



Snohomish County Council

Committee: COW
ECAF: 22-1012
Proposal: Mot. 22-426

Analyst: Heidi Beazizo
Date: Sept. 29, 2022

Consideration

The Executive's Office requests Council consider approving proposed Motion 22-426 which would approve and authorize receipt of a grant award from the National Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian Ad Litem Association.

Background

In child dependency and termination cases, State law requires that the child be appointed a guardian ad litem or volunteer court appointed special advocate to advocate for the child's best interest during the case.¹

Currently, there are approximately 270 children waiting for a volunteer CASA due to a shortage of volunteers. The National Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian Ad Litem Association (National CASA) provides awards to help address gaps in service or to increase service capacity.

Current Proposal

Scope: Motion 22-426 authorizes the execution of a grant agreement with National CASA to fund a marketing specialist and outreach expenses for the purpose of recruitment and diversification of the volunteer pool; the goal is to increase the volunteer pool by 56 to serve an additional 140 children.

Duration: October 1, 2022 – July 31, 2023

Fiscal Implications: \$92,800

2022 Budget: NO

Future Budget Impacts: YES. Grant extends into 2023

Handling: URGENT

Approved-as-to-form: N/A Federal template agreement

Risk Management: EXPEDITE

Executive Recommendation: APPROVE

Request: Assign this motion to COW at Admin on October 4 and place on the COW agenda for Council to consider taking action.

¹ [RCW 13.34.100: Appointment of guardian ad litem—Background information—Rights—Notification and inquiry—Review and removal.](#)