



## Compass & Children of Shelters (COS)

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### ABOUT COS

Children of Shelters (COS), a 501(c)3 public charity, was founded in 1995 and has grown considerably since that time, raising money for educational enhancements for the children in SF's homelessness system, and working to raise awareness in the community about the needs of homeless kids. COS gives grants to the primary SF organizations that provide services to homeless children, including Compass Family Services.

### ABOUT THE ANNUAL COS GRANT

Compass is awarded an annual grant by COS to fund educational and enrichment activities for Compass children. These grant funds make it possible for the children we serve to access opportunities that would be otherwise inaccessible to them due to the financial constraints our families face.

## HOW TO ACCESS GRANT FUNDS

If a child has an educational need, or an interest or aptitude they would like to pursue, (piano lessons, martial arts, tutoring, etc.), case managers, therapists, teachers, or other staff working with the family (“Case Managers”) may request funds using the [Children of Shelters \(COS\) Grant Approval Form - Compass Family Services](#).

## WHEN CAN I APPLY?

The form can be filled out at any time during the month but must be submitted by end of day on the last WEDNESDAY of the month. EX: Last day to submit for February 2021 is Wednesday February 24<sup>th</sup>. Annually, the final requests must be submitted by the last Friday in October (though if there is funding available, requests submitted in November may be considered).

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A REQUEST IS SUBMITTED?

The completed form is reviewed by Karin Lamb, Volunteer & Community Resources Manager, and if no changes or additional information is required, the form is submitted by Karin to COS for review by the COS Board of Directors at their monthly meeting. If additional information is required, or changes need to be made, Karin will work with the Case Manager & Program Director to adjust the request as needed.

## HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE FROM WHEN I SUBMIT THE APPLICATION TO WHEN FUNDING IS APPROVED?

Up to 35 days. Time elapsed between submitting the form and approval of the request will vary depending on when the form is submitted. The Children of Shelters Board of Directors reviews all requests submitted at their meeting on the first of each month and notifies the Compass Development Department contact which requests have been approved. Approvals generally arrive within a week after the COS Board meeting.

## HOW WILL I BE NOTIFIED IF MY REQUEST IS APPROVED?

When Karin receives the list of approved funding requests, the case manager and Program Director are notified of the approval by email.

## WHAT KIND OF CLIENT NEEDS CAN BE MET THROUGH CHILDREN OF SHELTERS FUNDING?

The COS grant may be requested for educational, enrichment, & urgent needs. This can include tutoring programs, educational materials, extracurricular activities like swimming or martial arts, and urgent needs like therapy, or noise-cancelling headphones

for a child with a sensory condition. (Note that this is not an exhaustive list, just a few examples).

Some examples of previously approved grants:

Education:

- Education \$200.00: 8-year-old 2<sup>nd</sup> grade student in Oakland requested \$250 to attend Mathnasium, The Math Learning Center, to improve her math skills, as she was failing math. The program required a commitment and mom prepaid the first month.

Enrichment:

- Enrichment \$350: 5-year-old child needed swim classes as an outlet for her energy and to increase swimming proficiency. Swim lessons help the child develop swim proficiency, have an opportunity to be out of the house, get physical exercise, and interact socially with peers in a safe manner.

Urgent Need:

- Therapy \$375.00: Child has received therapy for over two years, but the therapist moved to private practice and no longer accepts the child's insurance. Parent & therapist agree that continuity is important for the child. The therapy is \$375 for four sessions. The parent applied for a grant to pay for the sessions but needs to continue the therapy while awaiting the grant decision.

## CAN I APPLY FOR SOMETHING TO BENEFIT THE PARENT SINCE THE CHILD'S LIFE WILL BE INDIRECTLY IMPROVED?

No, the COS grant is specifically for education, enrichment or urgent needs for children only.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I'M NOT SURE IF MY CLIENT'S NEED IS APPROPRIATE FOR COS?

Contact Karin [klamb@compass-sf.org](mailto:klamb@compass-sf.org) with the description and amount of the funding request.

## WHAT IF MY CLIENT'S NEED IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR COS?

Sometimes COS will help to meet a need through their support networks outside the annual grant funding. Karin will work with you to find alternatives if it is a need outside of the scope of COS assistance.

For example:

- a single mom with a 4-year-old received housing on an upper floor in a residential building. The child was an energetic girl who frequently ran and played in the apartment, but the apartment's wood floors made this activity loud for the downstairs neighbors. Mom sought a solution that would allow the child to comfortably enjoy her new home, and not disturb the neighbors. The COS support network was able to provide donated carpet runners to help decrease the sound of the child's footfalls on the hardwood floor, and Compass was able to provide a donated tumbling mat to support the child's indoor play.