

What is CASA?



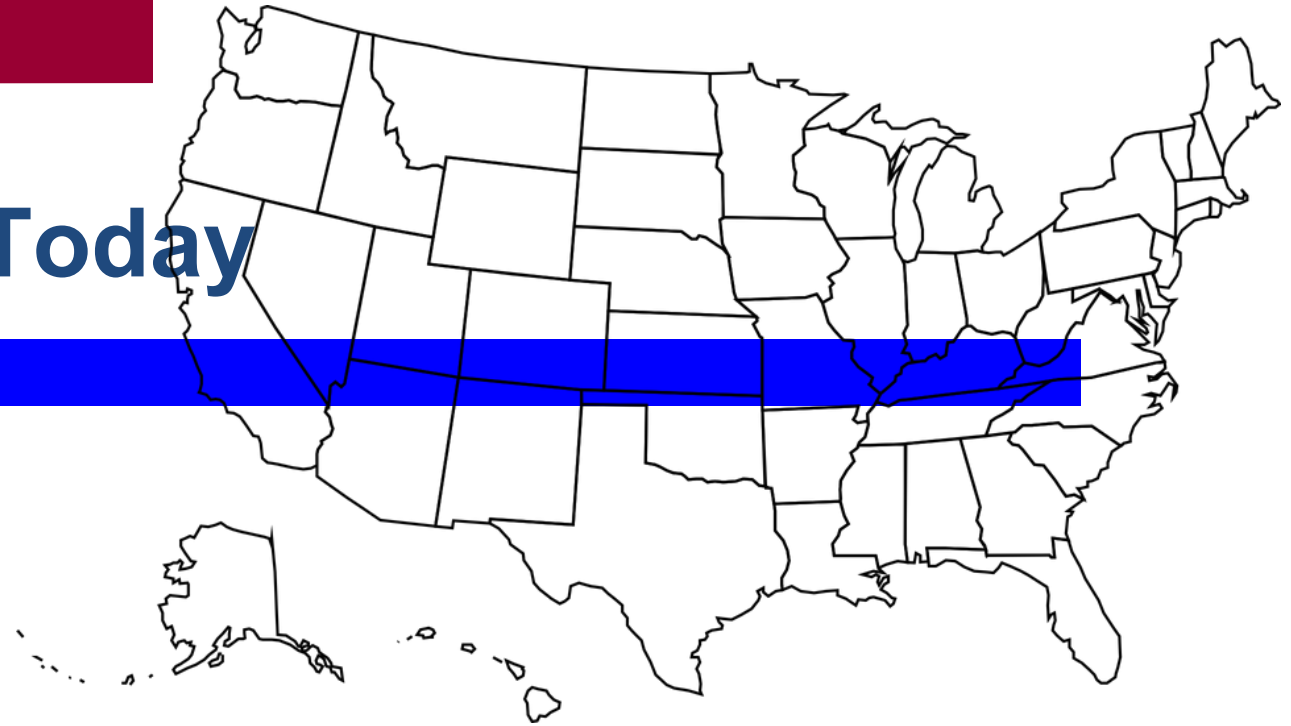
CASA is an acronym for
Court Appointed Special Advocates

How Did CASA Begin?

- In 1976 Judge David Soukup of Seattle, WA wanted more information on the children appearing in his courtroom
- In 1977 community volunteers were trained and a pilot program started



CASA Today



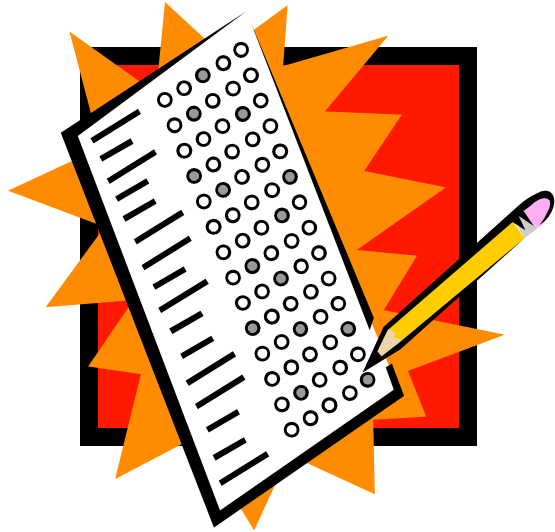
- 939 Programs in the United States
- 97,900 Dedicated Volunteers
- 242,000 Children Served Annually

