



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**

NEBRASKA CASA ASSOCIATION

2025 to 2028

# STRATEGIC PLAN

[www.nebraskacasa.org](http://www.nebraskacasa.org)





## Mission

Nebraska CASA Association partners with local CASA programs to recruit and train volunteers who speak in court for the safety and well-being of abused and neglected children.

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# Nebraska CASA Facts

- 843 Nebraskans volunteered as advocates in 2023
- 1,937 Nebraska children had a CASA volunteer in 2023
- 1,300 Nebraska children are without a volunteer advocate
- 22 local CASA programs serve 55 counties in the State.
- CASA programs have served Nebraska children for 37 years



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# Facts about CASA

## **CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate**

Court Appointed Special Advocates are volunteers who are appointed by judges to speak in court for the safety and well-being of an abused or neglected child

### **Who we are**

CASA volunteers come from all walks of life. More than half of CASA volunteers are employed full time. CASA volunteers are well-trained and supported by competent and professional staff

### **What we do**

CASA volunteers spend time with children and those involved in their case. They provide reports to the judge on the best interest of the child.

### **Why we do it**

Children with a CASA volunteer receive more services, spend less time in foster care, have better outcomes in school, and know there is one caring adult dedicated to them simply because they care.

# Our Impact

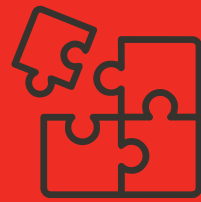
## Support

Judges, attorneys, child protective workers and parents overwhelmingly report that CASA volunteers make a difference in the lives of the children they serve



## Assistance

Children with a CASA volunteer are half as likely to spend time in long-term foster care, defined as more than three years in care. Also, cases involving a CASA volunteer are more likely to stay permanently closed.



## Influence

Fewer than 10% of children with a CASA volunteer re-enter the foster care system



# CASA Best Interest Advocacy

CASA Volunteers advocate for the best interests of children who have experienced abuse or neglect

## Learn and Engage

CASA volunteers learn all they can about the child and his or her family life. They then engage with the child during regular visits.

## Collaborate

CASA volunteers collaborate with others to ensure that necessary services are provided and are in the child's best interest.

# BEST INTEREST ADVOCACY

## Recommend

CASA volunteers speak up for the child's best interests in court. They make recommendations regarding the child's placement and needed services.

## Report

CASA Volunteers report what they have observed and learned in court. At the same time, they monitor the child's situation until their case is released by the court..

# NEBRASKA CASA FINANCIAL IMPACT



## Return on Investment

For **every \$1 invested** in Nebraska CASA, **\$6 are returned** to the state of Nebraska. The average cost of a CASA volunteer is \$3,018, and total benefits they provide are \$18,122.



## Investment Impact – Taxpayers

Per child, Nebraska CASA indirectly saves taxpayers **\$13,898** in reduced administrative costs and reduced costs to the public.




## Investment Impact – Beneficiaries

Per child, Nebraska CASA assists direct beneficiaries by **\$4,224** by assisting children with improved health and increased safety, along with impacts on the child's future earnings.



# Contact Us

We would love to hear from you.  
Please don't hesitate to reach out to CASA with any questions, comments, or concerns.

 **402-477-2788**

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# Nebraska CASA Strategic Plan 2025-2028

Mission - The Nebraska CASA Association partners with local CASA programs to recruit and train volunteers who speak in court for the safety and well-being of abused and neglected children.

## Strategic Plan Areas of Focus:

1. Expand and Strengthen Nebraska CASA's Organizational Capacity
2. Strengthen Financial Stability for Nebraska CASA
3. Enhance Governance and Board Engagement for Nebraska CASA

# Strategic Plan Area of Focus 1 - Expand and Strengthen Nebraska CASA's Organizational Capacity

Nebraska CASA will look to connect, empower and develop the overall organization to help better serve children and our local programs.

