



IMPACT REPORT

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA) OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Fiscal Year 2023/2024



EMPOWERING FUTURES:

THE IMPACT OF CASA'S PROGRAMS ON YOUTH IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Welcome to the CASA of Contra Costa County Impact Report, where we're proud to share our commitment to building hope and brighter futures for the youth we serve.

At CASA, we are committed to being a lifeline for foster youth, ensuring they have a voice and access to the resources they need to overcome challenges. By offering vital support, we empower them to rise above their circumstances, make positive life choices, and pursue their dreams.

Through our partnerships with local agencies, educational institutions, and community organizations, we break down barriers and open doors to new opportunities.

Join us in celebrating the difference we've made and the inspiring stories of resilience and transformation showcased in this report.



OUR MISSION

The mission of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is to provide programs to support abused and neglected children in foster care to help every child find a permanent home and complete their education.

OUR VISION

The vision of CASA is to create a future where every child in foster care who has experienced abuse, neglect, and trauma can thrive in a safe, permanent home, and succeed in their educational pursuits. We ensure that children in foster care have the advocacy and support they need to overcome their challenges, break the cycle of abuse and poverty, and build a better future for themselves.

*A child in foster care is someone who has been through more than we can imagine;
with kindness and advocacy, we can change their trajectory.*
~ Unknown

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIR



Dear CASA Supporter,

We are thrilled to share some incredible news with you! Thanks to the unwavering dedication of our passionate volunteers and the generosity of our amazing donors, CASA of Contra Costa County has been able to expand our life-changing services for youth in foster care in ways we could have only dreamed of.

Beyond our core CASA program, we're now offering a range of vital services—from mental health support and tutoring to reproductive health education and services. These new programs are empowering our foster youth to overcome obstacles and thrive in every aspect of their lives.



But that's not all. We've taken a major step forward by extending our services to foster youth involved in the juvenile justice system. By ensuring these young people complete their education and have the resources they need, we are helping them build brighter futures and steering them away from becoming part of the adult criminal justice system.

The impact has been nothing short of extraordinary. This fiscal year alone, we have been able to serve nearly 350 foster children and youth—an accomplishment that fills us with pride and hope for the future.

This phenomenal growth is only possible because of YOU—our incredible volunteers, donors, and community champions. Your generosity, time, and commitment have helped us create a powerful network of care and support for these young lives.

Together, we are transforming futures. We are giving foster youth the tools they need to break the cycle of instability and build the lives they deserve. Thank you for being an essential part of this journey!

With heartfelt appreciation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ann Wrixon".

Ann Wrixon
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John D. Witaschek".

John Witaschek
Board Chair

CASA'S BLUEPRINT FOR LASTING IMPACT

CASA's efforts and supports enable foster youth in Contra Costa County to navigate the transition to adulthood, achieving academic completion, fulfilling work experiences, working to heal past traumas, and nurturing positive relationships. Without a CASA advocate, foster youth who transition into adulthood have much lower outcomes.

In order to achieve this, CASA provides the following programs:



Volunteer Advocates

CASA Volunteers are highly trained to act as a voice, an ally, and an advocate in the courtroom, the classroom, and the community for children and youth in the foster care system.

The CASA Volunteer Advocate Program has recently expanded to work with youth who are in the juvenile justice system. CASA Volunteers help youth to meet their probation requirements and to stay on track with their education.



Therapy Project California

Therapy Project California provides much needed teletherapy to foster youth over the age of 12, in addition to any former foster youth who have exited or aged out of the system. Pro bono therapists provide therapy virtually so that youth may continue in therapy regardless of moving homes or a lack of transportation. This program currently serves youth in Contra Costa County and throughout California.



Academic Tutoring Program

CASA is dedicated to making sure that 100% of foster youth finish their high school studies to be better equipped to live a life free of poverty. In order to help 100% of our youth in foster care finish their education, CASA provides academic tutoring, provided by educators and tutoring specialists for grades K-12.



