Talking Points

Show Appreciation for Ongoing Support

- Previous legislative support has resulted in a strong foundation and targeted growth.
- Increased funding has 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.
- *If you are in an area with a large number of un-served children experiencing foster care, mention the particular needs for additional support and advocacy.*

Share CASA's Momentum

- Talk about CASA and share recent achievements and current happenings at your local affiliate.
- Make a connection to CASA's state and national efforts to increase volunteers and children served and how your local affiliate has benefitted and/or the community has responded.

Engage Legislators in the CASA Network

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

Bring Attention to Needs of Children & Families & System Supports

- Highlight issues that impact children and families in your area. *The following list is included to provide possible suggestions for discussion.*
  - Placement stability and permanency
  - Caregiver support—foster parent and kinship care
  - Substance use treatment services
  - Mental health for children and youth in care
  - Education stability and supports
  - Normalcy efforts for children in foster care
- Express support in ensuring DFCS maintains its critical front-line staff for serving children and families.