

# LOUISIANA CASA

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES



**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)** volunteers are caring and competent community individuals who are supervised and supported by CASA professional staff, and appointed by a judge to represent the best interest of abused and neglected children in court.

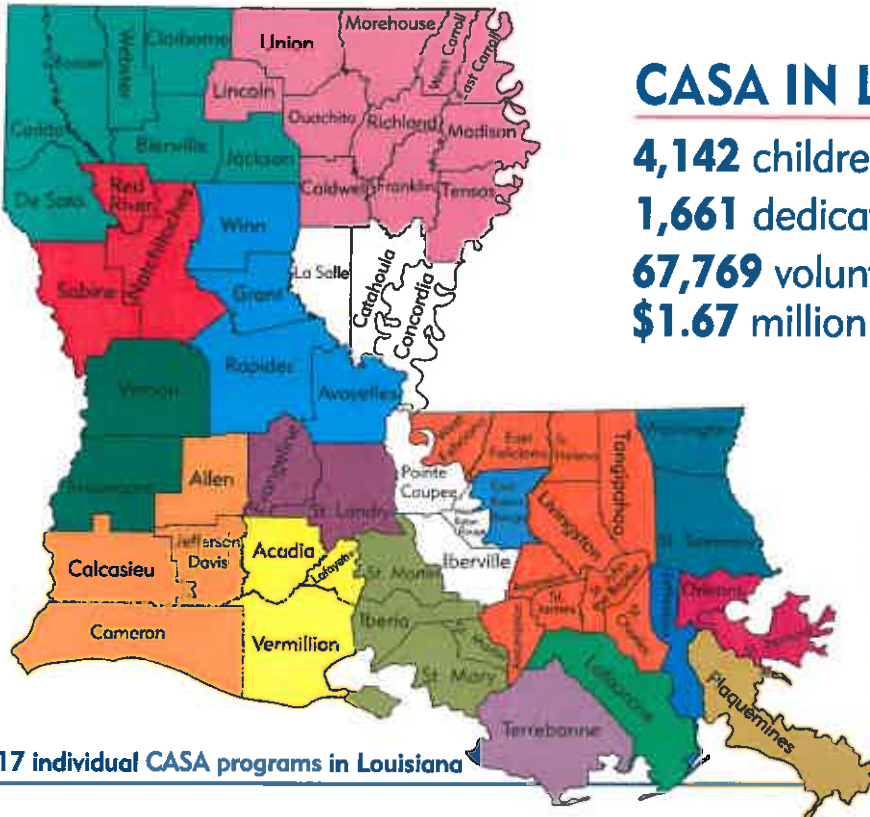
## CASA IN LOUISIANA IN 2018

**4,142** children served

**1,661** dedicated volunteers

**67,769** volunteer hours served for children

**\$1.67** million in volunteer service



- Volunteers for Youth Justice
- Child Advocacy Services
- CASA of Northeast Louisiana
- Youth Service Bureau
- CASA of Central Louisiana
- Capital Area CASA
- Children's Advocacy Network
- CASA of Terrebonne
- CASA of West Central Louisiana
- CASA of Lafourche
- CASA, a Division of Family & Youth
- CASA Jefferson
- CASA of St. Landry-Evangeline
- CASA of Plaquemines Parish
- CASA of South Louisiana
- CASA New Orleans
- CASA of the 16th JDC
- No CASA program

17 individual CASA programs in Louisiana

## CASA: A Wise Investment in Louisiana

### CASA saves taxpayer dollars

Children with an advocate leave the system sooner than a child without an advocate, saving the state on foster care costs.

### CASA helps children in foster care thrive

Children with a CASA receive more services critical to their well-being and are more likely to succeed in school.

### CASA has positive long-term effects on communities

By supporting children as they mature and become young adults, we reduce the likelihood they will face incarceration, homelessness, or unemployment.

### CASA is an effective public-private partnership

CASA programs engage members of the community to transform the lives of children who have experience trauma and tragedy, increasing public transparency and accountability.

**The judicial community cannot do this job alone. We need the support of the community. CASA advocates are the most effective community representatives that our country has come up with yet.**

– Judge Leonard Edwards (Ret.)

# CASA IN LOUISIANA

## COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES



Independent, national research identified the effectiveness of CASA volunteers serving children in foster care. **Highlights of the findings:**

- One year of CASA advocacy costs less than one month of foster care.
- A child with a CASA volunteer is more likely to find a safe, permanent home, spending less time in foster care.
- A child with a CASA volunteer is half as likely to re-enter the foster care system.
- And, they are more likely to do well in school, and less likely to spend three or more years in care.



“Being in foster care is living in a constant state of flux: homes, schools, families ... everything is always changing, often suddenly and without warning. My only constant was my CASA advocate. Without her, I would have been lost in the system.”  
– Melissa, foster care alumni

Children removed from their home because of abuse or neglect face a frightening, profound unknown, and we make sure they don't face it alone.

CASA advocates help these child victims heal and thrive, through a dedicated, one-on-one relationship.

CASA advocates remain appointed to the child's case throughout its duration, so while the child may have multiple attorneys, social workers, therapists, and foster placements throughout the life of the case, they may have only one CASA advocate.

**LouisianaCASA.org** | **225.930.0305**