

**Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc.**

# **Impact Report**



***Fiscal Year 2020***



Dear Supporters,

We invite you to take a look at our new Impact Report covering our work between July 2019 and June 2020.

In a year like no other, nearly 3,000 advocates tackled the challenges presented by COVID-19, mobilizing resources that can come only from the established, trusted relationships that compassionate volunteers have built through their connections with children in foster care. The consistent presence of a CASA volunteer is even more reassuring when everything else in a child's world has changed. This past fiscal year, dedicated CASA volunteers advocated for over 10,000 children in Georgia who have experienced abuse or neglect.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and the children and youth with a CASA volunteer, thank you for your support of Georgia CASA. We look forward to continuing to partner with you!

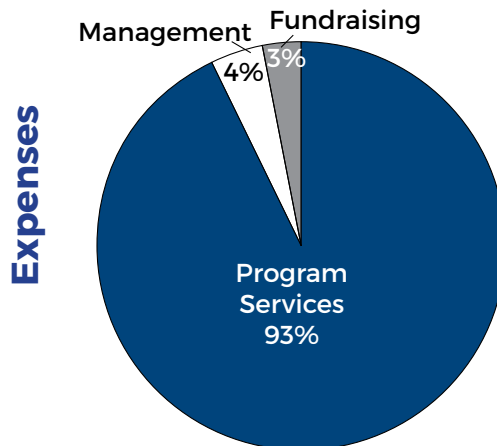
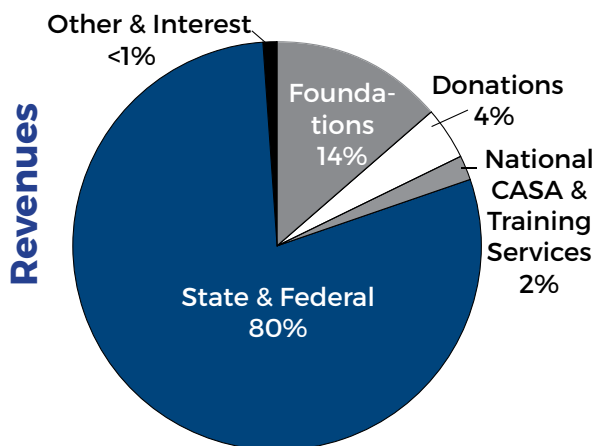


Kip Lynch  
Board Chair

Jen King  
Executive Director

## Financials

*for fiscal year ending June 30, 2020*



Georgia CASA's comprehensive core services support and develop local CASA affiliates through trainings, technical assistance, volunteer recruitment and screening, networking, communications, legislative advocacy, and outcomes measurement.

In a given year, an average of 1,000 contacts with affiliates are made by the Georgia CASA team, including regular calls, emails, visits, and statewide events.

# CASA Service Area by Affiliate



Visit <http://bit.ly/DirectorySearch> for contact information for all affiliate CASA programs in Georgia.

# CASA Advocacy Across the State



**46**  
**Affiliates**

**156**  
**Counties**

Toombs Judicial Circuit began operating under CASA of the Augusta Judicial Circuit

SOWEGA CASA expanded to Clay, Early, Miller, Quitman & Seminole counties in southwest Georgia

## in Fiscal Year 2020...



**10,427**  
**Children Served**



**2,773**  
**CASA Volunteers**



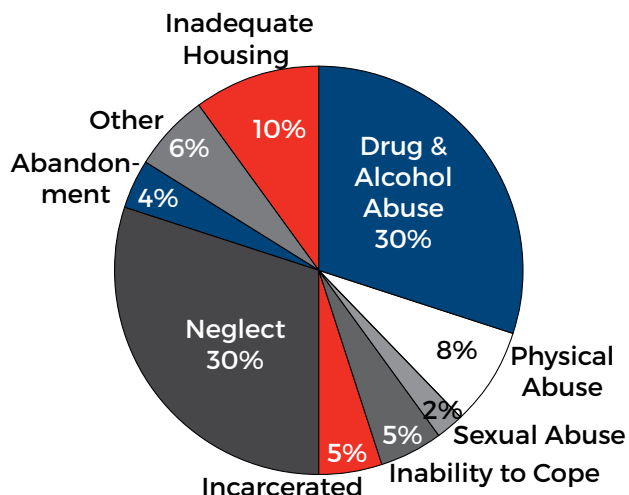
**2,728**  
**Children Appointed a CASA Volunteer**