## *Objectives*

Nebraska CASA will support recruitment efforts to continue to identify and engage with volunteers |  
 Nebraska CASA will continue to evaluate and explore new opportunities for training platforms provided to local programs |  
 Nebraska CASA will continue to strive for unity and collaboration between local programs |  
 Nebraska CASA will continue to expand programming to underserved counties within the state. |  
 Nebraska CASA will collaborate with outside groups to ensure children have access to needed interpreters |  
 Nebraska CASA will leverage technology to better serve all constituents of the association

## *Priorities*

## *Action Items*

Nebraska CASA will advocate for programs and services at the State and Federal level

- Legislative representation at the State and Federal level
- Strengthening relationships with the Nebraska Judiciary Branch
- Providing informational conferences to assist with sharing our message
- Foster and expand critical relationships for CASA programming

Nebraska CASA will assist local programs to help in building their capacity to serve more children and youth

- Recruitment and retention of volunteers
- Providing assistance to local programs looking to expand their footprint
- Facilitating collaboration between large and small local programs
- Evaluating and exploring new training needs to local programs
- Offering support services to board members of local programs and ensuring their support

Nebraska CASA will continuously review internal organizational structure to ensure the organization is able to serve the needs of constituents

- Foster reviews of staff capacities, job descriptions and salaries to assist with expanding programming
- Identifying and sharing of best practices and efficiencies across the state
- Developing a communication plan to assist with language access for all children and youth
- Undergo technology and process reviews to ensure the association is meeting the needs of local programs
- Ensuring the association stays culturally and linguistically diverse through networking and advocacy efforts

# Strategic Plan Area of Focus 2 - Increase Revenues to ensure Nebraska CASA can continue to progress

Nebraska CASA will look to grow revenues to help better serve children and our local programs.

## *Objectives*

Nebraska CASA will explore additional funding, grant and sponsorship opportunities |  
 Nebraska CASA will cultivate new funding sources |  
 Nebraska CASA will continue to market CASA's message to raise awareness |  
 Nebraska CASA will continuously review organizational structure to make sure the association is properly staffed |  
 Nebraska CASA will continue to review the budget and look for new roles and funding options to help accommodate association needs |  
 Nebraska CASA will continue to network and generative narrative scripts to help promote CASA initiatives

## *Priorities*

## *Action Items*

Nebraska CASA will secure additional and current funding sources

- Continue to work with current funding sources on ensuring their financial support
- Explore and identify new grant opportunities
- Explore and identify new foundation funding initiatives and sponsorships
- Focus on ways for individuals to donate to CASA

Nebraska CASA will enhance marketing and messaging strategies and tools to help grow support for our mission

- Finding new and unique ways to share our narrative
- Networking with key groups who can assist in growing the association
- Cultivating new funding sources through marketing and messaging efforts
- Identifying other opportunities to leverage assistance, like volunteer groups

Nebraska CASA will look to raise funding to support new positions and initiatives

- Review organizational structure to ensure work is being assigned in a manner that helps the association continue to grow
- Defining roles and responsibilities of staff to help make sure staff feel informed and empowered in their role
- Review the budget to confirm association financials
- Identify tasks that can be offloaded from current staff and handled by new positions, either as new full time staff or part time assistance

# Strategic Plan Area of Focus 3 - Activate Board Engagement to further Nebraska CASA's mission

Nebraska CASA's board will continue to serve as ambassadors and stewards for the association by supporting current initiatives and striving to help the association innovate.

## Objectives

Nebraska CASA's Board will provide oversight of the association |  
 Nebraska CASA's Board will create and support committee work to help grow association programming |  
 Nebraska CASA's Board will support the association through marketing and monetary assistance |  
 Nebraska CASA's Board will conduct reviews as necessary to ensure proper governance |  
 Nebraska CASA's Board will actively share information on association programming and ensure we are advocating on behalf of programs

## Priorities

## Action Items

Nebraska CASA's Board will reestablish, refresh and revitalize committee work

- Ensure that each of CASA's 5 committees are adequately staffed with volunteers
- Review overall committee structure and goals to help association programming
- Establish the expectation that each board member volunteers on a committee

Nebraska CASA's Board will engage with CASA programming to help raise awareness

- Board members will share information about CASA initiatives
- Approach programming with enthusiasm to ensure all programs have the oversight and necessary support to be their best
- Serve as advocates for the association

Nebraska CASA's Board will provide stewardship and oversight

- Review policies and financials to ensure the association is being governed adequately
- Support and hold staff accountable to ensure the association can continue to grow
- Mentor and assist in all necessary facets of programming by providing insights and guidance where necessary
- Commit to being a diverse, inclusive and representative space for all