

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS (ARPA)
BRAZOS COUNTY AND SCOTTY'S HOUSE BRAZOS VALLEY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER, INC.
BENEFICIARY AGREEMENT
FUNDING AGREEMENT

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused severe, intertwined public health and economic crises;

WHEREAS, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the financial health of nonprofit organizations has been adversely impacted;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, President Joe Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) authorizing an allocation of \$44,454,061.97 to Brazos County to support COVID-19 response efforts;

WHEREAS, Scotty's House Brazos Valley Child Advocacy Center, Inc., a nonprofit organization, provides support services to children who are the victims of physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and exposure to violence;

WHEREAS, Brazos County desires to utilize a portion of the ARPA funds to provide financial assistance to Scotty's House Brazos Valley Child Advocacy Center, Inc. and the expense is in the best interest of the public, and within the guidelines provided by the United States Department of Treasury, Final Rule for Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds and the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund established under the American Rescue Plan Act, effective April 1, 2022.

PURPOSE

The Purpose of this financial donation is to aid Scotty's House Brazos Valley Child Advocacy Center, Inc. in funding for security system upgrades within the Scotty's House facility, located in Bryan, Texas, as further described in Attachment A.

DEFINITIONS

- A. Beneficiary as used in this Agreement shall mean Scotty's House Brazos Valley Child Advocacy Center, Inc., which and is considered a beneficiary of these ARPA funds, per the Treasury definition further described in the Final Rule and Project & Expenditure Report User Guide:
 - i. Per the Treasury's Final Rule, "The final rule adopts this definition of a beneficiary ..."
"... if the recipient is providing funds to the individual or entity for the purpose of directly benefitting the individual or entity as a result of experiencing a public health impact or negative economic impact of

the pandemic, the individual or entity is acting as a beneficiary. Acting as a beneficiary, the individual or entity is not subject to subrecipient monitoring and reporting requirements.”

- ii. Per the Treasury’s Project and Expenditure Report User Guide, “if the recipient is providing funds to the individual or entity for the purpose of directly benefitting the individual or entity as a result of experiencing a public health impact or negative economic impact, the individual or entity is acting as a beneficiary.

B. Qualified Expenditure as used in this Agreement shall mean the upgrade for a security system, as further described in Attachment A.

OBLIGATIONS OF BRAZOS COUNTY

Brazos County agrees to provide up to **\$26,000** as a donation to Scotty’s House Brazos Valley Child Advocacy Center, Inc. to assist with upgrading the facility with new cameras, a Maglock access control system, a new security system, security film on the windows and new doors. These upgrades will help provide a more secure environment for the children and families that are served.

The donation will be handled on a reimbursement basis with Beneficiary submitting an invoice(s) to Brazos County and the County reimbursing Beneficiary for said invoice(s) up to the donation limit.

OBLIGATIONS OF BENEFICIARY

Beneficiary shall submit verification of compliance with the conditions provided in this Agreement to the Brazos County Auditor not later than twenty (20) days following the receipt of invoice. If requested, Beneficiary may be required to provide internal documentation to ensure compliance with the conditions contained within this agreement. Payment shall only be made after:

- i. Receipt of the certification contained herein as Attachment B.
- ii. Receipt of any other documentation requested by the Brazos County Auditor.
- iii. Consent and approval of the Brazos County Auditor and Brazos County Commissioners Court. It is the sole responsibility of Beneficiary to comply with all provisions of the Department of Treasury, Final Rule, as provided in 31 CFR Part 35. Beneficiary agrees to assist Brazos County in responding to any inquiry by the Department of Treasury or any other State or Federal agency relating to this Agreement and the funds provided hereunder.

OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- A. The parties enter into this Agreement as independent representatives and not as agents of each other. Neither party shall have authority to act in any way as the representative of the other, or to bind the other to any third party, except as specifically set forth herein.
- B. No party may assign any right, obligation, or responsibility to any entity not a party to this Agreement.
- C. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Texas. Venue for any dispute arising out of this agreement shall be in Brazos County, Texas.

BRAZOS COUNTY:

Approved and signed this the 28th day of February, 2023 by Brazos County Commissioners Court.

By: _____
Duane Peters, Brazos County Judge

SCOTTY'S HOUSE BRAZOS VALLEY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER, INC. (BENEFICIARY):

Approved and signed this the _____ day of _____, 2023 by Organization's Representative.

By: Cary Baker Cary Baker Executive Director
Signed Name Printed Name Title/Organization Scotty's House

Attachment A

REQUEST FOR ARPA FUNDING



Request Made By: Cary Baker, Executive Director of Scotty's House

Email Address/Phone Number: cbaker@scottyshouse.org,
(979) 703-8813

Anticipated Cost: \$50,000.00

Source of Cost Estimate (quotes, historical data, etc.) quote, historical data

Description of Project (include how it addresses COVID related issues, attach additional sheets if necessary):

The proposed project is for essential operating costs and system updates within the Scotty's House facility, located in Bryan, TX. Please see the attached document for more details.