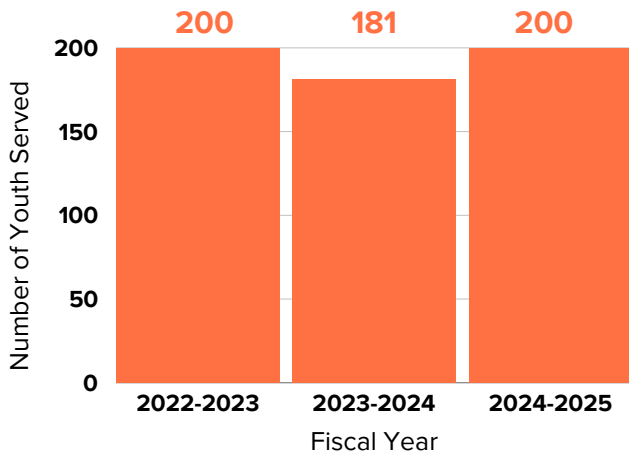
Reproductive Health Program

CASA Reproductive Health Program works in partnership with the Department of Public Health and Children and Family Services to provide reproductive health care and education to foster youth. These youth often miss vital education which would allow them to more effectively take care of themselves and their bodies.

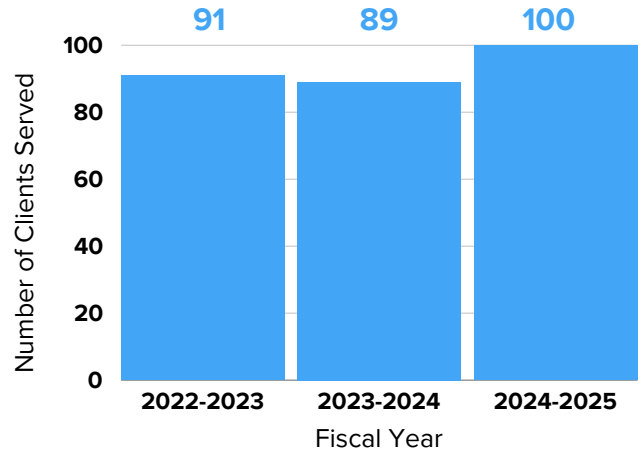
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CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVED ACROSS CASA PROGRAMS

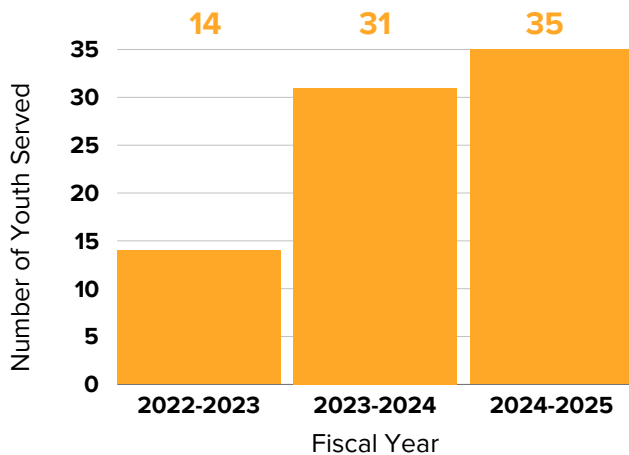
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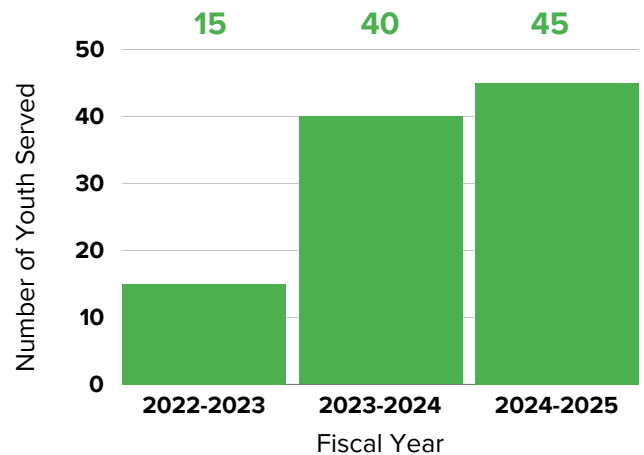
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Clients Served**



**Academic Tutoring Program
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**Reproductive Health Program
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SUCCESS STORIES



TUTOR PROGRAM

HOW CASA HELPED ME FIND MY PATH

My journey with tutoring began in middle school and continued into high school. After entering foster care, I felt overwhelmed and lost, and my grades suffered. But that started to change when the judge assigned me a CASA Volunteer, Amy, who really understood my needs. She collaborated with my teacher, and together, we realized that a tutor could help me get back on track.

