



## I. GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

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Date

### Contact Information

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 Year Incorporated: 1992  
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 Board Chair Approval (check here):   
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### Organization Information:

#### Field/s of Interest:

Arts, Culture, Heritage		Education, Library		Environment, Animals
Health	x	Human Services		Social Justice, Civic Engagement
Religion		If other, please describe:		

#### Mission:

**Geographic Area Served** (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served): Delaware County

**Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served.** (Include Chester County # &/or % served.) 322 total children; 99 children in Chester County.

**Annual Budget** \$ 3,603,377 \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff  
 69 \_\_\_\_\_ % of budget for program expenses \_\_\_\_\_ 17 \_\_\_\_\_ # of Board Volunteers  
 21 \_\_\_\_\_ % of budget for administrative expenses \_\_\_\_\_ 159 \_\_\_\_\_ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers  
 11 \_\_\_\_\_ % of budget for fundraising expenses \_\_\_\_\_ 10,778 \_\_\_\_\_ # of Volunteer Hours  
 100% = total

#### Top 3-5 funding sources:

**This grant proposal is for:** \_\_\_x\_\_\_ Direct Service Programs & General Operating &/or \_\_\_ Capacity Building

#### If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

Contingency Planning		Partnerships, Collaborations		Merger, Closure
Mission, Vision, Strategy		Board Engagement & Leadership		Marketing, Communication
Resource Development		Operations		Technology
If other, please describe:				

**Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$2,500 – \$10,000 \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposal Summary:** (a few sentences, please)

## PROPOSAL SUMMARY

CASA Youth Advocates recruits, trains, and supervises community volunteers to serve as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) for children who have experienced abuse or neglect and are involved in the child welfare system. These trained volunteers are appointed by judges to advocate for each child's safety, stability, and long-term well-being while ensuring their voice is heard in court and in the decisions that shape their future.

In 2025, CASA served **322 children across Delaware and Chester Counties, including 99 children in Chester County**. Support from the Chester County Community Foundation will help CASA expand volunteer recruitment and case supervision capacity so that more children in Chester County can benefit from the stability and support of a dedicated CASA advocate.

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## GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

### 1. Nonprofit's overall aims, key initiatives, key achievements & distinctiveness

CASA Youth Advocates empowers community volunteers to advocate for children and youth who have experienced abuse or neglect and are navigating the child welfare system. These children are often referred to as the "invisible population," as their complex needs frequently go unseen within an already overburdened system.

Children impacted by the child welfare system face significant challenges, including trauma, disrupted relationships, educational instability, and the need to navigate complex legal and social service systems. Many experience physical health concerns, developmental delays, and educational barriers that can affect long-term outcomes.

Founded in 1992, CASA Youth Advocates recruits, trains, and supervises community volunteers who are appointed by judges as Court Appointed Special Advocates. Each volunteer serves as a consistent, trusted adult in a child's life—meeting regularly with the child, gathering information from caregivers and professionals, and providing recommendations to the court that prioritize the child's best interests.

CASA's distinctiveness lies in its ability to mobilize and rigorously train community volunteers to serve as court-appointed advocates—an approach that transforms compassion into skilled, sustained advocacy. With intensive training and ongoing professional supervision, volunteers are equipped to navigate complex systems and deliver meaningful outcomes. This model not only serves children—it activates the community as a powerful force for accountability, equity, and lasting change.

Volunteers remain involved for the duration of a child's case—often nearly two years—providing critical continuity in a system where children may experience multiple placements and frequent changes in professionals involved in their lives. Advocates are supported by professional staff with expertise in social work, child welfare, and advocacy, ensuring high-quality, informed engagement at every stage.

CASA expanded services into Chester County in 2016 and has steadily increased its reach and impact as partnerships with judges, court administrators, and child welfare agencies have grown. In 2025, CASA served 99 children in Chester County, contributing to a total of 322 children served across both counties.

CASA is the only organization serving Delaware and Chester Counties that provides court-appointed special advocacy for children involved in dependency court proceedings. Through its one-volunteer-to-one-child (or sibling group) model, CASA ensures that each child has a dedicated advocate focused solely on their needs, voice, and future.

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## **2. Funding request**

### **What needs & issues are being addressed?**

Children impacted by the child welfare system often face instability, trauma, and complex legal and social service systems. They may experience multiple placements, disrupted schooling, and inconsistent adult support. Without a consistent advocate focused solely on their best interests, critical needs can go unaddressed and children's voices may not be fully heard in court proceedings.

CASA addresses this gap by recruiting, training, and supporting volunteer advocates who provide individualized, consistent advocacy for children under court supervision due to abuse or neglect. Volunteers meet regularly with the children they serve, review records, communicate with service providers, and submit detailed evidence-based reports to the court that inform decisions regarding each child's safety, permanency, and well-being.

To complement this advocacy, CASA administers CASA Cares, a direct assistance fund that allows advocates to respond quickly to unmet needs that impact a child's stability and well-being. Since 2020, CASA has distributed more than \$63,000 through CASA Cares to address critical needs such as clothing, school supplies, transportation, enrichment opportunities, and other essential supports. In 2025 alone, over \$10,000 was deployed to ensure children had access to the resources they need to remain stable and engaged in school and community. This flexible funding ensures that advocacy is paired with tangible, immediate support that helps children move from crisis toward stability.

Funding will support CASA's Core Volunteer Advocacy Program, with a focus on expanding services for children in Chester County. Resources will support volunteer recruitment and training, professional case supervision, and continued collaboration with courts and child welfare partners.

### **Why is it important to fund this now?**

Demand for CASA services continues to exceed current capacity, particularly in Chester County, where there is an active waitlist of children who could benefit from the support of a CASA advocate but are not yet served. While CASA has made meaningful progress expanding its reach, many children remain without a consistent, dedicated adult to advocate for their safety, stability, and permanency.

CASA currently serves approximately 50–70% of children who would benefit from a court-appointed advocate, demonstrating both the effectiveness of the model and the urgent need for continued investment. Each unserved child represents a missed opportunity for earlier intervention, stronger outcomes, and a more stable path forward.

Support from the Chester County Community Foundation will allow CASA to expand its volunteer base and sustain the professional supervision required to take on additional cases. Increased capacity will

enable CASA to reduce the waitlist and ensure that more children in Chester County receive the advocacy they need at the most critical moments in their lives.

### **How will results & impact be demonstrated?**

CASA tracks program outcomes through its case management system and ongoing volunteer supervision. Key indicators of impact include:

- Number of children served
- Number of trained volunteer advocates
- Permanency outcomes for children served
- Placement stability
- Educational access and support for children

In 2025, CASA served **322 children across Delaware and Chester Counties**, supported by **159 trained volunteer advocates**. Youth surveys conducted at case closure consistently demonstrate strong outcomes, with respondents reporting that their CASA advocate listened to them and that they felt comfortable seeking support and guidance from their advocate.

Through continued investment in volunteer recruitment and case supervision, CASA aims to expand advocacy services so that more children in Chester County have a dedicated adult ensuring their voices are heard and their needs are addressed.

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### **Top Funding Sources (Summary Sheet)**

Federal & State Child Welfare Grants  
Individual Donors & Community Giving  
Private Foundations  
County Government Support (Delaware & Chester Counties)  
Fundraising Events & Corporate Sponsors