

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

Program Name: Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program

FY 2017 Request

Total Funding: \$6.0M
Vs. FY 2016 Enacted: -\$3.0M

Spotlight on Success



[Read Ryan's story.](#)

"I would have been lost in foster care without my CASA volunteer."

Program Description:

Purpose: To support and promote court-appointed volunteer advocacy so that every abused and neglected child in the United States can be safe, has a permanent home, and the opportunity to thrive.

This program provides membership, accreditation, and sub-grants to regional, state, and local CASA organizations who represent abused and neglected children in dependency hearings and who partner with other public and private child welfare system stakeholders at the national, regional, state, and local levels.

Authorizing Legislation: The Victims of Child Abuse Act, 42 U.S.C. § 13013

Administering Agency: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)

DOJ Strategic Objective 2.2: Prevent and intervene in crimes against vulnerable populations and uphold the rights of, and improve services to, America's crime victims

Who Can Apply for Funding: Public agencies or nonprofit organizations. A successful applicant will be: (1) a national non-profit organization that has broad membership among court-appointed special advocate programs and in providing training and technical assistance to court-appointed special advocate programs; or (2) a local public agency or nonprofit organization that has demonstrated the willingness to initiate, sustain, and expand a court-appointed special advocate program.

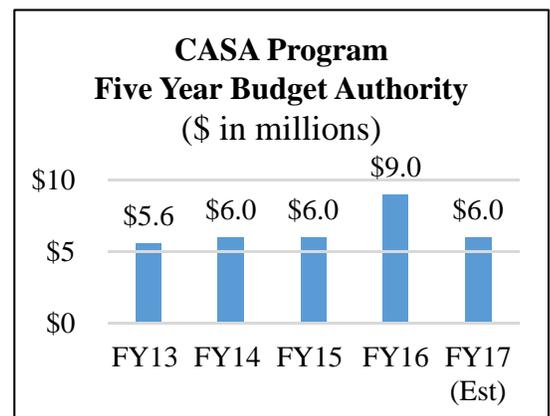
How Funds are Distributed: Through a competitive process, awards are made in the form of cooperative agreements for up to \$5.2M for 12 month periods with possible supplements based on performance.

Program Goals:

- Fund programs that support cultural diversity and competency;
- Improve outcomes for children in the dependency system; and
- Provide effective advocacy for abused and neglected children, including foster care youth.

Accomplishments:

- In 2014, 76,327 CASA/Guardian ad Litem (GAL) volunteers working through 949 programs in 49 states and the District of Columbia contributed more than six million hours of service to 251,165 abused and neglected children.
- Since the inception of the CASA/GAL network, 2.1 million abused and neglected children have benefitted from having a highly trained volunteer advocating for their best interests in the courtroom and in the community.
- The National CASA Association continues work in the area of performance measurement, following recommendations for Child Trends, a leading research center in child development. Currently, the



organization is planning for more robust and meaningful data collection, measurement of outcomes, and the development of an evidence base.

FY 2017 Proposed Policy Changes to the Program: N/A

FY 2017 Proposed Funding Changes to the Program: N/A

Application and Award History

(\$ in millions)	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Amount Appropriated	\$5.6	\$6.0	\$6.0	\$9.0	\$6.0 Requested
Total Funding Awarded [^]	\$4.9	\$5.2	\$5.2	TBD	TBD
Number of Applications	2	2	3	TBD	TBD
Number of Awards	2	2	3	TBD	TBD

[^] Total Funding Awarded does not include funds used for management and administration, peer review, or other authorized purposes.

For additional information, please visit the [OJJDP website](http://www.ojjdp.org) or <http://www.casaforchildren.org/>.

A WISE INVESTMENT
One year of CASA/GAL advocacy costs less than one month of foster care.

CASA 1 staff member } supports 30 volunteers } serving 75 children

CASA/GAL PROGRAMS CHANGE LIVES
A child with a volunteer advocate is more likely to find a safe, permanent home.

A child with a CASA/GAL volunteer is half as likely to re-enter the foster care system.

And, they are more likely to succeed in school and less likely to spend three or more years in care.