Amy found a place for me in the CASA Tutoring Program, where I met my tutor, Jim. His approach made every subject feel accessible, and for the first time in a long while, I began to enjoy learning again. My grades improved, along with my confidence. Jim helped me academically and inspired me to think about college—something I never thought was within my reach. I continue to work with Jim, not just because I'm struggling, but because I've chosen challenging classes, and I know he's there to support me.

~ Anthony, Youth in Tutor Program



THERAPY PROJECT CALIFORNIA

EMERGING STRONGER FROM DIFFICULTIES

The program so far has been one of the best things to happen to me. I have been to therapy before, but nothing like this. I feel heard, I feel seen, and the process for signing up was so easy. I always felt like my circumstances with foster care and low funds would stop me from getting quality therapy, but this program has helped tremendously.

And my therapist is phenomenal. The best one I've ever had... So many years of drowning with emotions, drowning from things I have been through, and drowning from not being able to get the help I need - I finally feel like I am above the water. Thank you for everything you all do. Starting therapy with you guys has really changed my life.

~ Danielle, Youth in Therapy Program

ADVOCACY PLAN TRANSFORMS EVALUATION OF CASA CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The advocacy plan offers a groundbreaking way to evaluate the impact of CASA's work on foster children's lives. In the past, CASA shared individual success stories, but now, this plan introduces a data-driven, systematic approach to track each child's progress.

Key Features:

ONGOING PROGRESS MONITORING

This framework regularly assesses a child's well-being, development, and unmet needs every six months, allowing real-time tracking of improvements.

DATA-DRIVEN INSIGHTS

The plan moves beyond qualitative stories to gather concrete data on physical health, emotional well-being, education, and long-term independence, providing measurable results.

HOLISTIC APPROACH

It evaluates all aspects of a child's life, ensuring that CASA addresses the full spectrum of their needs and tracks changes over time.

PERSONALIZED ADVOCACY

Child-specific reports allow CASA volunteers to adapt their strategies, ensuring more effective support for each child's development.

PROGRAM-WIDE IMPROVEMENTS

Aggregated data offers insights across all cases, helping CASA identify trends and improve overall service quality.

In short, the advocacy plan transforms how CASA measures success, turning abstract outcomes into measurable, actionable insights that enhance advocacy efforts and improve children's lives.

Outcomes of foster youth served by CASA of Contra Costa County in fiscal year 2023-2024