Has work begun on project? YES NO

Please attach the following, if available:

- Quotes Maps Photos

TO BE COMPLETED BY OFFICE STAFF

Date Received: 12/6/21 KR

Forwarded to Traylor & Associates: 12/17/21 KR

Eligible Expense under ARPA Program: YES NO

If yes, continue below. If no, send notice to requestor to notify the expense is not eligible.

Agenda Item sent to County: _____

Approved by Commissioners Court: YES NO

Traylor & Associates notified of decision: _____

Description of Project

The proposed ARPA funding request provides essential support in the maintenance of the Scotty's House facility, including a new security system, server, and HVAC updates, as well as ongoing operating support. The funds will assist in implementing the project outlined below, which provide a direct response to the public health impacts of COVID-19 and the long-term well-being of children in our community.

The Scotty's House staff serve as front-line, essential workers for child victims of abuse and/or neglect and their non-offending family members. Our goal at Scotty's House is to minimize the trauma an abused child experiences as their case moves through the civil and criminal justice system, in addition to providing direct services that promote healing and long-term well-being. All services essential to healing, such as forensic interviews, family advocacy, and counseling, are provided at no-cost.

Over 90% of Scotty's House child clients know their abuser and, with children out of school, they were more likely at home with their abuser. A new study by the Child and Adolescent Protection Center at Children's National Hospital found that physical abuse of school-aged children tripled during the early months of the pandemic. The study highlights similar research identifying upticks in child abuse. The increase is likely triggered by stressful situations, such as job loss, economic stress, and loss of housing and childcare offered via schools.

As we return to pre-pandemic activities and schools are back in session, Scotty's House anticipates an uptick in the number of reported cases. After all, teachers, healthcare workers, and adults outside the family are mandated reporters of suspected abuse or neglect in the state of Texas. Furthermore, it is anticipated that the severity of the cases will be above our normal baseline and the number of essential services necessary for the child victims' healing will continue to increase.

This project is a direct response to the public health impacts of COVID-19. It contributes to the health and well-being of Brazos County and benefits every individual in the Brazos Valley and community partner of Scotty's House. According to the NIH, the economic impact of untreated child abuse per child is over \$280,000. In our 2020 fiscal year alone, Scotty's House provided forensic interviews for 699 children. In turn, our services have a long-term, positive impact of \$195,720,000 for College Station and the greater Brazos Valley. By providing treatment, healing, and justice, especially for child victims of sexual abuse, the ARPA funds will help ensure the well-being of our community for decades.

Project Component 1: Server

Scotty's House is required to maintain and store confidential records for each case, including forensic interview recordings, counseling notes, and case details. This data is accessed by our professional team, investigative partners (such as local law enforcement), and local prosecutors. This information is securely stored on our existing server, which is approximately 10 years old. If the server goes down, as it did in early October 2021, Scotty's House and its entire team is not able to access data in a timely or appropriate manner. We also run the risk of losing essential data between server backups. Transitioning to a secure cloud-based server will ensure there is no delay in prosecuting a child's case or providing access to essential care.

Servers tend to last five to eight years and the one-time modification is essential for continuity of services and agency data backup. Updating our data storage equipment is essential to minimizing the

trauma faced by child abuse victims and ensures that Scotty's House can continue to provide essential services for children victimized by abuse and neglect in the Brazos Valley each year.

The total cost for this project is \$6,223.23 (including the server equipment and labor) and supported by a bid from Southwest Cyber Systems, Inc.

Project Component 2: Security System

As noted, one of the primary goals for Scotty's House is to minimize the trauma an abused or neglected child experiences as their case moves through the civil and criminal justice system, in addition to providing direct services that promote healing and long-term well-being. As a result, it is a necessity that Scotty's House provides a safe environment for our child clients, their non-offending family members, our Multidisciplinary Team partners, and our staff.

With the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, stress levels are on the rise. According to the American Psychological Association, the ongoing uncertainty and changes are compounding struggles for parents, especially those with younger children. When suspected abuse or neglect is added to the equation, parents and family members reach their breaking point – even without a global pandemic.

Over the last year, Scotty's House has experienced an increase in safety concerns presented by family members that are not permitted to enter our facility, especially when a child that is their family member is present. As a result, Scotty's House staff is required to escort any visitors where they then lock and unlock the door for entry and exit. This presents both security and safety concerns for all team members, as well as the child victims that our agency serves.

Therefore, Scotty's House is looking to install a Maglock security system with push buttons for both the main front door entryway and our secondary entryway on our counseling wing.

The total cost for this project is estimated at \$10,000 and supported by a bid from Audio Video.

