this support, which has allowed us to continue serving children and families throughout our community. As we plan for the coming year, we respectfully request continued funding in the amount of \$150,000 to sustain our services and operations.

During the past year alone, the Children's Advocacy Center of Hidalgo and Starr Counties served a total of 2,330 children and family members and conducted 1,831 forensic interviews in Hidalgo County. While the total number of children served has fluctuated, the severity and complexity of cases continue to increase significantly. Many of the children and families we support face crisis situations and complex trauma that require extensive coordination, monitoring, multidisciplinary collaboration, and ongoing follow-up services.

Despite increasing operational costs, we remain committed to providing comprehensive services, including forensic interviews, medical evaluations, trauma-focused mental health therapy, family advocacy, and victim support services. Recently, a case coordinated through our Multidisciplinary Team, working closely with the McAllen Police Department and the Hidalgo County District Attorney's Office, resulted in the sentencing of two individuals to 40 years each for the continuous sexual abuse of a child. This case underscores the critical role the Children's Advocacy Center plays in supporting law enforcement and the justice system while prioritizing the safety and well-being of children.

We respectfully request your continued support in the amount of \$150,000 to sustain our operations and continue providing these essential services. Your investment directly impacts the lives of abused children by offering safety, healing, and hope while helping to prevent future harm.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (956) 287-9754 should you have any questions or require additional information.

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Thank you for your time, consideration, and steadfast commitment to the children and families of Hidalgo County.

Sincerely,

Nadia Ochoa, MPA

Executive Director

Children's Advocacy Centers of Hidalgo and Starr Counties

Hope. Healing. Justice.

"Breaking the cycle of abuse one child at a time."