95%
graduate from
high school or
earn a GED



65%
attend college or
other
post-secondary
education

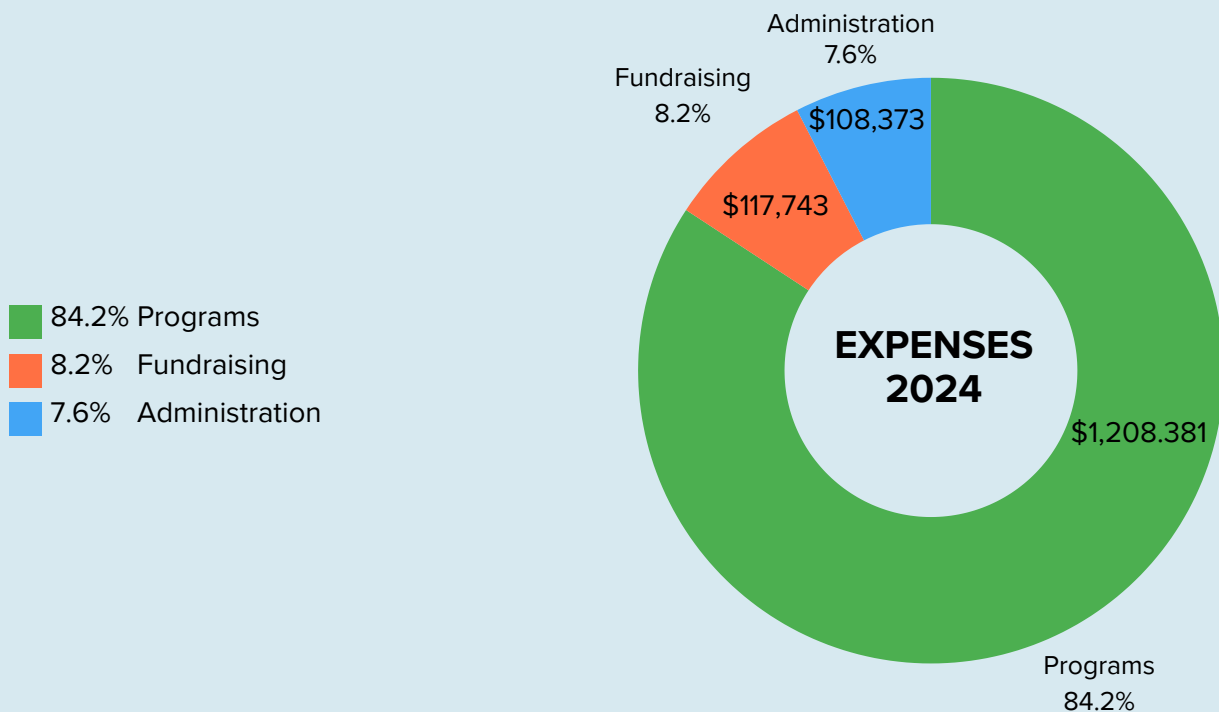
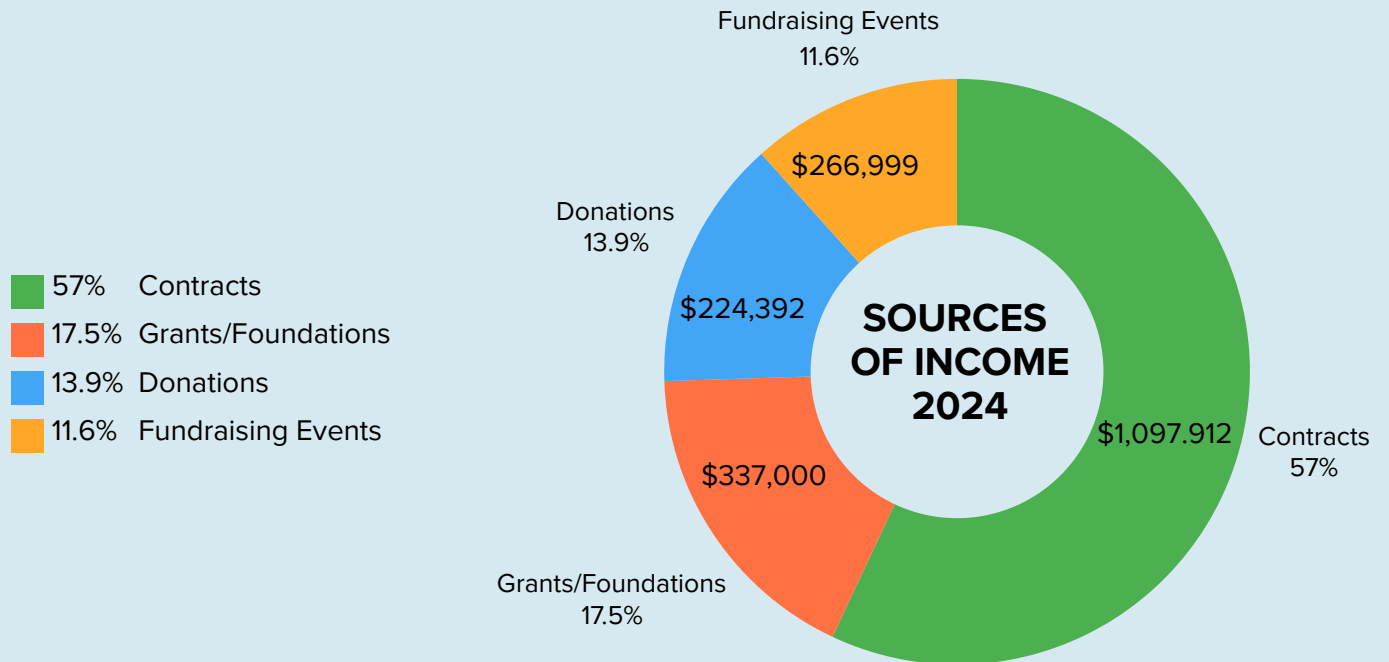


95%
see a doctor
annually



85%
see a dentist
annually

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Case Coordinator



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