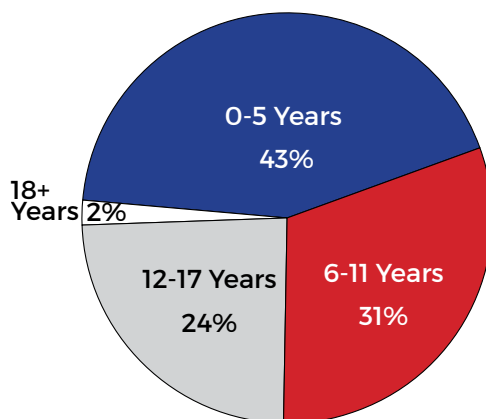
**3,142**  
**Children Reached Permanency**

# CASA Advocacy Across the State

## Types of Abuse or Neglect

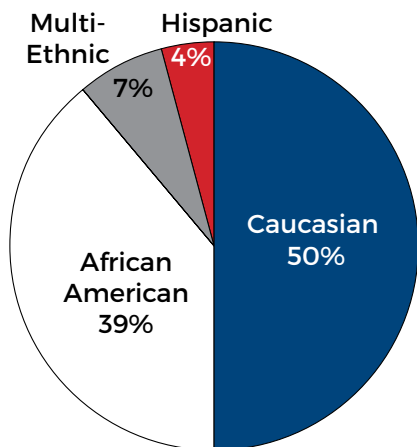


## Ages of Children

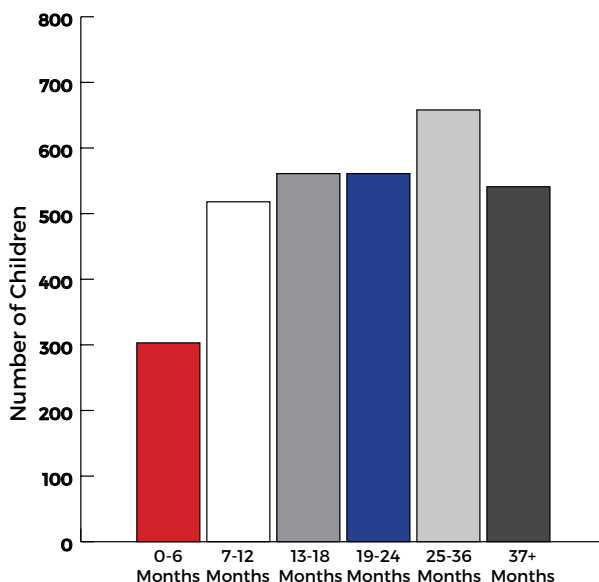


Visit <http://bit.ly/FY20Statistics> to view individual statistical information for each affiliate CASA program in Georgia.

## Race & Ethnicity of Children



## Length of Time Spent in Foster Care



# Key Impact Areas

## Quality Volunteer Advocacy

Georgia CASA promotes high quality volunteer advocacy through trainings designed to enhance CASA volunteer and staff skills, comfort, and effectiveness within and beyond courtroom advocacy; on-site court visits; and consultation on child welfare policy, practices, and well-being related topics.

State and local trainings, tools, and resources were offered to more than 3,000 advocates statewide in addition to Georgia CASA's engagement in collaborative, multi-disciplinary trainings.