Project 3: HVAC

Scotty's House is requesting funds to assist in replacing the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Condition (HVAC) system that is located in the Administration wing of our facility. The Administration wing HVAC services the main entrance area, which is the first place Scotty's House clients and their non-offending family members visit. Our child clients always come first and it is our primary goal to provide a safe, warm, and welcoming environment.

As child victims of abuse or neglect, their levels of trust are very low. Therefore, it is our aim to create a first impression that ensures each child feels comfortable, not freezing cold or overwhelmingly hot.

Scotty's House and all Child Advocacy Centers throughout the state of Texas are considered essential businesses as part of the ongoing COVID-19 health pandemic. Scotty's House forensic interviewers and counselors are specially trained to work with child victims of abuse and neglect and no one else can do their job. The same is true for the other essential personnel involved in solving child abuse crimes: law enforcement and Child Protective Services. Therefore, it is critical that the HVAC unit is in working order, particularly in light of the ongoing COVID-19 health pandemic.

In a normal office setting, an HVAC repair can be loud and a bit of a nuisance yet regular work can continue. Due to the confidential and sensitive nature of the work at Scotty's House, all work in the Forensics wing must stop for anywhere from four to eight hours depending on the repair. No clients can be on-site during a repair. Forensic interviews must be rescheduled, which involves coordinating a new schedule with four or more individuals. However the greatest impact is for the children. They may have to wait another day - or even a week - to tell their story. This matters because the first step to healing is telling their story, followed by the introduction of wrap-around services provided by Scotty's House, including forensic medical exams, counseling, family advocacy services.

Similarly, with children out of school, Scotty's House has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels of daily activity, including forensic interviews and counseling. The abuse and neglect cases that are being reported and coordinated through Scotty's House are some of the most severe cases we have ever seen. As a result, the journey to healing for child victims requires additional counseling and family advocacy sessions.

Without Scotty's House, victims of child abuse would not have access to our innovative programs and law enforcement would not have assistance when investigating these crimes. Reducing the amount of time the child and their family are involved in the investigation process allows the focus to shift toward healing and a healthy future for the child. Scotty's House services truly make an impact on the child and the family and can change the life of an abused child.

The anticipated cost for this project is \$19,000 and supported by a bid from R.E.C.

Project 4: Ongoing Operational Expenses

Over the last 18 months, Scotty's House saw a decline in the number of reported child abuse or neglect cases. This was not good news. With children back in school, Scotty's House is starting to see our daily caseload increase. However, we are seeing some of the most severe cases we have ever seen in our nearly 27 years of existence.

Child abuse and neglect are considered Adverse Childhood Experiences. These can have a tremendous impact on future violence victimization and perpetration, and lifelong health and opportunity. When child abuse or neglect goes untreated, the long-term outcomes dramatically impact a community. Victims are at increased risk for physical and mental health problems such as perpetrating or being a victim of violence, depression, obesity, high-risk sexual behaviors, alcohol and drug misuse, to name a few (WHO). By providing treatment, healing, and justice, especially for child victims of sexual abuse, this partnership will help ensure the well-being of our community for decades.

Furthermore, each case is unique to the child victim. Treatment and essential services vary for each child and their non-offending family members.

Based on our extensive experience in treating child abuse and neglect, Scotty's House anticipates that we will need to remain nimble and adaptive to the needs of child victims that walk through our doors over the next year. General operating funds ensure our team is able to provide the essential services and support that are unique to each child and case.

The total cost for general operating expenses specific to the essential services provided by Scotty's House is \$14,775.

Attachment B

**Brazos County Beneficiary Payment Request Form
American Rescue Plan Act Funds – Donation to Scotty’s House Brazos Valley Child Advocacy
Center, Inc.**

Donation Agreement entered into on February 28, 2023

Section I. Payment Request

Approved Donation Amount up to: **\$26,000**

Previous Payment Requests: \$ _____

Request This Period: \$ _____

Must provide supporting documentation: Quote(s), Purchase Order(s), Invoice(s), and copy of the check(s) paid to the vendor

Submit supporting documentation to the following address:

Brazos County
Katie Conner, County Auditor
P.O. Box 914
Bryan, Texas 77803
kconner@brazoscountytexas.gov

Section II. Qualified Expenditure

Purpose/Description of expenditures this period:

Please provide supporting documentation, if available/applicable (photos, etc)

Section III. Other Compliance with Requirements

Beneficiary further certifies compliance with all relevant provisions of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and any other applicable State or Federal laws relating to the use of ARPA funds;

Beneficiary certified it will not request reimbursement or payment of the expenditure(s) in this request from any other local, state or federal agency.

Donation will only be used for the purposes established in Attachment A as approved by Brazos County.

Signature (Name, Title)

Date



To Be Completed by Brazos County Auditor Office Staff

Date Received: _____

Approved Expense Under Beneficiary Agreement: _____ YES _____ NO _____ initials

Check # _____ Date of Check _____

Traylor & Associates notified of payment and documentation forwarded on

_____ initials
(enter date forwarded)