Local CASA Programs

- We Recruit, Screen, Train and Support Volunteers
- We Provide 30 hours of pre-service training with the National CASA curriculum
- We offer volunteers monthly in-service trainings
- We support volunteers as they advocate
- We raise the revenue to support the work



Membership with Nebraska and National CASA

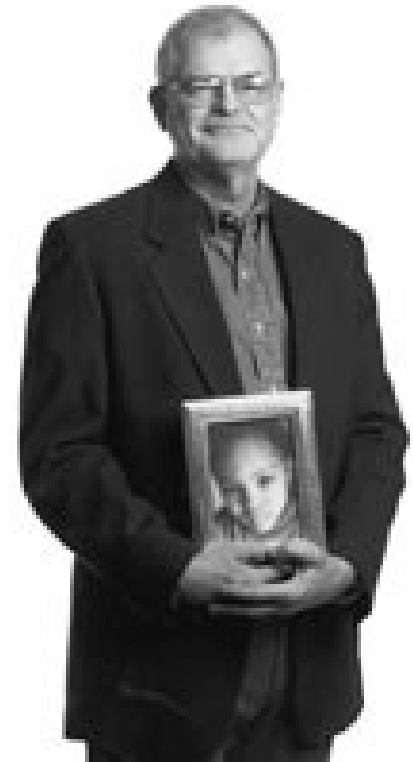


- We are governed by a state CASA statute.
- We must pass the National CASA Association Standards
- We are required to have more than 1 staff for every 30 volunteers
- We must be trained in National CASA's Training of Facilitators

Who Can Become a CASA Volunteer?

NE State Law & National CASA Standards require a volunteer:

- Be 21 years or older
- Complete an application, interview, and reference check
- Have a comprehensive background check
- Complete 30 hours of pre-service training



A CASA Volunteer



- Sworn in by the Judge as a “Friend of the Court”
- Advocates for the best interests of an abused or neglected child in court
- Visits the child frequently
- Meets with all people involved; foster parents, parents, case workers, teachers, doctors