### Spotlight

Georgia CASA rolled out the newly-revised, automated CASA court report template that is integrated into the court's reporting system (CPRS - Court Process Reporting System). The report has embedded features to make effective court report recommendations easier, including immediate access to the Quick Reference Guides, in-report instructional prompts, and direct references to the best interest factors.

The template helps to further strengthen best-interest advocacy CASA volunteers throughout the state provide to children through the court report submitted to judges and all parties at court hearings.

The template enables maximum use and application of real-time data and evaluative process-exploring practice implications provoking positive child and family outcomes.

*"Our volunteers love the court report and how the prompts help them to know what goes in each section. Our judges love the details in the report, too."*

*Mandy Roberts, Savannah/Chatham CASA  
Advocacy Director*

### Spotlight



*CASA Day at the Capitol - February 2020*

## Legislative & Policy

Georgia CASA tracks and supports key legislative issues impacting children and families involved in the child welfare system and coordinates legislative activities and outreach.

In addition to raising awareness for foster care issues, possible large-scale funding cuts loomed over this year's legislative session. Georgia CASA received its first ever loss of nearly \$36,000 in state funds, starting July 1, 2020.

The State of Georgia invested \$3.62 million in CASA advocacy statewide,



# Key Impact Areas

## Affiliate Operations

Georgia CASA offers comprehensive support and services for the affiliate CASA network to improve quality advocacy and effectiveness, including site visits, new director training, on-site and remote assistance and consultation in a variety of areas, and ongoing training and networking opportunities for directors, staff, and volunteers.

Engagement and peer support among directors and staff is a noteworthy strength of the network.

During the fiscal year, over 20 affiliate trainings were held in addition to regular calls, meet-ups, and small group gatherings.



New Director Immersion Training - September 2019

*"The training was a great experience for a new director like myself. I also enjoyed and appreciated the insight from the more seasoned directors."*  
Briana Evans, Carroll County CASA Director

## Spotlight



*By Giving, We Receive More:  
Three CASA Volunteer Stories*

"I am truly being who I needed."

- Dr. Felicia Tillman, Atlanta CASA Volunteer, in video

Visit <https://bit.ly/GaCASAAnthemVideo2020> to view the video.

## Recruitment & Awareness

Georgia CASA creates and disseminates a variety of volunteer recruitment and awareness materials and tools to affiliates, as well as offers consultation and technical assistance on recruitment.

Outreach activities that further promote the CASA mission include people recognition opportunities and various communications tools including a website, social media channels, and e-newsletters.

Georgia CASA led awareness activities to include an anthem video, radio interview, pre-orientation video, and Change a Child's story branding campaign.

# Key Impact Areas

## Impact

## Spotlight

Throughout the year, Georgia CASA celebrates and recognizes the service and investment of people who give selflessly of their time and talents so children experiencing foster care have a best-interest advocate.

Additionally, affiliates are celebrated and recognized for their accomplishments and overall effectiveness in the administration of a CASA program.

During the fiscal year, the CASA organization in Georgia had a powerful impact on over 10,000 children experiencing foster care.



*Jeff Sprinkle, 2019 CASA Volunteer of the Year in Georgia, Northeast Georgia CASA (Toccoa, GA)*

*Gov. Kemp stands with Jeff Sprinkle & Northeast Georgia CASA & Georgia CASA staff*

## Spotlight

*Safety supplies provided to CASA network*



*Virtual Training of the Facilitator - April 2020*

## COVID-19 Response

Georgia CASA maximized its relationships to provide critical information and respond to emerging and immediate needs, as well as provided training to affiliates for success in a virtual environment. The connections between CASA volunteers and children in foster care, along with their caregivers and families, have been a crucial lifeline for immediate and long-term child and family needs.

CASA volunteers were virtually trained and sworn-in. They engaged in virtual and physically distanced visits with children and presented their reports through virtual court hearings.



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Georgia CASA Team  
(also pictured: Nikayla Wandelt, legal intern)



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*Member of The National CASA/GAL Association*

