

NATIONAL CASA'S REQUEST FOR CONGRESSIONAL ACTION

Restore the authorized funding level of \$12 million for FY 2015

The court appointed special advocate (CASA) program is authorized in the Violence Against Women Act (P.L. 113 – 4), Section 112 Jurisdiction: Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

FY 2015 request

\$12 million (FY 2002-2007 enacted level, authorized level)

Recent appropriations history

FY 2009 and 2010	\$15 million
FY 2011 Omnibus	\$12.4 million
FY 2012 appropriations	\$4.5 million (a reduction of 68%, down to the funding level of FY 1994)
FY 2013 appropriations	\$6 million, less sequestration
FY 2014 appropriations	\$6 million

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, US Department of Justice, awards the funding through a competitive, external review process.

The CASA program is a research based, effective program of trained, competent, court-appointed community volunteers stepping forward to infuse greater efficiency in government systems, and to significantly improve outcomes for the abused and neglected children that they represent.

■ A CHILD WITH A CASA VOLUNTEER IS

- More likely to be adopted than to linger in long-term foster care
- Half as likely to re-enter the foster care system
- More likely to have a plan for permanency, especially children of color
- More likely to do better in school



1 PAID CASA STAFF

SUPPORTS

30 VOLUNTEERS



WHO SERVE

75 KIDS



CASA VOLUNTEERS SAVE TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN CHILD WELFARE COSTS ALONE.

- 75 to 1 return on investment. Federal funding for a single grant-funded staff position supports 30 trained volunteers workers, assigned to 75 children within a year.
- CASA advocacy is cost-effective because it is an organization of volunteers. In 2013, CASA volunteers provided advocacy hours equivalent to almost \$290 million in taxpayer dollars if compensated for their service.
- More than 90% of children with CASA volunteers never re-enter the system, another significant savings.
- Judges express a great need for more volunteers for their cases. CASA volunteers fight for a child’s fundamental right to be protected and to be safe.
- In 2013 an estimated 75,000 volunteers provided advocacy for 238,000 children. This is just 37% of the children in foster care. The need to expand CASA advocacy is critical for the best interests of our nation’s most vulnerable children, as well as the resultant federal and state government savings with volunteers assigned to their cases.
- Evaluations have shown that CASA volunteers excel in advocating for a child’s best interest and are appointed to the most serious cases, those with multiple risk factors.
- The child welfare system could not afford to provide a comparable system of advocacy through non-volunteer approaches.

As recommended by the White House Task Force on Disadvantaged Youth, and congressional efforts to ensure that nonprofits are accountable, the CASA grants administration is highly efficient and accountable to OJJDP and requires accountability by subgrantees. The National CASA Association administers the competitive grants program at a much lower cost than if administered by government staff.

ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN BELONG AT THE TOP OF ANY PRIORITY LIST

- Approximately 638,000 neglected and abused children find themselves—through no fault of their own—in the foster care and family court systems in the United States each year.
- In 2012, 1,640 children died as a result of abuse or neglect—nearly 70% of those children were younger than three.
- Since its founding in 1977, CASA for Children has ensured transition to a safe, permanent home for more than 2 million children.

