

Juvenile Law: Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program

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Presentation to the Judicial Council

July 12, 2024



What is a CASA?

- Serve as officer of the court
- Get to know the child
- Gather information to make informed recommendations to the court
- Encourage services
- Support children's education
- Serve as positive impact on child well-being

CASA Network Impact in 2023



10,623

*Children in Foster Care Served by the California CASA Network



67,229

**Children in Foster Care in California



7,351

Active CASA Volunteers



45

Local CASA Programs



52

Counties Served by Local Programs



570

Staff Members Employed by CASA Programs



514

Local CASA Program Board Members

California CASA Association

Mission

To ensure that children and youth in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems have both a voice and the services they need to thrive.

Vision

Every child and youth in the California child welfare and juvenile justice systems who need advocacy will have the transformative support of a CASA volunteer.

State Appropriation

Under the State Budget Act of 2022, Governor Newsom and the Legislature made an historic investment in CASA:

\$20 million/year over 3 years = \$60 million

Stabilization



Staff retention



Growth



Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee

- Guided by Welfare and Institutions Code, section 100 et seq.
- Oversight of Judicial Council's CASA programs
- Funding allocation methodology and annual allocations
- \$2.713 million annually to local CASA programs
- \$60 million (over 3 years) state appropriation to California CASA Association

Impact of CASAs in the Courtroom

- “Eyes and ears” of the judge for children in foster care.
- Provide child-focused recommendations based on the best interest of the children they serve.