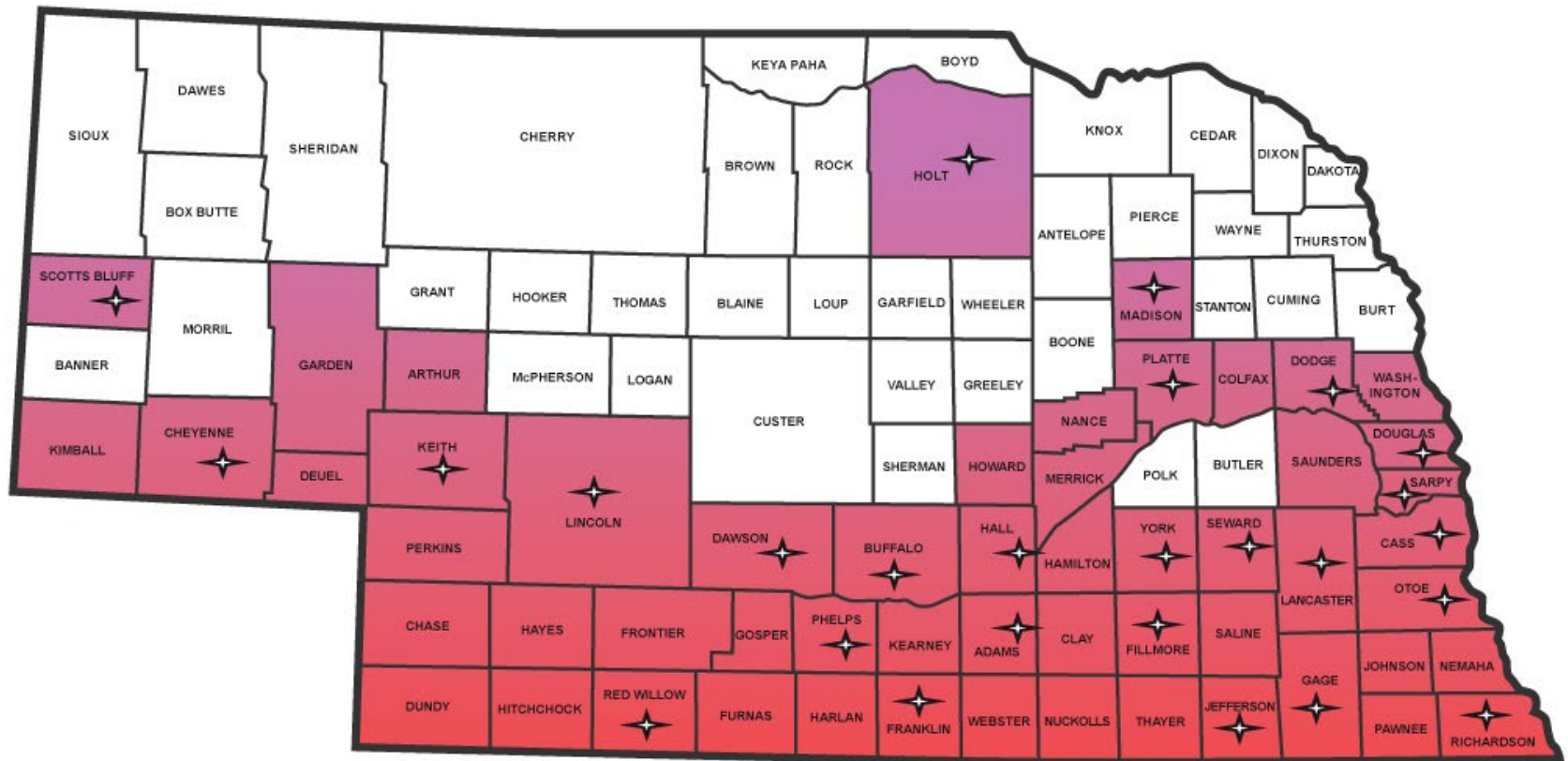
A CASA Volunteer

- Submits report to the Court with information and recommendations for the child
- Attends court hearings
- Advocates for the child until the child is returned home or placed in a permanent placement or adopted



Nebraska CASA Programs

✦ Local Office Locations



CASA in Nebraska

- **22 programs in 55 counties**
- **834 active Volunteers in 2023 spent 29,115 hours and drove 178,735 miles**
- **A volunteer increase of 102% in 13 years**
- **1,937 Children Served in 2023**

Cost Analysis by University of Nebraska at Omaha Center for Public Affairs Research

TOTAL BENEFIT \$18,122 <hr/> TOTAL COST \$3,018	=	RETURN ON INVESTMENT For every \$1 invested in Nebraska CASA, \$6 are returned to the state of Nebraska.
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The table below provides a summary of the per child benefits and costs for Nebraska CASA as described above.

Per Child Benefits and Costs of Court Appointed Special Advocates in Nebraska

	Direct Beneficiaries	Indirect Taxpayers	Total Society
Reduced administrative costs		\$1,148	\$1,148
Increased future earnings of children	\$2,097		\$2,097
Reduced public costs		\$12,750	\$12,750
Improved health as a result of adoption	\$861		\$861
Increased safety	\$1,266		\$1,266
Total	\$4,224	\$13,898	\$18,122



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