FOSTER CHILDREN SERVED BY A CASA VOLUNTEER



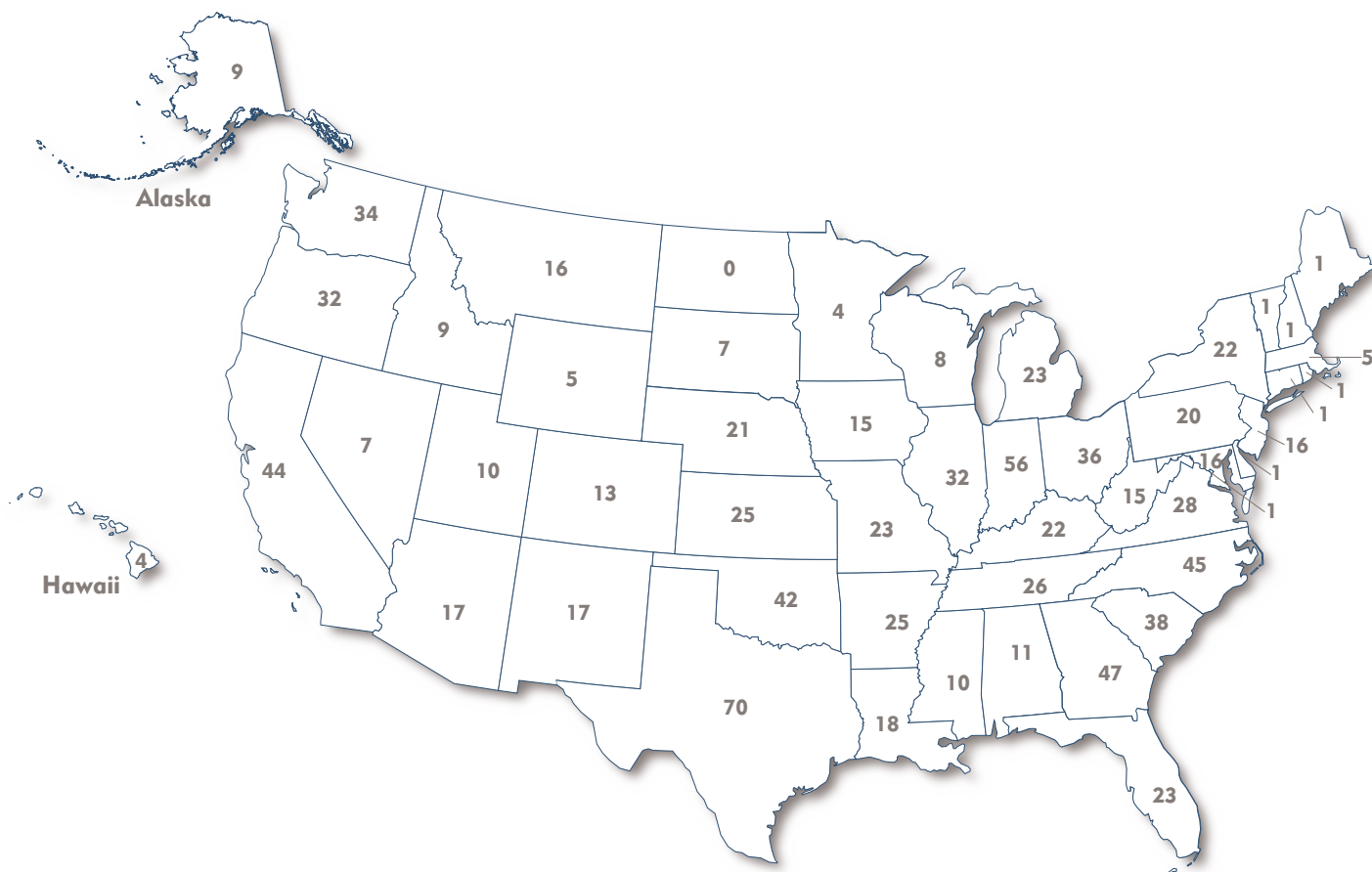
FOSTER CHILDREN STILL IN NEED



CASA volunteers ensure that we do the right thing by the children whose care and whose futures have been placed in the hands of our public child welfare systems.

Judge Ernestine S. Gray, Chief Judge
Orleans Parish Juvenile Court

CASA/GAL Program Locations Across the Country



In addition to the National CASA Association, there are 951 CASA/GAL state organizations and local programs serving children nationwide.

Almost 75,000 women and men are CASA volunteers.

Last year, these volunteers spoke for more than 238,000 abused and neglected children in court.

National CASA Association
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CASAforChildren.org

