



# Indiana Supreme Court

INDIANA OFFICE OF COURT SERVICES



PROGRAMMING & PROJECTS DIVISION

## Guardian *ad litem*/Court Appointed Special Advocates (GAL/CASA)

The **Indiana State Office of GAL/CASA** certifies local, volunteer-based GAL/CASA programs and provided \$4.8 million in matching and capacity building grants to the 84 counties with programs in 2018. GAL/CASA volunteers spend time with children involved in Child in Need of Services (CHINS) cases and provide child-focused recommendations to the court about what is in the children's best interests.

### Why GAL/CASA volunteers?

Volunteers are dedicated, trained community members who have **time** to visit with children and get to know them, their needs, and wishes. They bring **critical information to the court** that is often not otherwise provided as to what is in the best interest of the child.

Judges with CASA programs receive more information about the children, which assists courts in making **better, more-informed decisions for children and families**. GAL/CASA volunteers not only make helpful and insightful recommendations to the Court, they also **change children's lives**.

 **26,431**  
children served  
in 2018

 **91%**  
of Indiana counties have  
GAL/CASA programs

The **Indiana Office of Court Services (IOCS)** assists the Supreme Court in its role as the head of Indiana's judicial system by developing education, programs, and projects for all courts to improve the administration of justice.

IOCS also supports the Judicial Conference of Indiana and its Board of Directors, comprised of judicial officers from across Indiana, and provides staff support to multiple committees.

### 2019 CASA Day

March 19, 2019

Indiana State House



### Interested in Volunteering?

**Indiana State Office of GAL/CASA**

[casa.IN.gov](http://casa.IN.gov)  
(800) 542-0813

Data as of December 31, 2018

## Community Commitment

Indiana has seen a steady increase in the number of children entering the child welfare system, a trend which has seen a 41% increase since 2014. These children deserve to have their voice heard and need a GAL/CASA volunteer to protect their best interests. In 2018, dedicated volunteers and staff in volunteer GAL/CASA programs served over 26,000 children.

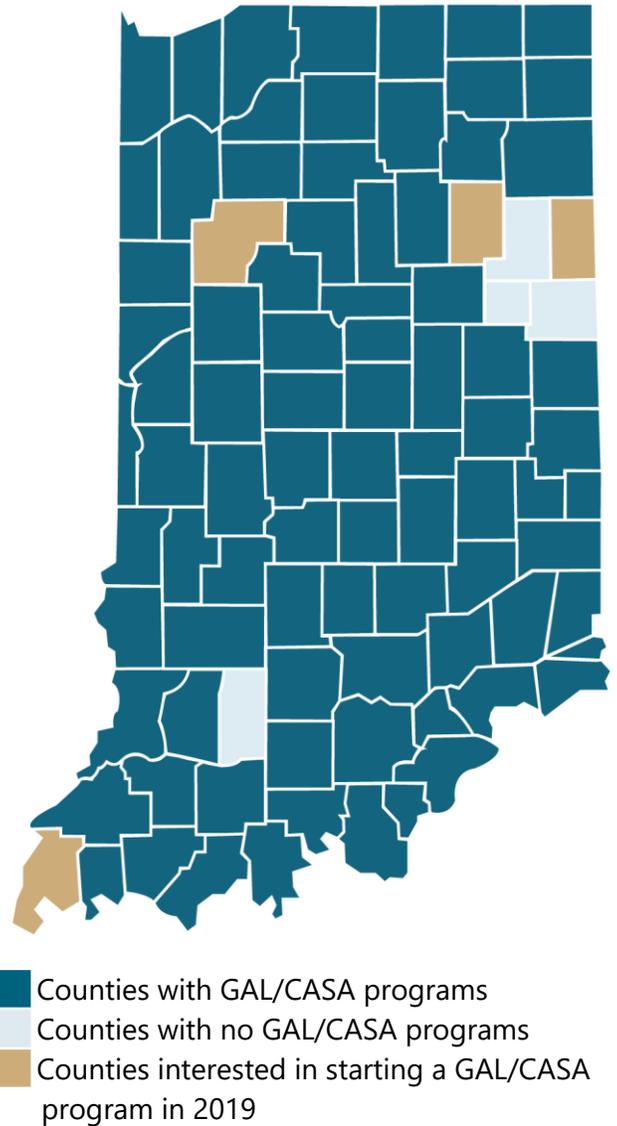
- Over 4,700 volunteers donated their time serving children
- 1,128 new CASA volunteers trained in 2018
- 675 attendees at the 2018 State GAL/CASA Conference

### Judge Stephen Galvin:

*“Thirty-five years of juvenile court experience has taught me this lesson: It is impossible to overstate the importance of CASA volunteers in protecting our children.”*

### Magistrate Joni Grayson:

*“Our CASA Volunteers: Compassionate, trustworthy and wholly necessary in the court process to protect children.”*



## What children say about their CASA

### My CASA is...

*The only person who took the time to get to know me*

*The only person who stayed with me the whole time I was in foster care and told me what was going on*

*The only person who remembered my birthday*

*The person who taught me how important it is to stay in school*