

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 22-50

Sponsored by Kris Kendrick and Tyler Pearson

Be it enacted by the Quorum Court of the County of Faulkner, State of Arkansas. An Ordinance to be entitled: An appropriation Ordinance to amend and supplement Faulkner County Ordinance 21-45 (December 16, 2021) and to declare an emergency.

WHEREAS, Faulkner County was selected to receive American Rescue Plan (“ARP”) funds from the United States federal government in the amount of \$24,475,383; and

WHEREAS, Faulkner County wishes to use a portion of the ARP funds to assist non-profits; and

WHEREAS, Faulkner County published a “Notice to Applicants” for ARP eligible infrastructure projects on January 22, 2022 and February 15, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Quorum Court of Faulkner County, Arkansas:

Section 1: \$573,300.00 is appropriated within the American Rescue Plan Fund (3046) to Department 0712, Children’s Advocacy Alliance, expenditure code 3103 – Grants in Aid.

Section 2: The adoption of this Ordinance is an emergency and therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, and this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect on November 16, 2022.

Approved by the Quorum Court on October 18, 2022.

Attest: _____
Margaret Darter
Faulkner County Clerk
Faulkner County, Arkansas

Affirm: _____
James Baker
Faulkner County Judge
Faulkner County, Arkansas

Dated: November 15, 2022

Dated: November 15, 2022

This Publication was paid for by
Faulkner County - Quorum Court
County Clerk in the amount of
\$ _____

October 26, 2022



Dear Justice Higgins,

We are writing in regards to our proposal for the American Rescue Plan Faulkner County Fiscal Recovery Funds application that we submitted March 14, 2022. The Children's Advocacy Alliance applied for:

1. \$80,000 to recover lost revenue due to COVID-19
2. \$325,000 to purchase property adjacent to the Children's Advocacy Center, located at 564 Locust Street in Conway (parcel number #710-05697-000)
3. \$168,300 for campus master planning for a new Children's Advocacy Center

We respectfully ask that you consider our proposal for funding, particularly the portion to purchase the Graddy property, as an urgent need for the citizens of Faulkner County.

The Children's Advocacy Alliance (CAA) was originally formed in 2000 as CASA of the 20th Judicial District. In 2010, the CASA 20th organization joined with the Central Arkansas Children's Advocacy Center to create the Children's Advocacy Alliance. The partnership of these two programs under the umbrella of the Children's Advocacy Alliance provides critical resources and services to abused and neglected children and their non-offending families in our community, all at zero cost to the victims and their families.

The need for our services has never been higher. **Since 2020, our children's advocacy center has seen a sustained 73% increase in the number of abused and neglected children needing services.** Between the CASA program and the children's advocacy center, the Children's Advocacy Alliance provided over 5,000 services for abused and neglected children and their non-offending families in 2021.

Just last year, we served over 500 children through the children's advocacy center. While we remain grateful to Faulkner County for allowing us to use its property (574 Locust Street) for our center, at 1,632 square feet, it simply does not provide adequate space needed to serve the number of children who desperately need our help.

This funding would allow us to purchase additional space to expand the physical space we have to serve the current needs and to be able to develop a master plan for a new campus to consolidate all services into one adequate facility. **These funds, particularly the portion we requested to purchase the Graddy property, would solve an immediate capacity problem and would allow us to better serve the vulnerable children who count on us.** The portion of funds we requested for campus master planning would assist in the future needs to establish a capital campaign – a project that has already begun to garner community support. **Through this funding request, we have the potential to unlock an additional \$100,000 in donor challenge funds,** making this a sound investment for the residents of Faulkner County.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. We are grateful for your service to our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tess Fletcher".

Tess Fletcher
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenn Morehead".

Jenn Morehead
Board President