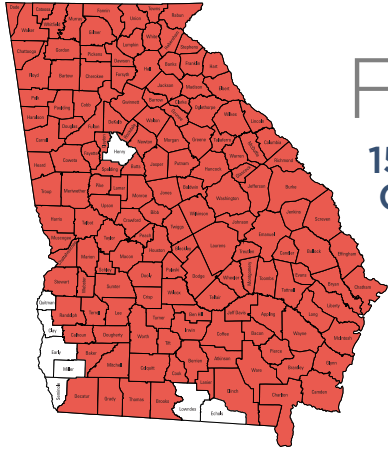




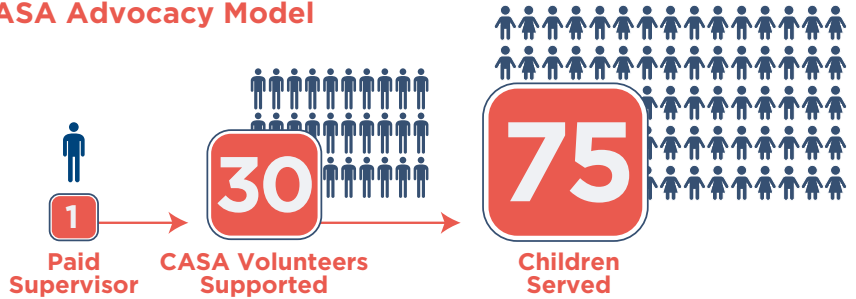
# Georgia CASA 2019 FY2020 State Budget Funding Request

**\$500k** to build capacity to support CASA volunteer advocacy for additional children in DFCS custody



**FY19**  
151 of 159  
Counties  
Served

## CASA Advocacy Model



**Citizen volunteers**, supported by an experienced and knowledgeable staff member, offering individualized attention and best-interests advocacy

### Total Children Served



### CASA Volunteers



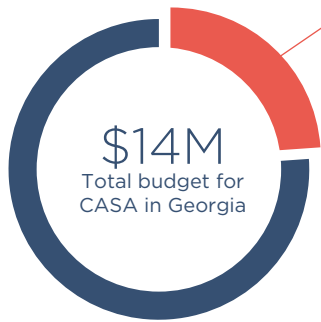
### Children Served Daily



## Over the past 3 years, CASA has served

- **20% more children** in Fulton and DeKalb counties
- **35% more children** in DFCS custody statewide
- **More than half** of the state's expanding foster care population

**24%**  
**\$3.37M**  
State funding for  
CASA in Georgia



## CASA Makes an Impact

### For the Child

- **Seeks reunification** at the earliest point the child would be safe and offers after-care monitoring to preserve permanency
- **Pursues a stable and permanent home** as soon as possible when reunification is unlikely
- **Strives for stability** in foster care placement
- **Ensures needed support** and services are received
- **Identifies and engages relatives** to maintain familial connections
- **Advocates for specialized needs** for youth transitioning to adulthood
- **Builds resiliency** by providing a consistent adult presence in a child's life

*"The only constant was my CASA volunteer. Without her I would have been lost in the system."*

Melissa,  
former foster youth

### On the Child Welfare System

- **Alerts the system** of safety or other concerns
- **Provides a unique perspective** throughout a child's time in the system
- **Offers individualized advocacy**
- **Shares unvarnished information** with case managers and courts
- **Brings a solution-focused, common-sense approach**

*"We could not adjudicate cases effectively without the hard work and tenacity of CASA volunteers. They never lose sight of why we come to court on these cases: the best interests of the child."*

Judge Amanda Heath,  
Augusta, GA

### On the Community

- **Expands public understanding** of the child welfare system and fosters empathy for the front-line workers, children, and families involved
- **Explores gaps in services** with the ability to inform and influence decision-makers
- **Makes lasting personal impressions** on volunteers involved with this life-changing work

*"Being a CASA has given me so much joy and purpose in my life. It is through helping the children that I too have been helped."*

Connie Zessack,  
Cartersville, GA

For more information

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In addition to providing ongoing training, support, technical assistance, and quality assurance for the affiliate CASA network, Georgia CASA maintains fiduciary and contractual responsibility for \$3.37 million in state funding through the application of a funding allocation formula as well as adherence to stringent audit and reporting requirements.