

CASA Program Status Report, September 2021



Final FY2021 CASA Dashboard elements

Month	# Assigned Advocate's (actual)	Assigned Advocate annual goal	Families served by assigned CASA	Children with assigned CASA's	Active Coaches (actual)	Active Coach Floor 2019 (annual goal)	# cases coached	# Advocates Coached	Advocates sworn	CASA Applications submitted	Volunteers Exited
July	338	405	410	816	64	61	189	168	12	10	17
August	333	405	401	807	63	61	192	172	13	31	13
September	323	405	369	760	61	61	194	171	8	22	11
October	330	405	394	756	61	61	191	167	21	24	16
November	318	405	362	741	59	61	181	162	10	7	3
December	337	405	386	786	59	61	190	169	17	14	11
January	336	405	411	748	60	61	188	165	1	23	20
February	347	405	396	783	65	61	196	170	27	21	7
March	349	405	399	794	66	61	197	173	5	12	18
April	360	405	407	804	64	61	193	176	14	5	7
May	365	405	420	826	67	61	197	178	23	6	7
June	391	405	446	884	66	61	195	181	15	10	12

Hours and Miles donated to the CASA Program FY2021

Month	Hours Contributed	Mileage Contributed
July	1,183	7,697
August	1,137	8,977
September	884	7,271
October	1,079	8,174
November	1,040	6,144
December	1,110	6,964
January	1,040	6,144
February	1,324	7,596
March	1,273	7,951
April	1,636	10,073
May	1,274	12,189
June	1,111	12,654
Totals	14,091	101,834

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Comparison data for previous fiscal years

DATA POINT	FYE2021	FYE2020	FYE2019*	FYE2018
Children served	1,429	1,346	1,359	1,031
Families Served	690	644	603	571
New children served	615	565	503	390
Children's cases closed	590	650	519	322
Active Advocates served	533	510	490	400
Advocates who Started Training	153	107	146	140
Sworn in	166	130	129	106
Coaches	77	70	69	56
Advocates with coaches	234	230	209	162
Average cases coached per month	192	201	163	139
Hours contributed	14,091	16,462	21,849	22,534
Miles contributed	101,834	154,037	183,564	204,581
Potential Volunteer contribution	\$695,690*	\$812,552*	\$1,164, 291	\$1,206,486

*First full year of CAMS data

*Decrease in value is shown:

- began using a more accurate formula for determining the value of contribution
- last quarter mileage and hours were significantly lower due to COVID-19

*Working with Coordinators and volunteers on entering mileage and hours for all activity, not just case activity.

FY2022 CASA Dashboard

Month	# Assigned Advocate's (actual)	Assigned Advocate expectation- annual goal	Families served by assigned CASA	Children with assigned CASA's	Active Coaches (actual)	Active Coach Floor 2019 (annual goal)	# cases coached	# Advocates Coached	Advocates sworn	CASA Applications filed	# volunteers exited
July	402	409	464	921	66	61	206	181	15	9	10

Hours and Miles donated to the CASA Program FY2022

Month	Hours Contributed	Mileage Contributed
July	1,130	14,998

CASA Program Matters

a. Judicial Survey

- This summer, all Local CASA Program Coordinators were asked to conduct our annual judicial survey in person with their respective judges.
- An additional handout will be provided with Judicial Survey responses

b. State Organization HESRP review

- On August 3 and 4, Steffani and Amy participated in around eight hours of virtual “on-site” reviews for the National CASA Highly Effective Standards Review Process. Brad Ray, Senior Performance Measurement, Research and Evaluation Officer conducted the interview. Several other employees and stakeholders participated in interviews on various state organization topics with other National CASA staff.
- Feedback at the end of the interview was overall very positive with a few suggestions on areas for improvement.
- All required documentation was uploaded in April. The document review was not complete at the time of our August review, so we weren’t able to receive feedback on our documents and plans.
- Previously, we were told we’d receive a draft report of the full review in October. However, during the interview National CASA indicated they’re behind on reports to State Orgs that had their reviews before ours and they’re still unsure what “reports” will look like for publicly administered organizations.

c. Confidentiality and Background check policies

- After recent confidentiality issues, CASA of Iowa is in the process of clarifying our confidentiality policy. It will be reviewed by the Department of Administrative Services-Human Resources Enterprises to make sure it is applicable for employees in addition to volunteers.
- We are also creating a separate background check policy for staff at the request of DAS-HRE. State of Iowa agencies who require background checks for employees are required to keep that policy on file with DAS since we could potentially refuse employment or conduct an employee investigation based on background check findings.

d. Covid-19 impact:

- Covid continues to impact volunteer-child visits, along with other CASA-related work. Although we continue to encourage social distanced face-to-face visits with children and families, we are still allowing volunteers to conduct virtual visits. The number of children who haven’t had a face to face visit due to Covid continues to decline. Most children without a documented face to face visit are either placed far away from the advocate or the advocate hasn’t entered case notes timely, causing an alert to be issued in the data system.
- All courtrooms are now requiring masks and many courtrooms across the state have returned to virtual hearings.

e. Strengthening efforts to ensure all advocates and coaches receive 12 hours of continuing education annually:

- Coordinators continue their efforts to ensure all volunteers are receiving 12 hours of training each year. While more volunteers are participating in some training hours, most coordinators still struggle to engage everyone.
- Coordinators have already sent 'Save the Date' announcements to volunteers for the ICAB conference hoping many volunteers will receive several hours of continuing education on that date.

CASA Program Planning in FY22

a. Polk County Grant

- Polk County CASA received a \$50,000 grant for program marketing and promotion. Watch for TV commercials on WHO-TV and yard signs throughout the metro.
- A temporary part-time position will also be funded to help with marketing data analysis and handling inquiries.

b. Local Program Reviews and Self-Assessment

- In January 2021, National CASA released new Standards for Local CASA Programs.
- National CASA has committed to conducting a Local Program Standards review of all 900+ local CASA programs across the network from 2022 through 2024.
- In January 2022, all programs will complete a self-assessment with National CASA that will include an upload of 106 required documents and pieces of verification.
- Amy is conducting monthly meetings with the Coordinators to familiarize them to the standards and assist in the development of required plans and documents.

