

Wisconsin CASA Association

2022 Impact Report



Wisconsin Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Association champions the needs of children who have experienced abuse or neglect by supporting and expanding local CASA programs.

What sets CASA apart

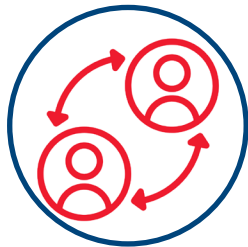
- ◇ Volunteers receive 30 hours of specialized training before being sworn in by a judge
- ◇ Advocates do in-person visits with the child at least once a week
- ◇ A CASA is an additional consistent resource who is able to provide supplemental information from a child centric viewpoint that can be critical to a child's wellbeing in an overwhelmed child welfare system

Advocates work in the best interest of the child



Learn

Advocates get to know the child and learn about their family and life.



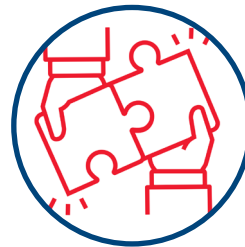
Engage

Children and Advocates meet for at least an hour a week, getting to know each other and the child's situation.



Recommend

Advocates speak up for the child's best interest in court, until the case is closed.



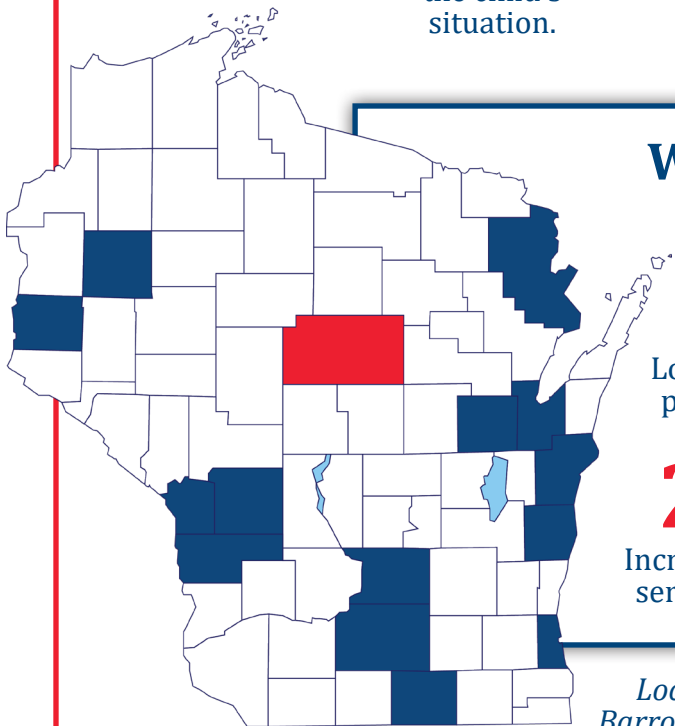
Collaborate

Advocates work with the child's inner circle of support to ensure they're getting the care and attention they need.



Report

Advocates report what they have learned and observed to the court.



Wisconsin CASA in 2022

by the numbers

9

Local CASA programs

14

Counties served

500+

Advocates

954

Children served

24%

Increase in children served since 2017

6,000-7,000

Wisconsin children in need of an Advocate

Local CASA programs currently serve 14 counties in Wisconsin: Barron, Brown, Columbia, Dane, La Crosse, Manitowoc, Marinette, Milwaukee, Monroe, Outagamie, Rock, Sheboygan, St. Croix and Vernon counties. A local CASA program is currently in development in Marathon County.

What you may not know

- ◇ CASA remains whether a child is in-home or in an out-of-home placement
- ◇ An Advocate can still be assigned with the Family First Act
- ◇ With the overwhelming number and scope of cases assigned to GAL's, a CASA is able to provide the judge a regular and timely report of the child's status and welfare
- ◇ Local CASA programs are members of State Task Forces and Committees tasked with improving outcomes for children and families in the child welfare and court systems

110,000+

Total hours of child Advocacy per year

This would be the equivalent of
54 full time paid employees OR over
\$2.2 million in wage savings annually.

Barrier to serving more children

Increased funding that is adequate and consistent is necessary to develop and sustain new CASA programs throughout Wisconsin.

What would increased funding provide?

- ◇ The ability to effectively support current programs and add staff to supervise additional Advocates and serve more children timely
- ◇ The addition of dedicated outreach resources that will create awareness and support of current CASA programs and establish new programs in additional Wisconsin counties
- ◇ Long-term sustainability by increasing pass through dollars to local programs and lengthening the period of support for new programs
- ◇ More children would benefit from a CASA!



Initiatives

- ◇ **Developing more CASA programs** throughout the state to serve more children
- ◇ **Supporting children** by shortening the time it takes to achieve permanency. Break the cycle early to reduce the likelihood of negative long term effects that can follow a child into adulthood
- ◇ **Increasing support** by pass through funding from WI CASA to local programs to develop and enhance local resources that enable more children to be served



Wisconsin CASA Association

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Wisconsin CASA is a member of The National CASA Association