



CASA Talking Points

Show Appreciation for Ongoing CASA Support & Share Momentum

- Continued legislative support has resulted in a strong foundation and targeted growth
- Increased funding enabled CASA affiliate to:
 - recruit, screen, and train additional community volunteers;
 - provide volunteers with access to experienced and knowledgeable staff;
 - provide volunteer advocacy for additional children in the state's custody; and
 - attract and retain highly committed and qualified local staff
- Share recent CASA achievements and current happenings at your local affiliate as well as unmet needs

Present CASA's FY 2020 Budget Increase

- As prudent stewards of state funding, CASA did not seek an increase in FY '19
- Instead, time, focus, and energy were fully directed to the implementation and use of the additional dollars allocated and received in previous sessions
- Make a request for a \$500,000 increase to support CASA advocacy for additional children in foster care statewide
- As we build upon the foundation cemented and additional volunteer and staffing levels achieved through the Growth Plan, the CASA network is committed to increasing its exposure, recruitment, and quality service delivery
- This increase in state funding will afford affiliates the ability to invest in their local capacity to increase the number of children served by CASA volunteers

Highlight Needs of Children in Foster Care & Support for DFCS Budget

- Touch on issues that impact the children and families in your area (e.g. placement stability, caregiver support, mental health or substance use treatment accessibility, normalcy efforts)
- Express support for DFCS Budget Priorities (*select items included below*)
 - Closed Case Follow-Up - pilot program for DFCS to connect with families after their case closes to assess service delivery
 - Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) readiness – updates to SHINES, provider surveys, and a project team will prepare for implementation of this transformational federal child welfare law that emphasizes prevention and treatment services and more family-like placement settings

Engage Legislators in the CASA Network

- Offer to be a resource about CASA or child welfare issues as the session progresses
- Invite to your next local event, swearing-in ceremony, training class, or to observe in juvenile court
- Ask to spread the word about CASA within the district at their churches, civics clubs, and other circles
- Share a CASA recruitment message for any constituent newsletter, post, or social media profile
- Take a photo with your *I Am for the Child* or *Everyday Heroes* sign and share on social media