

CASA Children's Fund Guidelines

The Children's Fund was established by the Friends of CASA, an auxiliary of CASA. The Friends provide financial and volunteer assistance to support CASA. One of their main goals is to build and replenish the Children's Fund. Advocates access this fund to assist their children. Many of you have already accessed this fund for different enrichment activities or special occasions that are not otherwise funded by their school or another provider or when a caregiver is not able to afford the expense. We have a relationship with other funders that could possibly match the CASA Children's Fund to share the responsibility for funding. Needs are assessed by CASA Advocates in collaboration with Advocate Supervisors and partnering agencies. CASA Children's Fund monies are monitored by the Executive Director and Program Manager.

Funds should be requested only to underwrite the costs of goods or services for the children. In order to ensure that the Children's Fund is available for all the children who need it, it is expected that Advocates will pay the costs of their own goods and services (i.e., movie tickets, meals, etc.) As Fred has stated during your initial training, there are many different opportunities to access free resources or participate in activities at a reduced fee. We have a relationship with many organizations that offer scholarships or partial scholarships. A great way to learn about different fun activities in our community would be to access our resources list at <http://news.casaofsantacruz.com/activities/resource-activity-guide-for-advocates/> and you could also contact the office and talk to your Advocate Supervisor or Lenore Bailey, Volunteer Coordinator at [831-761-2956](tel:831-761-2956).

Please feel free to speak to your Advocate Supervisor to discuss accessing free resources in our community. We have learned if a precedent is set up at the beginning that food, and an activity and an ice cream is part of the relationship, the children may expect that at every visit. It seems prudent to set a boundary around spending money in the beginning.

Examples of Funding requests from the Children's Fund include the following (this list is only meant to be an example and does not list every single request made for the CASA Children's Fund):

Pacific Art Complex (Dance), Tae Kwon Do (Black and White Tiger Academy), Little League, Soccer and Football leagues, Boxing, specialized tutoring, Play It Again Sports equipment, Summer Camps, yearbooks, graduation gowns, school dances, laptops from ifoster.org, swimming lessons in Santa Cruz (we have free YMCA swim lessons set up in Watsonville), gym memberships. For 18-21 year olds, assistance has been provided for furniture, linens, kitchen supplies, phones for job hunting, and the AKAO Scholarship funding for college education comes from the CASA Children's Fund.